



minutes

COASTAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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February 16, 2020 Board and Stakeholder Meeting Minutes Zoom Electronic Meeting

Board Members	Roll Call
Sheryl Akerblom	Seated
Isiah Cade	Present
Louis Dominguez	Present left at 9:00 p.m.
Greg Ellis	Present left at 9:40 p.m.
Doug Epperhart	Present
Bob Gelfand	Present
Noel Gould	Present
Richard Havenick	Present
Erika Hernandez	Absent
Andrea Herman	Present
Daniel Kohn	Present
John Kopczynski	Present
Kathleen Martin	Present left at 9:15 p.m.
Kavitha Muthuswamy	Present at 7:15 p.m.
Dean Pentcheff	Present
Shannon Ross	Present left at 9:45 p.m.
Robin Rudisill	Present

1. TECHNICAL CHECKOUT FOR ONLINE MEETING *(no substantive discussion or comment)*

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Kho Shirzad submitted the following email for public comment.

Subject: Beacon Street encampments

Dear Sir:

A few months back, I noticed that a number of policemen were removing the homeless encampments around the post office area on Beacon Street. The encampments appeared to move only a few blocks south and just across from our residential property.

After I inquired from the police as to why they are just pushed a few blocks and not sheltered properly, I was advised that Councilman Buscaino only wanted them cleared up-to 13th south Beacon Street. There was no plan for these forgotten people, except to just push them elsewhere.

Attempting to contact the Councilman's office has been a waste of time. Just a message telling us that someone will contact us. Of course no one has ever responded.

About a month ago, there was shootings and a murder at this encampment and right across from our property, endangering the residents. Again no action or response to my inquiries.

We all are responsible for the safety and security of the residents, but unfortunately the Councilman has placed them all in peril. This is damaging physically, morally and financially. People now want to move out of the area (and they have) or prefer not to stay in this area. Only those servicing the encampments with dangerous substances are not bothered.

I understand that some of these unfortunate people do not want to go to shelters and prefer to stay on the streets.

However, the local residents who pay rent, mortgage, taxes, utilities, create jobs and bring \$\$ into the community, have some rights too. They need peace and safety.

Can you help?

- b. Laurie Jacobs commented Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council has a opened applications for a new round of Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPGs) for people affected by COVID. She also commented that the Clearwater Project will have closures on Gaffey from Westmont to Anaheim on weekends coming soon, but not yet,

- c. James Campeau commented about a 60 Minutes program about Shelter Box UK. It is really cool stuff.
3. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Doug Epperhart. See list above for board attendance. There was a quorum with 14/15/16/15/13/12/11 Board members present and approximately 15 stakeholders in attendance.
4. **BOARD ELECTION TO FILL VACANT BOARD SEAT** – Each candidate made a brief statement.
 - a. Sheryl Akerblom
 - b. Danielle Nunez

Sheryl Akerblom was elected with 9 votes (Dominguez, Ellis, Epperhart, Gelfand, Gould, Havenick, Kohn, Kopczynski, and Pentcheff), Danielle Nunez received 2 votes (Hernandez and Rudisill), 0 no, 1 abstention (Cade), 2 out of room (Martin and Ross), and 1 not yet present (Muthuswamy).
5. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**
 - a. Noel Gould motion urgent item Noel motion as an urgent time sensitive item – approved to be heard after all the other business.

Motion by **Noel Gould** to add a motion regarding the proposed Freedom of the Seas Park, to be heard after all other business, passed with 14 yes (Akerblom, Cade, Dominguez, Ellis, Epperhart, Gelfand, Gould, Havenick, Hernandez, Kohn, Kopczynski, Martin, Pentcheff, and Rudisill), 0 no, 1 abstention (Ross), and 1 not yet present (Muthuswamy).
 - b. Shannon Ross announced that the Streets LA advisory council board will meet on Monday, February 22nd.

Motion by **Doug Epperhart** to contact Supervisor Janice Hahn on behalf of the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council requesting a vaccination site in the harbor area for people 65 and older, approved without objection.

6. **APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES** – January 19, 2021 meeting minutes approved as presented without objection.
7. **REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT** – Senior Lead Officer Paul Winter
 - a. Officer Paul Winter gave a brief overview of crime statistics for the area.
 - b. Officer Paul Winter answered questions from the board.
8. **COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE** – Kavitha Muthuswamy – Unable to attend
9. **MOTION RECOMMENDING IMPROVEMENTS TO GAFFEY STREET OVERLOOK** – *Planning, Land Use, and Transportation Committee*

Whereas, the Gaffey Street Overlook parking lot at 35th Street has been a long-time public nuisance, as people stay past curfew hours well into the early morning. Based on Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) reports, it is a constant source of illegal activities, which include drugs, alcohol, assault, vandalism, trespassing, robbery, gunshots, intoxication, DUI's, stabbings, even murders, indecent exposure, drug overdoses, suicides, fireworks and car-party noise including blasting mega sound systems. The trash that is left there includes condoms, human excrement, nitrous oxide balloons and hypodermic needles. It is also a preferred area for vehicle road racing and donut tire skidding marks due to the additional width of Gaffey Street at that location. Gaffey Street is approximately 88 feet wide at the parking lot, compared to the normal Gaffey Street width of 47 feet, which includes parallel street parking on both sides, and

Whereas, LAPD has complained that when, on occasion, they clear the parking lot during the posted closure hours of 10:30 pm to 5:30 am, as soon as they clear the parking lot and leave, the party people are all back.

Therefore Be It Resolved, in order to improve the quality of life for nearby residents and provide night time security and road safety, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council urgently requests that the Gaffey Street Overlook be physically and aesthetically modified so that the parking lot can be locked in three places by LAPD at the posted curfew of 10 pm, to be opened by the Department of Recreation and Parks at 5:30 am the following morning. The post and cable system — see attached rough drawing — or other alternative ideas would be installed at the consistent 47 foot wide street width, allowing for the normal flow of traffic as well as for additional off-street parallel parking inside the barrier that would improve access for visitors to the Gaffey Street Overlook.

Motion by **Bob Gelfand** to remanded to joint committee meeting of: Planning and Transportation, Emergency Preparedness and Public Safety, and Administrative Operations, second by **Shannon Ross**, and passed with 8 yes (Dominguez, Epperhart, Gelfand, Hernandez, Martin, Muthuswamy, Pentcheff, and Ross), 7 noes (Akerblom, Ellis, Gould, Havenick, Kohn, Kopczynski, and Rudisill), and 1 abstention (Cade).

10. MOTION RECOMMENDING USE OF LOTS E+ F, 22ND STREET, PORT OF LOS ANGELES (POLA), FOR EMERGENCY TEMPORARY USE FOR HOMELESS. – *Planning and Land Use Committee motion*

The edits in the main motion are corrections only not amendments.

Whereas, lots E + F are located together on the north side of 22nd Street between Miner and Sampson Way in the Port of Los Angeles. It is approximately 4 acres of unused open space, paved and unpaved with many trees. It will be continually unused for an uncertain number of years until the new West Harbor Port's O 'Call development project is completed, and

Whereas, San Pedro urgently needs a safe and clean space WHICH PROVIDES with providing dignity for OUR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS the homeless encampments that who ARE currently are living on our community sidewalks, parkways and streets, predominately in our central San Pedro District without temporary bathrooms.

Therefore Be It Resolved, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council urgently requests the Port of Los Angeles (POLA), in the spirit of "we're all in this together," to provide the "EMERGENCY TEMPORARY USE" of Lots E + F in the POLA for the immediate location of San Pedro's homeless encampments, also providing a sufficient number of portable toilets and trash cans, and other wrap-around donated services.

CSPNC shall file a Community Impact Statement

Whereas, lots E and F located on the north side of 22nd street between Miner and Sampson Way in the Port of Los Angeles equates to approximately 4 acres of unused parking space.

Whereas, people experiencing homelessness in San Pedro urgently need a safe and clean space to live while waiting for affordable housing and permanent supportive housing.

Therefore, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council requests the Port of Los Angeles (POLA) provide Lots E and F for no more than 40 people to occupy small temporary homes fitted with restrooms and electricity/solar power.

Motion by **Kathleen Martin** to substitute the motion above, second by **Shannon Ross**, and failed with 1 yes (Ross), 7 noes (Ellis, Gelfand, Gould, Havenick, Kohn, Kopczynski, and Rudisill), 6 abstentions (Akerblom, Cade, Epperhart, Hernandez, Muthuswamy, and Pentcheff), and 2 left meeting (Dominguez and Martin).

Motion by **Noel Gould** to approve recommending use of Lots E+ F, 22nd Street, Port of Los Angeles (POLA), for emergency temporary use for homeless, second by **Bob Gelfand**, and passed with 9 yes (Akerblom, Ellis, Gelfand, Gould, Havenick, Kohn, Kopczynski, Pentcheff, and Rudisill), 0 no, 5 abstentions (Cade, Epperhart, Hernandez, Muthuswamy, and Ross), and 2 left meeting (Dominguez and Martin).

Moved to items 16 through 20 consent calendar without objection.

11. MOTION OPPOSING ADOPTION OF THE DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY BEING CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS – *Administrative Operations Committee*

Whereas, the proposed digital communications policy now being considered by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, if adopted, would provide a mechanism for the regulation and censorship of neighborhood councils' social media communications, and Whereas, such policy also would also provide for the regulation and control of neighborhood council board members' use of personal media platforms, and

Whereas, such policy extends the ability of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to regulate, censor, and punish boards and individuals for exercising First Amendment rights, and

Whereas, adequate legal safeguards and mechanisms, including social media terms of service rules, regarding the misuse of social media are available;

Therefore, be it resolved, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council opposes adoption of the proposed digital communications policy in any form whatsoever and its entire or partial inclusion in any other policy, such as the code of conduct.

CSPNC shall file a Community Impact Statement

Motion from committee passed with 12 yes (Akerblom, Cade, Epperhart, Gelfand, Gould, Havenick, Hernandez, Kohn, Kopczynski, Muthuswamy, Pentcheff, and Rudisill), 0 no, 0 abstention, and 4 left meeting (Dominguez, Ellis, Martin, and Ross).

12. MOTION RECOMMENDING DOUBLING THE BUDGET OF THE CITY ETHICS COMMISSION – *Administrative Operations Committee*

The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council supports doubling the budget of the City Ethics Commission from approximately \$3.69M to \$7M.

Motion by **Bob Gelfand** to postpone until the March board meeting, second by **Isiah Cade**, and passed with 8 yes (Cade, Epperhart, Gelfand, Havenick, Hernandez, Kohn, Kopczynski, and Muthuswamy), 4 noes (Akerblom, Gould, Pentcheff, and Rudisill), 0 abstention, and 4 left meeting (Dominguez, Ellis, Martin, and Ross).

13. MOTION REGARDING REFORM AND VOTING MEMBERSHIP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL CONGRESS PLANNING GROUP – Bob Gelfand

Whereas the annual neighborhood council congress, traditionally held in September, is being planned and managed by a group of self-selected people who are not representative of the neighborhood council community as a whole, to the point that one member of that group unilaterally cancelled the officer elections that had been scheduled for February 6, 2021; and

Whereas the congress has been funded in recent years by public money allocated to the congress planning group through the votes of governing boards; and

Whereas the annual congress has, in recent non-pandemic years, cost upwards of \$40,000 in any given year,

Therefore be it resolved, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council calls on its fellow neighborhood councils to withhold funding from the congress planning group unless and until that group reforms itself,

And further resolved, the CSPNC recommends that voting membership in the congress planning group be limited to those who are appointed by a neighborhood council governing board.

Motion by **Bob Gelfand** to approve reform and voting membership in the Neighborhood Council Congress Planning group, second by **Noel Gould**, and passed with 10 yes (Akerblom, Cade, Epperhart, Gelfand, Gould, Havenick, Hernandez, Kohn, Kopczynski, and Pentcheff), 0 no, 0 abstention, 1 out of room (Rudisill) and 5 left meeting (Dominguez, Ellis, Martin, Muthuswamy, and Ross).

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Not addressed due to time constraints.

- a. Administrative Operations Committee – Chair Dean Pentcheff – No new information
- b. Communications Committee – Chair Shannon Ross – No new information
- c. Emergency Preparedness and Public Safety Committee – Chair Bob Gelfand – No new information
- d. Parks and Coastline Committee – Chair Noel Gould – No new information
- e. Sunken City Ad Hoc Committee – Chair Noel Gould – No new information
- f. Environment and Sustainability Committee – Chair Richard Havenick – No new information
- g. Homelessness Committee – Chair Kathleen Martin – No new information
- h. Port Committee – Chair Louis Dominguez – No new information
- i. Planning and Transportation – Chair Robin Rudisill – No additional information
 - i. To view notes from the latest meeting please go to <https://www.cspnc.org/agendas-minutes-7planning-trans>.

15. TRESURER'S REPORT – Louis Dominguez, Treasurer – Mr. Dominguez gave a brief overview of current funding levels.

Budget and Finance (Consent Calendar)

16. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2020.

17. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY EXPENSES, INCLUDING APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S PAYMENT OF ALL RECURRING NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL EXPENSES INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) LLOYD STAFFING, THE MAILROOM, ANGELS GATE CULTURAL CENTER MEETING EXPENSES, VENDOR(S) FOR MEETING REFRESHMENTS, AND OFFICE SUPPLIES

18. APPROVAL OF FUNDING REQUESTS RECEIVED FROM COMMITTEES – None

19. MOTION TO EXPEND \$500 TO THE HARBOR ALLIANCE OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council authorizes the expenditure of \$500 to be paid to the Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils for administrative and operational expenses therefor.

20. MOTION REAFFIRMING EXPENDITURE ON NEWSLETTER

The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council authorizes the expenditure of \$858.76 to Reed Printing for printing the Coastal Currents June 2020 newsletter.

Motion by **Louis Dominguez** to approve the consent calendar as presented, second by **Daniel Kohn**, and passed with 13 yes (Cade, Ellis, Epperhart, Gelfand, Gould, Havenick, Hernandez, Kohn, Kopczynski, Muthuswamy, Pentcheff, Ross, and Rudisill), 0 no, 0 abstention, 1 ineligible (Akerblom), and 2 left meeting (Dominguez and Martin).

MOTION REGARDING THE PROPOSED FREEDOM OF THE SEAS PARK – Land Use, Planning, and Transportation Committee

Motion not on Agenda but taken up by Board under exigency as specified in Brown Act §54954.2(b)(2).

Be It Resolved that the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council supports the Proposed Freedom of the Seas Park Pavilion/USS Iowa project in concept and strongly urges consulting with someone with expertise in coastal vegetation/habitat, such as the South Bay chapter of the California Native Plant Society or the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, (or a landscape designer approved by those organizations), since native vegetation in our local coastal habitat is not simply generic California vegetation.

Motion from committee passed with 10 yes (Akerblom, Epperhart, Gelfand, Gould, Havenick, Hernandez, Kohn, Kopczynski, Pentcheff, and Rudisill), 0 no, 1 abstention (Cade), and 5 left meeting (Dominguez, Ellis, Martin, Muthuswamy, and Ross).

21. APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING APPOINTMENT OF ALEX GARCIA TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – None

22. ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

23. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – None

24. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m. The next regular meeting is Monday, March 15, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheryl Akerblom,
for the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council