

Wilmington Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2009

The meeting of the Wilmington Neighborhood Council (WNC) was called to order by Chair Cecilia Moreno at 6:05 PM at the Wilmington Senior Center, 1371 Eubank Ave., Wilmington.

Cecilia indicated there was a translator present. If anyone present needs translation services, she will help. Also, we would not have any electronic display of information because one of the necessary power cords was missing.

The following statement was read: “As provided by the Brown Act, person in the audience may address the committee in connection with any agenda item or during the public comments period. Anyone desiring to speak please complete a speaker card and submit it to the secretary.”

Pledge of Allegiance led by Cecilia Moreno

1. Roll Call of Governing Board Members (14) confirming a quorum.

Present: Jack Babbitt, Tom Dahlgren, Donna Ethington, Socorro Fimbres, Jacqueline Garcia, Arthur Hernandez, Ramon Iniguez, Robert Jasso, Salvador Lara, Bobby McNeel, Ana Medina, Cecilia Moreno, Hank Osterhoudt, Susan Ogle, Marcus Perez, Susan M. Prichard, Patricia Sullivan and Patrick Wilson

Excused: Marisela Caraballo, Gary Kern

2. Approval of April minutes. (M/S – Dahlgren/Fimbres) **Passed: 14-0-4**
with corrections to members in attendance/absent/excused

3. Los Angeles Police Department – Senior Lead Officer Lopez (310-869-2096)

Movies in the Park – Banning Park, 9/18, “Beverly Hills Chihuahua”

About 200 people present - competing with Banning High School Football

Crimes

LAPD currently investigating shooting on 300 block of Mar Vista - probably gang related, 2 shot

Burglaries – Steady 3-4 each week

Grand Theft Auto – mostly through smashed windows

Business Robberies – El Taco and El Zocalo

Robberies around Banning High during school hours – guns involved - cell phones and iPods

Halloween – event to be held at new station

Questions: Jasso/Perez – Graffiti

Ofcr. Lopez indicated that beginning 10/1 Harbor Division will have one car dedicated to graffiti

This is two officers

4. Public Comment

Don Compton – concerned about naming of Island Avenue to George de la Torre Elementary School
Esther Cepeda, BONC Commissioner (wvhemc@aol.com)

Congratulated those Board members who completed Ethics Training and asked those not compliant to complete by October 10 for announcement at BONC event.

Glennnda Sands – Encourage WNC and Chamber to promote new business in Wilmington

5. Government Representative Reports:

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Councilwoman Hahn - Celina Luna - Celina.luna@lacity.org – 310-732-4515

BNSF McFarland Line Quiet Zone

Engineering has provided design specs

City short funding of \$2 million

East Wilmington Vest Park (Cruces area)

Playground equipment being installed

Expect ribbon cutting sometime in October

Drum Barracks

Project to be completed in October

Thanks to Warren E&P for donating land

Expect ribbon cutting sometime in November

Special Events Policy – 50/50 split of cost

New City-wide policy effective 10/15/09 – Block Parties/Farmers Markets exempt

DASH route

During building of new SPAN school, rerouting may take place periodically

Questions – contact Jeffrey D. Anderson, DOT, 213-928-9753

Questions/Comments from Board

Fimbres – Permits in Writing

Open Space/Buffer Hearing

Wilson – How is Special Event permit cost calculated?

City Council expecting answer to this question on 10/3

6. Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority Report (www.acta.org)

No report

7. DONE Report – Rosa Arcadia - not present

Please be sure to attend

Congress of Neighborhood Meeting – Saturday, October 10, City Hall

See attached report

8. COPE Preparedness Report – Pat Rome (pjwrome@yahoo.com)

Partnering with City's Emergency Development Department

Creating MAP of entire City asking each block to assess for Disaster Preparedness

YMCA-San Pedro has model of how various disasters would affect City

By appointment only – contact Lonna Calhoun

9. Presentations

a) Renaming of Island Elementary to George de la Torre Elementary School

Presentation made by Cecilia Moreno (gave Chair to Babbitt during presentation)

Audience members present indicating support – Connie Calderon (formerly with Wilmington Teen Center), Lorie Mendoza-Geluz (All Souls Mortuary), Shirley Atencio (Coordinating Council), Dan Hoffman (Chamber of Commerce), Gloria Suggs (sister-in-law), and Jacob Haik/David Cooper (LAUSD/District 7/Vladovic)

George died suddenly in February (on his birthday)

Born in Wilmington – mother Japanese-American

Helped in the founding of the Japanese American Museum in downtown LA

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Legacy: CEO of Juanita Foods (solid business), solid family (married 50 years with three successful children), philanthropist

Committee has met with Principal of Island (now co-chair of effort), LAUSD administration, students and their families

Banning's Landing & Banning's Monument

Mr. de la Torre was an integral part of these efforts

Board Comments/Questions:

Ethington – what is process/cost

LAUSD requires a committee, a survey – will begin on 9/29

Cost – mainly printing – stationery, etc.

Public Comments

Wysocki – supporter

Compton – against

b) Port of Los Angeles Waterfront EIR/EIS

Presented by: Augie Bezmalinovich (augieBez@aol.com), 310-8344-4266

Tony Gioiello, Port of Los Angeles, Engineering

Went over the map provided delineating project with comments

Will present this information to Board of Harbor Commissioners on 9/29

San Pedro has been working on this project for the last ten years

Endorsed by: San Pedro Chamber, Central NC, Northwest NC, Croatian and Dalmatian Clubs, Wilmington Chamber

Board Questions/Comments

Ethington – Ports 'O Call Marina residents will be moved to new facility being built on 22nd St.

Prichard – Sansinina Dock pipelines – vacated and filled

Dahlgren – Integrate common theme joining downtown to Waterfront

Fimbres – Local labor will be used on project

Hopes San Pedro will support Wilmington in the future

Jasso – new slips will be public – for visitors; i.e., Tall Ships

Tugs moved to North Harbor cut

Fish Market not part of plan

Hernandez - Red car will be extended to Cabrillo Beach. Currently doing

feasibility study to extend to Wilmington. Sal Zimbrano (POLA) & MTA

Public Comments

Rome – Should not put park next to cruise terminal – economic suicide

Response – Every docking brings \$1 million into local economy

Crown Plaza Hotel booked solid night before a sailing

\$57 brought to San Pedro/passenger

Most cruises leave Saturday, not mid-week – do not affect traffic

Larger cruise ships cannot pass under Vincent Thomas Bridge

POLA was #1 cruise terminal a few years ago, currently #4

c) Port of Long Beach Rail Support Facility

No one present

10. Action Items

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- a) WNC Board/Hernandez moved *that the WNC support the proposal to rename Island Elementary school to the George de la Torre, Jr. Elementary School, Home of the Island Suns, and that a letter be written and submitted to LAUSD, attention Dr. Richard Vladovic.*
 Dan Hoffman representing Chamber of Commerce expressed support of name change
 JoAnn Wysocki, resident, is against the name change
 Passed: **17-1-0**
- b) WNC Board/Dahlgren moved *that the WNC support the proposed San Pedro Waterfront EIR/EIS and that a letter be written and submitted to the Harbor Board of Commissioners stating the WNC's support.* Passed: **15-0-3**
- c) WNC/Dahlgren moved *that the comment letter be submitted to the Port of Long Beach listing WNC's concerns with regard to the impact this project will have on Wilmington and its stakeholders.* Additionally, copies should be sent to POLA and ACTA and under separate cover, to the City Planning Department, attention Wilmington/Harbor City Community Plan.
Passed 16-0-2
- d) Budget Representatives for the Mayor's Budget Day, October 10, 2009
 Susan Prichard and Art Hernandez volunteered
- e) WNC/Babbitt moved that the WNC approve the Neighborhood Council Map Endorsement Form with the corrected map. **Passed 18-0-0**
- f) WNC/Babbitt moved *that the WNC oppose the October PCAC Item H – "Therefore, be it resolved, that the EIR Aesthetic Mitigation Subcommittee requests the PCAC to request the BHC to instruct Port staff to immediately re-instate the PCAC structure that existed prior to referenced Executive Director's unilateral action and direct Port staff to respond to the PCAC Motion #AQ-017.*

Comments:

Ethington – PCAC does not feel Knatz has authorization to make this decision without prior notice

Wilson – two letters sent (April & June) indicating the above scenario

Other subcommittees meet quarterly

Passed 7-3-8

- g) WNC/Osterhoudt moved *that the WNC oppose the Hardship Exemption Application pending for the South Bay Wellness Network, located at 1127 W. Anaheim Street.*

NOTE: Chair Moreno indicates that before WNC can submit a Community Impact Statement on this issue, we must appoint five (5) members to the Board. Prichard suggested that this panel include the following WNC representatives – resident, member at large, planning, labor, business.

Public Comments:

JoAnne Wysocki – Wilmington resident, 1006 King Avenue

She has read 24-page State document covering marijuana dispensing establishments

Presented a series of pictures of the site

Graffiti problem

Open until 10 p.m.

Is this site also for car storage?

Michael Dalton, Wilmington resident, 506 West "F" Street

Supports business

23 year homeowner

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Suffers from ulcerative colitis

Facility secure, safe, clientele recognized by camera

Three (3) in town makes for competition

John Bekaryan, Owner, jbekaryan@gmail.com)

Has signatures of 250 people supporting operation

It is a non-profit collective through which he earns \$50,000

Iain Cunningham, businessman, ijcunningham@sbcglobal.net

His insurance business is next door

Legitimate business with Good security

Clientele – mostly seniors – watched his grandmother suffer with glaucoma

Generates tax dollars for community

Glennnda Sands, resident, 1212 W. Mauretania Street

Formerly a rotting motel

She is a member

Feels facility is secure

Gary Hall, 2229 Barbour Court, #2, San Pedro – 833-4636

Has used marijuana for 40 years because of his various illnesses

He is a disabled vet who was one of the pioneers of the proposition

Facility will generate funds for City

Board Discussion

Fimbres – supports

Babbitt – supports – has seen people suffer with debilitating illnesses

Dahlgren – needs to give more time

Medina – licensed for use due to insomnia

Perez – feels we should take our time on this issue.

Did Not Pass: 7-8-3

11. Information Items

a. Refreshments –

Thank you to Jack Babbitt for arranging/paying for tonight's dinner

Reminder Wilson – refreshments for October meeting

Moreno sending around refreshment sign-up sheet for next year

b. DONE announcements – see report

c. Upcoming Community Events – see CD15 report

RECESS

20. Adjournment – Babbitt/Wilson

9:34 p.m. – Next meeting will be October 28, 2009

Minutes taken by Susan M. Prichard, Secretary

Approved, Cecilia Moreno, Chair