

Coastal Neighborhood Council Proposes Bylaws Revisions

Nearly four years ago, the Coastal San Pedro was certified (along with the Wilmington Council) as the first in the city of Los Angeles. The council's bylaws were amended in 2003 when voting was limited to those 18 and older and the procedure for amendment was changed.

As part of the ongoing process to evaluate and improve operations of the council, a bylaws committee was established. Chaired by President Doug Epperhart, the group has been meeting since September, examining and discussing proposals to change the bylaws to respond to four years' "real

world" experience running a neighborhood council.

Following are revisions offered by the committee for consideration by the board. The board took its first vote on the bylaws in November and will consider final approval at its January 23 meeting.

BYLAWS OF THE COASTAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Adopted September 19, 2001

Amended May 8, 2004

~~Strikethrough~~ indicates deletions; *italics* indicates additions.

ARTICLE I – NAME, PURPOSE, BOUNDARIES, STAKEHOLDERS

Section 101. Name. The name of this organization is the COASTAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL and is hereafter referred to as the "Council."

Section 102. Purpose. The purposes of the Council are (1) to provide a means for neighborhood stakeholders to express their collective will to municipal decisionmakers with regard to issues involving the community; (2) to provide a means of oversight of municipal departments providing services to the neighborhood; and (3) to provide neighborhood consultation and input regarding planning, zoning, and budgeting priorities.

Section 103. Boundaries. The area within the jurisdiction of the Council is bounded on the west commencing at the Pacific Ocean shoreline adjacent to the Los Angeles city boundary with the city of Rancho Palos Verdes and thence proceeding north along that boundary line to the northern boundary of Bogdanovich Park, thence east to Western Avenue, southerly along the center line of Western Avenue to the intersection of 19th Street, thence easterly along the center line of 19th Street to the intersection of Weymouth Avenue, thence northerly along the center line of Weymouth Avenue to the intersection of 18th Street, thence easterly along the center line of 18th Street to a point 100 feet west of the intersection of Pacific Avenue, thence northerly along a line 100 feet west of Pacific Avenue to the intersection of 14th Street, thence easterly along the center line of 14th Street to a point intersecting with the center line of the S.P. Slip of the Port of Los Angeles, thence southerly along the center line of the S.P. Slip to the Los Angeles breakwater.

Section 104. Stakeholders. ~~The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council shall be diverse, inclusive, and open to all community stakeholders. A community stakeholder is defined as any individual who lives, works, or owns property in the Neighborhood Council area. In addition, community stakeholder status may be identified by participation in, among other things, educational institutions, religious institutions, community organizations or other nonprofit organizations, block clubs, neighborhood associations, homeowners associations, apartment associations, condominium associations, resident associations, school/parent groups, faith-based groups and organizations, senior groups and organizations, youth groups and organizations, chambers of commerce, business improvement districts, service organizations, park advisory boards, boys and girls clubs, cultural groups, environmental groups, codewatch, neighborhood watch, police advisory board groups, and/or redevelopment action boards. *is conferred by formal membership in a cultural or civic organization that owns property or occupies, as operator or tenant, a facility at a location in the neighborhood council area which is used primarily for conducting its business or holding its meetings.*~~

ARTICLE II – ANNUAL MEETING

Section 201. Annual Meeting. ~~The annual meeting of stakeholders will be held in May, unless otherwise noticed, of each year at such time and place within the Council area as the Governing Board may designate.~~

Section 202. Notification. ~~To the greatest extent possible and in the interest of achieving the widest participation of stakeholders, they will be notified of the annual meeting at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date. The annual meeting will be publicized by posting notices at public facilities in the area and informing local media and officials at the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date. The agenda for the annual meeting will be available at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.~~

Section 203. Quorum. ~~At the annual meeting of stakeholders, twice the~~

~~number of Governing Board members plus one shall constitute a quorum. If no quorum is present at the annual meeting, an adjournment will be taken to a future date. Notification of the rescheduled meeting will comply with the requirements of Section 202.~~

ARTICLE III – ELECTIONS

Section 301. Elections Committee. ~~At least sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting, the Council President will nominate and the Governing Board ratify by majority vote an Elections Committee of not fewer than three stakeholders who are not candidates for Governing Board membership. Prior to the annual meeting, it will be the duty of the Elections Committee to call for and receive nominations of candidates for vacant Governing Board seats. The Elections Committee will monitor the selection process at the annual meeting and be responsible for tabulating results and certifying winners.~~

Section 302. Election Procedure at the Annual Meeting. ~~After the names of previously nominated candidates have been placed before the stakeholders, the President will call for nominations from the floor. All candidates for Governing Board membership must be qualified neighborhood stakeholders at the time of election. The vote will be taken and results tallied and announced. All elections will be determined by plurality vote, and will be by written ballot. No stakeholder will have more than one vote. No stakeholder may vote by proxy. Stakeholders must be at least 18 years old to vote in council elections.~~

ARTICLE II – ANNUAL ELECTION

Section 201. Annual Election. ~~The Governing Board will be chosen annually at an election which will be held during the month of May.~~

Section 202. Responsibility for Conducting Election. ~~An Election Committee shall be responsible for all aspects of the election process. All election procedures shall be in conformity with the election rules established by the City of Los Angeles.~~

Section 203. Election Committee. ~~No later than December 1 of the previous year, the President shall nominate and the Governing Board confirm by majority vote a chairperson and additional members of the Election Committee. The Election Committee shall consist of no fewer than three stakeholders, none of whom may be a candidate in the Governing Board election.~~

Section 204. Duties of the Election Committee. ~~(a) The Election Committee shall propose election rules and present them to the Governing Board for adoption. (b) The Election Committee shall call for and receive nominations of candidates for the Governing Board. (c) The Election Committee shall register stakeholders. (d) The Election Committee shall oversee outreach to the community regarding the election. (e) The Election Committee shall conduct the election. (f) The Election Committee shall tabulate the votes and communicate the election results to the Governing Board and community.~~

Section 205. Election Procedures. ~~The Governing Board election shall occur on a single day; there shall be no absentee voting; and the duration of the election shall be at least 10 hours.~~

Section 206. Voter Registration; Eligibility to Vote. ~~Stakeholders shall provide proof of stakeholder status in order to be allowed to vote. Registration to vote shall be carried out by the Election Committee. Proof of stakeholder status shall include name, age, and proof of stakeholder affiliation. Stakeholders must be at least 18 years old to vote in council elections.~~

ARTICLE IV III – NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GOVERNING BOARD

Section 401 301. Governing Board Composition. ~~The Governing Board will consist of seventeen (17) members. All Governing Board members will be stakeholders of the Coastal San Pedro neighborhood as defined in Article I, Section 104. Governing Board members must be stakeholders during their entire term of office and at least 18 years of age at the time of their election.~~

Section 402 302. Terms of Office. ~~Regular terms of office for Governing Board members will be for a period of one (1) year commencing July 1 and ending June 30 of the following year. No person may serve as a member of the Governing Board for more than eight consecutive years.~~