

LA City Planner Keynotes San Pedro Community Planning Forum

Gail Goldberg states it won't be business as usual with new development

by Andrea Adleman

The new director of the Los Angeles City Planning Department is a passionate woman named Gail Goldberg. San Pedro stakeholders had the opportunity to hear Goldberg first-hand this fall, when she keynoted a community planning forum organized by San Pedro's three neighborhood councils.

Goldberg's mission is to empower communities, developers, and government to fix a broken system and to create a livable city. She is adamant that the community will have ample input into the process. "I don't know how to do planning any other way," she insists.

There will be numerous opportunities to give input during the upcoming re-write of the San Pedro community plan. This is a bureaucratic term referring to the basic land-use plan for a community.

A community plan answers questions such as, will a given area be zoned industrial, residential, or commercial? Will streets be designed for passenger vehicles or commercial trucks?

Here are excerpts of Goldberg's remarks about planning in general and San Pedro in particular.

On preserving San Pedro's character during the community planning process:

"A new plan has to have a good description -- a good urban design section -- that talks about the unique qualities of neighborhoods that are within the planning area and how it is that we are going to preserve and enhance those unique and distinctive qualities that make San Pedro very different from other communities.

"This is not a cookie-cutter approach. This is a way to create a plan that is tailored for your community.

"In order to do real planning with real plans and a real planning process, we're going to be out talking to you about what you want to see in your plan and what your vision is for your community."

Regarding downtown San Pedro:

"The community plan has to deal very specifically with downtown. You're right to be concerned about the scale of redevelopment.

"Downtown is a wonderful pedestrian scale that, I think, clearly needs to be preserved. I think you can do that in the community plan by addressing a downtown district and talking about the unique characteristics that you want to preserve."

Goldberg's opinion of San Pedro:

"We're really excited at the prospect of working with folks in San Pedro . . . I think something really wonderful can happen in San Pedro.

"You have beautiful residential neighborhoods. You have a downtown that just screams for revitalization.

"I can almost imagine it in the future as this fabulous place that people from all over this city want to come to. I'm really looking forward to working with you to create it."

Goldberg/6

Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council Recommended Priorities for 2006-07

At its meeting of December 4, the Council identified the following as items of concern for the coming year. This is not a definitive list and, as always, we welcome your input on community issues you think are important. Contact us by phone, e-mail or mail. Contact info is located on page 2.

- **Air and water quality:** continued monitoring of pollution issues, particularly with regard to operations in the Port of Los Angeles.
- **Pacific Energy Partners oil tanker terminal:** continued monitoring of the proposed terminal at Pier 400 and impacts on quality of life issues for Coastal stakeholders.
- **Waterfront development:** continued monitoring and dialogue with the Port of Los Angeles and other entities regarding the following:
 - proposed cruise ship terminal in Coastal area
 - Cabrillo Marina phase II development
 - park at 22nd Street (old tank farm site)
 - Cabrillo Beach Youth Facility (Boy Scout Camp)
- **San Pedro Community Plan revision process:** continued involvement in this process, particularly with regard to providing information to stakeholders and opportunities for comment.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We Need More, Not Less!

By Doug Epperhart

I'm sure many of you read *More San Pedro* every Saturday. It's the tabloid sister of the *Daily Breeze*. *More* covers local news and features a number of regular columnists who offer commentary on the fables, foibles, and fundamentals of life in San Pedro.

Recently, *More San Pedro* and the other Copley publications were taken over by the company that publishes the *Long Beach Press-Telegram* and *Los Angeles Daily News*. There's some question about whether *More* will survive under new ownership.

What does this have to do with the neighborhood council?

A lot more than anyone realizes.

Since its inception in 2002, *More* has provided tremendous coverage of our neighborhood councils. In addition to printing council contact information each week, they offer up regular briefs about council activities and often longer stories about important issues.

More also prints a column focusing specifically on neighborhood councils. It's written by Andrea Adleman, who serves on the board of the Coastal and Northwest councils. Recently, she profiled the newly-elected Coastal board members.

The neighborhood councils in San Pedro are lucky to have a number of media outlets covering them. These include *Random Lengths News*, *San Pedro magazine*, and the *Daily Breeze*. We're also fortunate that two of the councils in San Pedro—Coastal and Northwest—publish their own newspapers. Between them, they distribute directly to more than 20,000 households and businesses.

Very few of the 80 or so neighborhood councils in Los Angeles have the access to media that we have. I believe our community benefits beyond measure from the dialogue that results thanks to *More San Pedro* and our other publications.

If you agree, send an e-mail to: phil.sanfield@dailybreeze.com and let him know you want *More* to stick around.

There are two things necessary for democracy to flourish—a free press to ignite debate and educated citizens to carry it on.

As Thomas Jefferson said, "I'd rather have newspapers without government than government without newspapers."

- **Recreation and Parks issues:** continued dialogue with Department of Recreation and Parks and other concerned entities on the following:
 - Angels Gate Park master plan
 - Point Fermin Park rules governing large-scale events.
 - Pocket park creation, especially in underserved areas.
- **Ponte Vista development:** continued monitoring and involvement in the process, seeking to minimize impacts on Coastal stakeholders.
- **Neighborhood Council communications and stakeholder outreach:** continued development of means to raise stakeholder awareness and involvement.
- **Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Congress / DWP and Planning MOU processes:** continued participation in citywide groups seeking to further the neighborhood council movement and facilitate efficient citizen involvement in government.

Welcome Park much closer to becoming a reality

Recent approval of a land swap by the Port of Los Angeles brings the possibility of developing the Gaffey Street parcels into the long-awaited "Welcome Park." Of course, we may be jumping the gun here. The Department of Recreation and Parks, the City Council and the State Lands Commission have yet to sign off on the deal, but that is expected to happen soon.

"It's about time we cleaned up the main entry to San Pedro, Councilwoman Janice Hahn said, First impressions are lasting impressions and this park will finally give the right impression of our community."