



Photos on this page by John Stinson.

Coastal Council's Criteria for Allocating Funds

By John Stinson, Treasurer

Each year the CSPNC is funded by the City of Los Angeles in the amount of \$50,000. The monies are used to conduct board business, do outreach, and fund neighborhood improvement projects.

Two years ago, we ran an article by Doug Epperhart on how the council spends its money, especially with regard to outreach and neighborhood improvement projects. Here, we explain the guidelines determining just how the council funds are spent.

How does the council determine where its money goes?

First, groups have to ask. The council doesn't search out places to spend funds. This has to do with conflict of interest rules governing the conduct of neighborhood council boards.

Neighborhood council board members may not vote on things that will affect groups with whom they are directly affiliated, such as being an employee or a member of that organization's board. This rule is particularly strict with regard to financial matters.

The city also frowns on spending any funds that benefit specific individuals. Furthermore, the council may not make donations of any kind. The council must derive some value (such as publicity) for its expenditure.

Once it's been determined that an expense meets the legal requirements of the city, the council considers a number of factors. Is the expense for something in the Coastal San Pedro area? Programs or events at Cabrillo Beach, for instance, take precedence over something happening at Peck Park or downtown.

Does it benefit Coastal San Pedro stakeholders? How many does it help? Things available to more people are preferred over things available to fewer. Some programs are geared toward younger or older individuals or those interested in certain activities.

If the expense is for an event or program, the council prefers that it be open to the general public and free of charge.

The duration of a program or event is also a consideration. Will the money the council provides be for something that occurs on a single day or over a week or a month?

Occasionally, the council funds items that are of a more durable nature, such as the benches placed at the Cabrillo Beach Fishing Pier.

All fiscal matters of the council are a matter of official record and available for scrutiny by the public. The council's committee and board meetings are always open and comment is encouraged.

Neighborhood Council Money Flows to Variety of San Pedro Community Efforts

By John Stinson, Treasurer

Since the publication of our last newsletter (dated Winter 2008), the council approved funding for more projects, programs and events. The following provides details.

As you read it, you can decide, given the guidelines, if you have something you feel the council should be supporting in the coming fiscal year. If you do, call the council at (310) 290-0049 or email us at info@coastalsanpedro.org for our consideration of your request.

Cabrillo Beach Fourth of July Celebration

In March, the council again decided to support the Fourth of July fireworks show at Cabrillo Beach. Originally the brain-child of John Olguin, the fireworks show has been held for over 56 years. Last year it included live music by the Golden State Pops Orchestra, who will again perform this year. The show is free and open to the public. Get there early. The council is sponsoring the event in the amount of \$3,000.

For more info, go to cabrillobeachbathhouse.org



Cabrillo Beach Fishing Pier Benches

Realizing that the three benches that the council purchased for the Cabrillo Beach Fishing Pier last year were just the down payment, the council has voted to appropriate an additional \$2,000 to provide more seating on the pier as well as the path leading to it. This should make Ray Patricio, a long-time San Pedran who originally suggested the idea, as well as other seniors who like to walk out there, even happier campers. Where there are a few places to sit, rest and enjoy the view now, in the near future there will be even more.



Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

In addition to the ad (at the cost of \$1,000) in the program of the Grand Grunion Gala held May 5, the council decided in April to provide additional funding in the amount of \$3,000 to support a variety of educational programs at the Aquarium.

The Aquarium is a Los Angeles city facility run by the Department of Recreation and Parks and is experiencing cutbacks due to the budget deficit currently facing city government.

Much of the Aquarium's program revenues, however, are derived from donations and grants provided through the Friends of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. To find out more go to www.cabrilloaq.org/friends.html and to find out how you can volunteer call Randi Abrams-Gonzalez, volunteer coordinator, at (310) 548-7562, ext. 207.

L.A.'s Network for Kids

Meeting the challenge to raise \$2,500 from additional donors for the Dana Middle School's after school club program, the council made good on its pledge by providing an additional \$2,500.

Earlier this year, the council was introduced to the after school club program that is being developed at Dana Middle School in San Pedro. Using the concept of networking between the school and various elements of the community, including businesses, parents and local organizations, the program provides supervised constructive activities as an alternative to destructive unsupervised ones, and involves teamwork to achieve a positive result.

The current clubs include the Art Club, Swim Club, Basketball Club, Police Explorers, Cooking Club and Newspaper Club, with more programs in the works.

The council decided to fund this program because it seems

like an innovative way, at the middle school level, to get various elements of the community involved in either a volunteer or resource-supplying capacity to provide unique educational opportunities not currently available.

For more info, contact Diana Chapman at (310) 548-6731, email her at hartchap@cox.net or visit her blog at the theunderdogforkids.blogspot.com.

Shakespeare by the Sea



The council also is contributing \$2,500 this year to the ever-popular series of free Shakespeare plays held during the summer at Point Fermin Park and put on by Shakespeare by the Sea. For more info on performances or how you can lend a helping hand, go to www.shakespearebythesea.org

Music By The Sea



This month-long free concert series held at Point Fermin Park in the summer is now in its 11th season. It features two local bands each Sunday in the month of July. Typically, it draws a crowd of up to 1,500 music lovers. It's a great time to soak up the sun, the sounds and enjoy the ocean breeze. This year the council is cosponsoring the event and providing \$3,000 to underwrite the sound system costs.

For more info, go to www.musicbythesea.org.

LAPD-Teen Community Police Advisory Board Conference



Now in its second year, this annual conference offered an opportunity for local law enforcement and teens to meet and discuss solutions to teen and gang violence. The event was titled, "Doing the Hard Right, Instead of the Easy Wrong – Addressing Gang and Teen Violence." The mission was to bridge the gap between teens and the police department via a positive problem solving dialogue.

The conference included a motivational speaker, Dr. Michael Pritchard, as well as workshops on the subjects of gang prevention, which included a panel discussion with gang intervention specialists on the negative impact of gang involvement, and exploring the rise of bullying behavior, conducted by the Office of LAUSD's Human Relations Diversity and Equity. The teens were also able to use the LAPD Force Options Simulator to help educate them on LAPD's Use of Force Policy.

The council provided \$2,000 for this event.

San Pedro Relay For Life

This April, the council passed a motion to sponsor the San Pedro Relay For Life, being held this May 17 and 18, in the amount of \$1,000. The event is a 24-hour team celebration that involves people from each team walking around a track for 24 hours. It highlights the fact that cancer never sleeps and, as a community, we can do something about it.

Last year, this event raised over \$130,000 for cancer research and local San Pedro support groups like "Road to Recovery" and "Look Good Feel Better."

For more information on donating or participating, call Jennifer Leonard at (562) 437-0791.