

Neighborhood Council Reaches Out to Community

Coastal San Pedro Council Provides Support to Local Groups and Projects



By John Stinson, Treasurer

One of the more satisfying roles that the neighborhood council plays in the community is providing support for local groups and projects through sponsorships. Whether because of its budget shortfalls or fiscal mismanagement, the City of Los Angeles or other governmental agencies do not always have the resources to adequately fund or support needed or desirable services or programs that directly affect local residents.

Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council is given a budget of \$50,000 annually to run its business that includes outreach to its stakeholders in the form of financial support. As is the Council policy, individuals and groups come to us with requests for support for various projects and events throughout the year and the council decides on what gets funded. There are rules and guidelines that the council must follow when providing funding. They were spelled out in a previous edition of *The Coastal Current*, which is available for viewing on line at www.cspnc.com/pdf/current%200906.pdf.

During this last year, the council approved expenditures for a number of projects and events that provided everything from entertainment to education and from park planning to library books. The following is a listing of those groups, projects and events. As you read it, you can decide if you have something else you feel the council should be supporting in the coming year. Then it is just a matter of calling the council, (310) 290-0049, or emailing info@coastalsanpedro.org to let us know.

Angels Gate Park and Angels Gate Cultural Center Master Plan

It has been three decades since the Fort MacArthur upper military reservation was turned over the local government. It was supposed to have a master plan created for it after the transfer though it always seemed there was never money available to see it through to completion until now.

With Angels Gate Cultural Center (AGCC) receiving a 30-year lease in late 2006 on a portion of the property in the park, the process to create that master plan began in earnest. The AGCC decided they also needed to help fund the overall park master plan as part of their master plan and started looking for funding through grants, sponsorships and donations.

With the total planning cost estimated to be over a quarter-of-a-million dollars, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council allocated \$10,000 of its budget to help kickstart the process. With public meetings and workshops done and recommendations from the community and planning committee made, the master plan is very close to being a reality.

Pacific Avenue Tree Planting Project

This last December the first trees were planted on Pacific Avenue by volunteers from all over Southern California with the goal of providing more green and shade in the business district where little existed before. The project was a joint effort of Coastal and Central San Pedro Neighborhood Councils and The Tree People.

Central provided most of the funding, the Tree People provided the expertise and Coastal provided outreach by setting up a web site to sign up volunteers and provide information on the project as well as other resources on urban forestry programs available to the public including free tree giveaways for residential property.

To see photos of the planting day or to get free trees, go to the web site at www.sanpedrotrees.org. And remember, volunteers are still needed for the next phase of plantings so sign up today to help make San Pedro greener and cleaner!

L.A.'s Network for Kids

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

The clubs include the Art Club, Swim Club, Basketball Club, Police Explorers, Cooking Club and Newspaper Club. More programs are in the works are the Spanish Club, Sailing Club, Songwriting and Music Appreciation Club and Dance Club.

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.

Twenty-five hundred dollars is being provided to fund more qualified instructors to conduct club meetings more than once a week and the council has also pledged another \$2,500 if another \$2,500 is raised from other sources. For more info contact Diana Chapman at (310) 548-6731, email her at hartchap@cox.net or visit her blog at underdogforkids.blogspot.com.

Music By The Sea

This month-long free concert series held at Point Fermin Park in the summer has been around for 10 years. 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. The council has helped support it for the last two years by providing \$1,000 each year to help underwrite the sound system costs. For more info go to musicbythesea.org.

White Point Nature Preserve Clean Up Day and Bark & Boo Party

This last May, as part of the Mayor's Day of Service/Big Sunday, the council provided lunch from Busy Bee Market to volunteers who arrived to clean up trash and debris from the canyon areas of the preserve plus pull weeds and other non-native plant species.

The council also provided \$1,500 to help underwrite a Halloween event held at White Point Nature Preserve that was put on by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. It featured dogs (and their owners) that participated in a costume contest and was truly great fun for the whole family.

It was also an opportunity to raise funds for the Preserve's operation, show off the recently finished parking facilities, acquaint the public with the new interpretive signage explaining the restoration efforts and the unique history of the site and unveil the plans for converting one of the current structures into a nature center.

continued on next page

ANGELS GATE PARK MASTER PLAN—Community members gather at one of the many public meetings to discuss ideas for the future of the park. The council provided \$10,000 to help fund the planning effort.

A TREE GROWS IN PEDRO—The Coastal and Central councils joined hands recently to plant trees along Pacific Avenue.

L.A.'S NETWORK FOR KIDS—CSPNC supports afterschool programs at Dana Middle School, including the Art Club.



MUSIC BY THE SEA—The council provides funding for Music by the Sea concerts at Point Fermin Park. Coastal has also been a long-time supporter of Shakespeare by the Sea, which presents summertime entertainment for the community.