

PORT OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WILMINGTON WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Port of Los Angeles
425 S. Palos Verdes Street
San Pedro, CA

Minutes
February 9, 2010

ATTENDEES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS/PCAC

Ken Melendez, Chair
Olivia Cueva Fernandez, Voting Member
Arthur Hernandez, Alternate Member
Gary Kern, Voting Member
Charlie Rico, Alternate Member
Pat Nave, Voting Member

PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS

Janet Esposito
Mickey Hawke

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Ricardo Hong, Mayor's Office
Gordon Teuber, Council Office, Dist. 15

PORT STAFF

Chris Brown
Joanne Ruddell
Cecilia Moreno

PORT POLICE

Harry Hunold

Meeting Location: Banning's Landing, 100 E. Water Street, Wilmington, CA 90744

- A. Call to Order: 5:42 PM
- B. Agenda Approved
- C. The Minutes of the January 12, 2010 Wilmington Waterfront Development Subcommittee meeting were approved.
- D. Wilmington Marinas Planning Study:
Joanne Ruddell, from the POLA Planning and Economic Development Division, provided an update on the Wilmington Marinas Planning Study. The study is in response to PCAC motions #66, #73, #90, and #96, all of which pertain to the Wilmington Marinas, the East Basin Cerritos Channel Marina infrastructure, and the Anchorage Road Soil Storage Site (ARSSS). The project is presently being defined to include the specific elements that had been requested within the PCAC motions.

A Steering Committee will be established, which will consist of representatives from the Wilmington Neighborhood Council, the Wilmington Waterfront Development Subcommittee, the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, the

Wilmington Boat Owners and the Marina Owners, in addition to POLA staff, Mayor's staff, and City staff.

The Steering Committee will oversee the planning process, representing the interests of their respective groups, attending regular meetings and workshops, and providing input into the process. Letters of invitation will be sent out to these organizations shortly. The first Steering Committee meeting is tentatively expected to be the first week of March. The project should be completed by the end of the year 2010.

It was suggested that representation from an environmental group, (i.e. Coalition for a Safe Environment), be included in the Steering Committee. This may help to defuse conflict earlier rather than later in the process.

E. Staff Update:

- Wilmington Youth Sailing Center:
The RFP is expected to be released shortly, with the goal of selecting an operator for the Sailing Center. Construction is expected to commence by mid 2011 with completion by mid 2012.
- Avalon Triangle:
Chris Brown, from the POLA Engineering Division, reported that the Port was working on the final environmental clean-up for the site. There is no date as to when the construction will begin, but he will keep the Committee posted on plans as they move forward.

The Committee was encouraged to ask the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, (ILWU) for a presentation on their memorial project "The Arches". It was suggested that the memorial be placed in Triangle Park. In the past, Dr. Domenick Miretti stated that the artist preferred the memorial to be placed in the San Pedro Waterfront. The proposed project is attached at the end of this document.

Ken Melendez stated that while financing for the Triangle Park was being secured, staff was being asked to get ready for the construction. Mr. Brown stated that it was his understanding that the funds would be appropriated in next year's budget; however, he did not have confirmation yet.

When the Subcommittee put together their list of project priorities, they included the financing of the Triangle Park. Mr. Melendez forwarded a copy of these priorities to the Mayor's Office, the Council Office (District 15), and to the Harbor Commission. Mr. Melendez asked to be kept up to date on the financing issue.

- **Buffer Area:**
The time line for the Buffer Project has encountered some delays due to the torrential rain/storms during the month of January. There was some erosion on the slopes that had been put in, and some of the trenches that had been dug out needed to be redone. There was also a period of time where things needed to dry out before further construction could commence. The storm drains on “C” Street are still intact; however, they did not handle the massive amounts of rain very well. The new storm drain system is not fully functioning, but it is being worked on. The curb and the gutter, for the most part, are in on “C” Street. Construction of the sidewalks is next, with the street lighting to follow.

The steel for the construction of the (4) bridges should be coming in over the next couple of weeks. Permitting for the buildings is in place. Very shortly, there should be some visible progress on the buildings.

- **Wilmington Waterfront:**
The project is moving along. Consultants are working on the design.

There is a public meeting on Thursday, February 11, 2010, at 6:00 PM at the Crowne Plaza, in San Pedro. The purpose of the meeting is to present and explain the implementation of the LA Waterfront Project. The community (Wilmington and San Pedro) is encouraged to come and give their input.

F. **Discussion:**

- **Buffer Area / Recommendation for Sale of Parcels on the Buffer**
Mr. Melendez proposed a recommendation that the Committee consider selling the parcels in question to State Fish for their proposed expansion. The recommendation is based on the fact that the Subcommittee has always been open to working with the Business Community, has always been pro business/industry, and has always opposed the uprooting of core businesses in the project area (with the exception of the removal of the Valero Tanks and the relocation of Catalina Freight, which the Port had already had plans to do). The Committee has, in the past, worked with various organizations who requested temporary use of land in the Wilmington project area.

In addition, he stated that State Fish may have been wronged with regard to the sale of their property. They sold the property under the threat of condemnation, with the belief that they would be relocated, a plan that had been pulled by a former Harbor Commission.

Because of the access that is needed for State Fish, the land around them would become somewhat orphaned, and would be dangerous for the use of public parking for the Park. Truck traffic would decrease with the

expansion, as there would be fewer trips to LA, and loads that did go would be moved in bigger trucks, reducing the number of truck trips.

Gordon Teuber reminded the Committee that the emphasis of the Planning Department was to make sure that the Buffer Zone did not revert to industrial usage. Other than the State Fish site or Harpers Marine, the green space in the Buffer would be green space in perpetuity. With regard to the relocation of State Fish, the economy was different two to three years ago, and it is unlikely that the Port would expend the funds to relocate them now.

Mr. Melendez proposed that the fairest recommendation from the Subcommittee would be to recommend that the Harbor Department sell this land to State Fish without any restrictions or conditions regarding the use of the land.

Charlie Rico and Arthur Hernandez spoke in favor of the recommendation to sell the land to State Fish. Olivia Cueva Fernandez and Gary Kern spoke in opposition.

The vote of the Subcommittee to sell the property to State Fish passed with 2 Ayes (Charlie Rico and Arthur Hernandez), and 2 Nays (Olivia Cueva Fernandez, and Gary Kern). Ken Melendez, the Chair of the Subcommittee resolved the tie by voting yes to the recommendation. He will send a letter to the Harbor Department notifying them of the Committee's recommendation.

- Recommendation: Names for the Wilmington Buffer:
The Committee used the following criteria during the discussion of a name for the Buffer. (To Include Some Spanish Flavor in the Name, Defines the Success of the Wilmington Community, Perhaps Include the Word Buffer, Use a Name That Associates All Wilmington Parks, But Differentiates One From Another, Reference Heart of the Harbor, and Do Not Name After a Person.) The following were some proposed names.

- **Heart of the Harbor Park (Seems to be popular choice)***
- **Corazon del Puerto Park (Seems to be popular choice)***
- Park of Iconic Bridges - Wilmington Wave Park
- Waterfront Park - Harbor Vista
- Tidelands Buffer Park - Bridgeview Park
- Wilmington Ocean View Park
- Wilmington Ocean Front Park
- Wilmington Waterfront Gateway Park
- Wilmington Waterfront Bridges Park
- Wilmington Waterfront Vista Park
- Wilmington Waterfront Puente Vista
- Wilmington Waterfront Park

Cecilia Moreno encouraged the Committee to choose a name so that the choices could be presented to the Chamber and to the Wilmington Neighborhood Council for their input.

G. Public comment:

- Olivia Cueva Fernandez read an article regarding the development of Wilmington, A “Part of Greater Los Angeles, The Harbor of a Great City, The Gateway to the Southwest”. The article was from the Los Angeles Daily Times, dated January 1, 1910.
- Ken Melendez reported that he toured the lighthouse site with the San Pedro Cabrillo Beach Boosters, but, due to unfavorable conditions they were unable to gain access to the light house. They will try again another day.
- The Committee expressed their condolences to Gordon Teuber for the loss of his father.
- Janet Esposito expressed her thanks to the Committee for supporting State Fish’s efforts to purchase lots at the end of the buffer, from the Port of Los Angeles.

H. Non Agenda Items: None

I. Next Subcommittee Meeting, March 9, 2010

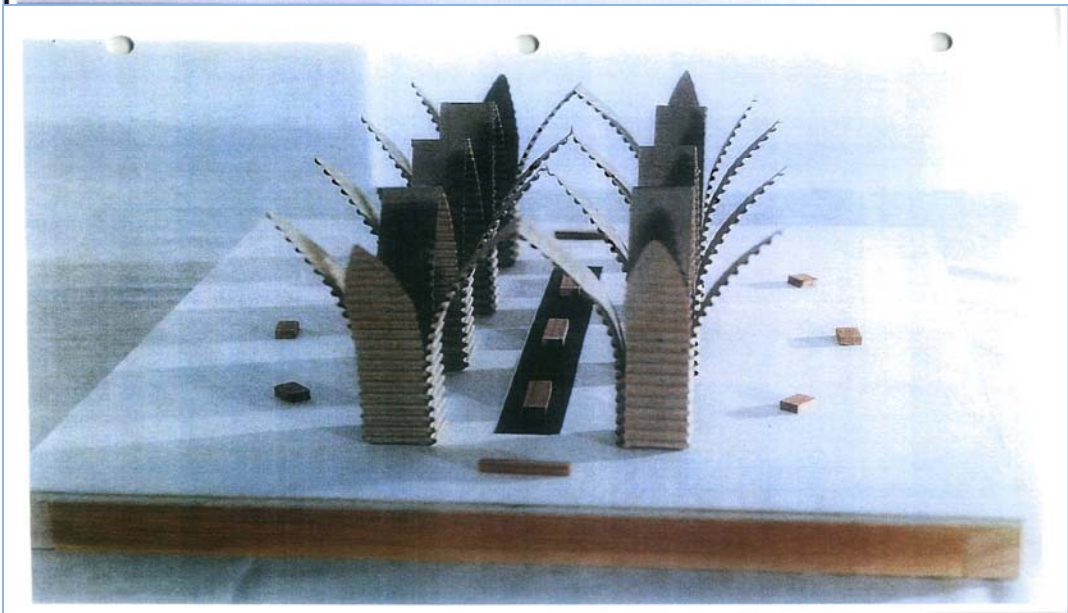
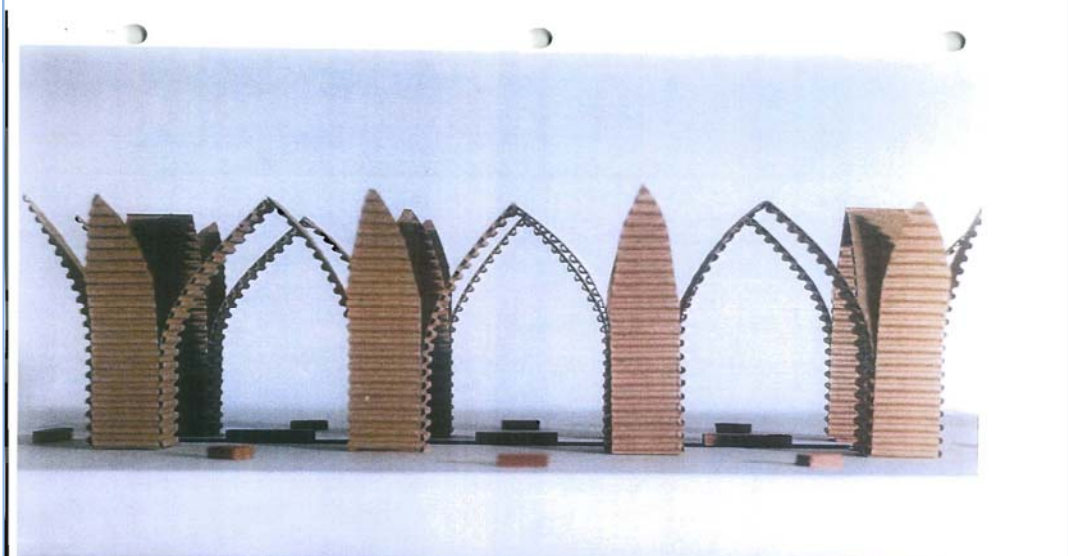
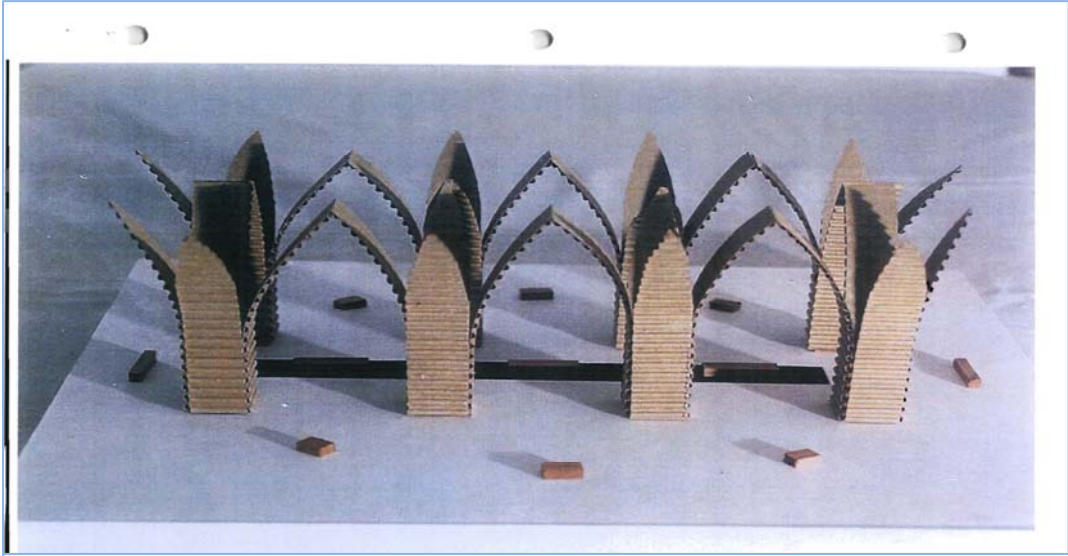
J. Adjournment: 7:25 PM

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Ken Melendez, Chair
Wilmington Waterfront Development Subcommittee

Signature on File

Debra Babcock-Doherty, PCAC Executive Assistant



PROPOSED PROJECT:

"THE ARCHES"

A SYMBOL OF ILWU, PORT, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY UNIFICATION

1. Category: The proposed ILWU project, "The Arches", will fall into three (3) categories. It will be situated in a park-like space dedicated to its display, it is intended to beautify the community and it will serve as an educational arts resource for the public.
2. Project Description: A consortium of ILWU Locals 13, 63 and 94 proposes to construct and install a monumental work of public art in San Pedro overlooking the Port of Los Angeles.

Purpose: "The Arches" will serve several purposes:

- a. It will commemorate the contribution ILWU workers and other laboring groups make in facilitating the daily movement of goods through the local ports and the role their labor has played in the successful development of the ports of San Pedro Bay,
- b. In a broader yet inclusive and unifying context, it will provide an opportunity for people of all backgrounds to come together to gain a greater understanding of not just the people who work at the ports, but also the port authority, industry stakeholders and the community.
- c. Using art, education and community building, "The Arches" will create common ground for a better understanding of the goods movement industry and develop a unifying force for greater stakeholder involvement and cooperation in efforts to both grccn and grow our ports.
- d. "The Arches" will serve as a connecting point between labor, the Port industry and the community, a symbol of cooperation and unification as all parties strive to achieve economic and environmental sustainability.

Design: given its simple yet stunning design, the project also promises to become a Southern California landmark, an outstanding example of the power of public art to help shape people's perception of a landscape and to encourage them to think more deeply about its meaning.

"The Arches" is the work of noted Los Angeles-based Japanese-American artist Mineko Grimmer, who has exhibited internationally and is known for her extraordinary use of natural materials. "The Arches" measures some 92 feet long by 36 feet wide by 36 feet high and is made from the simple, honest materials associated with the Port itself: steel, stone, and water. The work's "building blocks" are, symbolically, shipping containers

themselves, massive pieces of corrugated steel in the proportions of shipping containers, but re-imagined and re-configured to create a series of soaring, gracefully tapered arches.

This project is intended to evoke not only the cables of the Vincent Thomas Bridge (visible in the background) and the ever-changing surface of San Pedro Bay, but also to suggest growth and renewal and to echo the dramatic ruins of the 16th century cloisters or abbeys that still dot the landscape of England and Wales. By doing so, "The Arches" will create a spiritual space that naturally leads to quiet introspection: a solemn place that is at the same time, hopeful and uplifting, not depressing.

A water feature will bisect the sculpture through its length. This water element, also suggesting organic renewal, will be fed by three rectangular granite aquatic components along its center.

Approximately one-quarter of an acre surrounding the sculpture will be landscaped, with lawns and about 30 trees planted, including a mix of Mexican Fan Palms, Date Palms, and Box Trees. The site will also feature appropriate furnishings, including trash and recycling receptacles and a bike rack, along with signage, including way finding and trail pavement signs, regulation signs, and signs that acknowledge the purpose and intent of the project and those who made "The Arches" possible.

Overall, the project is envisioned as a gathering place, an opportunity for people of all backgrounds to come together to gain a greater understanding of the Port, of the people who work at the Port, and its relationship to the community.

3. Project Location: "The Arches" will be sited on an open park-like area just south of Bloch Field in San Pedro. It has an excellent unobstructed view of the Port and the main span of the Vincent Thomas Bridge, beyond which it is easy to see many ships loading and unloading their cargoes.
4. State Public Trust: The consortium is consistent with The California State Lands Commission Public Trust Doctrine in several ways.
 - *The proposed project preserves open space. According to the Doctrine, Public trust lands may also be kept in their natural state for habitat, wildlife refuges, scientific study, or open space (emphasis added).* "The Arches" is designed to keep as much space as possible open, enhancing the view of the Port of Los Angeles, not obstructing it. It is open to the public free of charge and will be in a park-like setting.

- *The proposed project is intended to foster the public's understanding and appreciation for the Port of Los Angeles and its relations to the Community.* According to the Doctrine: "Ancillary or incidental uses, that is, uses ... that accommodate the public enjoyment of trust lands, are also permitted," The public will visit the "Arches" specifically to gain a new perspective on the Port of Los Angeles and of how public trust lands are put to use to benefit the community.
 - *The proposed project will have state-wide impact.* According to the Doctrine: "Because public trust lands are held in trust for all citizens of California, they must be used to serve statewide, as opposed to purely local, public purposes." The consortium behind the project fully anticipates that, when completed, this work of public art will be a state landmark, not only as a symbol of cooperation and unification, but also as an all-too-rare example of how art can create a spiritually moving space. We expect it to be regarded as a classic, a destination for art-lovers who live in or are visiting the Los Angeles area and for those from throughout California who wish to gain a greater appreciation for the importance of the work carried out at the Port. "The Arches" will be visible from the Los Angeles World Cruise Center, raising the very real possibility that people from around the globe will visit and enjoy the memorial.
5. Nexus -"The Arches" will use art, education, and community-building to help foster appreciation for Port operations. It will serve as a connecting point between Port and community, a symbol of cooperation as all parties strive to achieve economic and environmental sustainability. "The Arches" will create common ground for a better understanding of the goods movement industry and develop a unifying force for greater stakeholder involvement and cooperation in efforts to both grow and green our ports.

Rather than blocking or denying the visual reality of the port, "The Arches" will give it a new aesthetic context, literally framing it in a series of shapes that will help people see it in a new way. By adding a spiritual or contemplative component to the view, it will encourage visitors to think more deeply about the meaning of the visual landscape they are encountering.

Beyond the design of the artwork itself: its didactic and commemorative purposes will be powerful resources for helping those visitors without any direct associations with Port activities make positive connections with its spirit on their own terms.

The site will also be an ideal outdoor classroom, a venue for forums and field trips for students of all ages studying Port and Port-related activities. With an outstanding view of the work that goes on in the Port, it will be a fine vantage

point from which to help people gain a greater understanding of the complexity of the issues and challenges faced by the Port and the community.

Respectfully submitted by,
Domenick Miretti, Ph.D. IL WU Project Coordinator - "The Arches"
ILWU Presidents
George Lujan, Local 13
James Spinosa, Local 63
Daniel Miranda, Local 94