

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 19, 2024, BUSINESS MEETING

Call to Order – President Richard Scandaliato called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: Jerry Gaines, Richard Scandaliato, Vern Hall, Richard Welsh, August Caimi, John Lang, Gordon Thomas, Dave Billings, Erin Sato, Brian Ward. Absent: Lori Terzoli

Welcome Message: President Richard Scandaliato welcomed some 100 or more members in attendance.

Introduction and Election of Board Members: Secretary Jerry Gaines Introduced the 2024 Nominated Board Members. Richard Scandaliato, *President*; Dae Billings, *Vice President*; Jerry Gaines, *Secretary*; *Vacant Treasurer*; Vern Hall, Gordon Thomas, Richard Welsh, John Lang, August Caimi, Terry Pierce, Brian Ward, and Erin Sato. Jerry Gaines called for a motion to elect the new 2024 Board candidates. The motion was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Richard Scandaliato reported a balance of \$2,762 in checking. No outstanding obligations.

Membership Committee: Gordon Thomas reported on the activity of members renewing their membership and the addition of new members joining SSCA. Those in attendance were able to validate their contact information.

Meet and Greet Team: Brian Ward and Erin Sato discussed recent community outreach activities and plans to schedule other specific events in the future. Members will receive a survey to learn of interest in various networking events.

Welcome Wagon Ambassadors: Ed and Joanne Storti described their on-going process of meeting new residents during the year. The program has brought new members in during the year.

Sociables: Under the leadership of Anita Mannila a group of members who are single have gathered at some of their homes to network with each other monthly. Some 22 members participated.

Sidewalk Brigade: Under the leadership of Gordon Thomas cleanup projects are undertaken in the neighborhood. Future action is pending on upcoming weather conditions.

Proposed Drive-Thru Coffee Outlet at 25th Street and Western Ave. Board Members Richard Scandaliato and Jerry Gaines presented an overview of the proposed drive-thru coffee outlet by property owner Paragon Group. The proposal has been under discussion and review for many months. The San Pedro Chamber of Commerce and the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council have endorsed the proposal citing economic and aesthetic merits. Some 200 or so residents have signed a petition opposing the proposal alleging excessive traffic impacts in the area. On March 6 the City of Los Angeles Planning Department held a Zoning Hearing to assess the request by the Paragon Group to grant a Conditional Use Permit to build the drive-thru project. Some 30 or so speakers addressed the issue at the hearing either in support or opposed. The SSCA sought to inform all interested stakeholders on the proposal and holds a neutral position (focusing on the development of the entire shopping center property) to allow the issue to be judged through the Zoning Administrator process. A decision is expected in a few weeks.

Cyberwatch- Bob Genest presented an overview of the successful Cyberwatch program he oversees in the area. He noted various success stories of responding to criminal activity, working closely with the LAPD and other officials. He

provided handout material for those interested in joining the program or wish to know more about it. Attention was given to cities using cameras to photograph license plates of vehicles entering the area. He also addressed ways to respond to homes unoccupied and subject to squatters.

Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi - Erick Ponce-Furlos spoke to the members on behalf of Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi of the 66th Assembly District (covers South Shores under redistricting) about State of California issues relating to communities like South Shores. He noted pending bills that relate to planning, homelessness and other issues. A request was made to ask Cal Trans to lower the speed limit from 40 m.p.h. to 35 m.p.h. along Western Ave (SR 213) from Morse Drive/19th St. to 25th Street to improve traffic safety along the business corridor. Cal Trans is undertaking a realignment of curbing for bike lanes along Western Ave. in the coming months.

Supervisor Janice Hahn – San Pedro Deputy Jennifer Lamargue spoke to the members on county issues the supervisor is engaged in. One issue on elder abuse was the Supervisor's motion to start a pilot study on a Safe Home for abused seniors. (Passed by the Supervisors earlier that day). The Supervisor is working with LA City Councilman Tim McOsker to seek security improvements at Royal Palms Beach

Councilman Tim McOsker – The Councilman spent extended time discussing numerous local issues, including the difficulty of recruiting new police officers and 911 operators, the steeling of copper wiring, Royal Palms Beach, Trees on Western Ave., paving and cleanup activities in the district. He does not favor a drive-thru coffee outlet but is on guard for other forms of development in the region. He promoted the city Circle? (Crisis and Incident Response program focused on non-urgent LAPD calls related to unhoused individuals). The program offers a choice on non-violent, non-criminal, on non-medical unhoused individuals to be served.

SSCA Annual Reception - Richard Welsh noted that the summer Annual Reception will be held at the Elks Club on September 15, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 8:55 p.m. Next Board meeting: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at the Elks Club.

Jerry Gaines, Secretary