Thinking BIG, Thinking BEAUTIFUL

By Stanley Nadel

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Now, at long last, through the collaboration of PLA volunteers, the City of San Diego and a generous Neighborhood Reinvestment Program award by County Supervisor Greg Cox, our dream of a beautiful entryway is about to become a reality. The large palm trees lining the perimeter will remain, complimented by the planting of Torrey Pines, numerous Tequila Agaves and colorful groundcover. The result will be a gorgeous, drought-tolerant expanse at the front door of our community.

Nine Torrey Pines will be planted in the center, with Tequila Agaves providing a beautiful blue contrast. Low-lying, native and drought tolerant groundcover will create ribbons of color.

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www.pointlomaassociation.com

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A tribute to the Chinese fishing and shipbuilding industry

By Karen Scanlon, with help from Murray Lee

Editor’s note: At the December PLA Board meeting, The La Playa Trail Association received approval for their proposed monument to the Chinese fishing and shipbuilding industry at the foot of Talbot Street.

During the latter half of the 19th century, San Diego had a thriving Chinese fishing and shipbuilding industry. Chinese fishermen settled along the bay at La Playa between Ballast Point and Roseville, which was the base for operations to the north and down the Baja California coast. They lived in shanties and had drying racks and salting tanks. They also built their junk ships and sampans at this site.

In 1859, the La Playa site was one of two fishing villages on the bay; the second one was at the foot of Third Street next to Chinatown and the Pacific Mail Steamship Wharf. Due to the shallow nature of the harbor in the early years, the junk ships were anchored just offshore, close to where the fishermen had redwood stacks on stilts along the water’s edge. They were adjacent to a small Chinatown, which offered financial backing; and the wharf provided a facility for importing supplies and exporting fish products.

Some of the Chinese junk builders had experience in shipbuilding back in South China, where they originated. They used traditional designs characteristic of junks in that area and constructed them without building plans. The junk designs varied according to the particular purpose of the vessel.

San Diego was a major abalone gathering base and abalone junk usually had two masts and were designed to operate 400 miles down the Baja California coast. The junk ships were built of redwood with masts and rudders made of ironwood imported from China. The three-masted Sun Sun Lee, launched in 1884 at La Playa, was 52 feet long and 16 feet wide—the finest junk built in California.

Due to the Chinese Exclusion Laws, the industry had to be abandoned by the early 1890s, but for 30 years, the Chinese were the first to establish a major fishing and shipbuilding industry in San Diego, contributing to the city’s economy. A monument along the shore at La Playa will commemorate this pioneering effort of the Chinese, which has never been fully recognized.

For more information about the proposed monument, contact Klonie Kunzel at (619) 222-1950 or kunzel@cox.net. You can also contact Allen Tait, Project Manager, Public Art Department at the Port of San Diego, at (619) 686-6200.

Beautification update

North Harbor Drive Entry Sign: The entry sign light at North Harbor Drive had been broken for some time. Thanks to Bob Sherman for coordinating with Zed Electric to get it repaired.

Graffiti removal and tracking: Graffiti at the old Vons building has been an ongoing problem. Graffiti Control Staff and the SDPD Graffiti task force did not include Park and Recreation clean up and City Attorney’s Office fees for prosecuting graffiti vandalism cases.

Eleven cameras will be distributed to Urban Corps, San Diego Public Works and the SDPD Graffiti task force. Until further notice, report tagging by calling the Urban Corps Graffiti Hotline at (800) 829-6884. In the future, County Supervisor Greg Cox is looking into possibly integrating graffiti calls into the City’s resource number (211).

With this many jurisdictions now participating in the Graffiti Tracker program, the DA’s office will be able to get more serious about prosecuting vandals and seeking restitution, as their efforts were barred by charges based on single events.

La Playa Trail Murals: The La Playa Trail murals so beautifully painted by Point Loma High School students last year will finally be on view for the entire community. They will be installed on the side of the Union Bank building at Shelter Island Drive and Rosecrans. Thanks to Sharon Jenkins of Union Bank for her efforts, and to Bruce Cooke for coming up with a plan for framing and installation. Keep an eye out for the unveiling.

The next beautification meeting will be at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 4 at the San Diego Yacht Club Board Room. To place items on the agenda, e-mail Ron at brooks1@cox.net.

Town Hall Meeting a Great Success!!

On October 26, over 200 people gathered at the Portuguese Hall to get an update on all aspects affecting our quality of life on the Peninsula. Thanks to new board member Malinda Dickenson for spearheading the successful event! The evening began with PLA Chairman Tony Calabrese introducing a video of what the PLA is all about by Noah Tafolla. While we can’t list all of the important information presented at the Town Hall Forum (you need to make sure to go next year, if you missed it), here are some highlights:

- Corky McMillin has withdrawn his request to seek changes to the NTC Precise Plan. As a result, the Liberty Station Conference Center will continue to be available for local events.
- The Target store on Sports Arena will be expanding into the old Mervin’s building to become a Super Target.
- The old Circuit City store in Loma Square is being converted into a Home Goods store.
- La Scala Restaurant has been purchased by the owners of Pomodoro and will be converted to the Lighthouse Grill.

New at Liberty Station

Here’s a list of some of the new stores that have arrived at Liberty Station:

- Studio 1220—A boutique with clothing, shoes and accessories.
- Stone Flats—Serving craft your-own flatbreads, entrance salads and signature soups.
- La Scala Restaurant has been purchased by the owners of Pomodoro and will be converted to the Lighthouse Grill.
- Pigtails and Crew Cuts—a hair salon for kids.
- Corky McMillin has withdrawn

Around Town:

Here’s what you can learn when you attend a Beautification Committee meeting:

- The La Playa site was one of two fishing villages on the bay; the second one was at the foot of Third Street next to Chinatown and the Pacific Mail Steamship Wharf. Due to the shallow nature of the harbor in the early years, the junk ships were anchored just offshore, close to where the fishermen had redwood stacks on stilts along the water’s edge. They were adjacent to a small Chinatown, which offered financial backing; and the wharf provided a facility for importing supplies and exporting fish products.

- The 2011 total budget for graffiti control and abatement in the City of San Diego is projected to be $2 million dollars. This cost is only for clean up by Urban Corps, Graffiti Control Staff and the SDPD Graffiti Strike force. It does not include Park and Recreation clean up and City Attorney’s Office fees for prosecuting graffiti vandalism cases.

- graffiti at the old Vons building has been an ongoing problem. Graffiti Control Staff and the SDPD Graffiti task force did not include Park and Recreation clean up and City Attorney’s Office fees for prosecuting graffiti vandalism cases.

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- Pigtails and Crew Cuts—a hair salon for kids.
- Preen 2 Pristine—Walk your dog to the dog wash!
- 4G Wireless—Wireless smartphones, tablets, laptops, and more.
- Chi Chocolate and Banyon Catering—Artisan chocolates and catering for events, lunches, and dinners.
- Five Guys Burgers & Fries—Burgers, fries, hot dogs, toppings. For more information about these businesses, go to the Liberty Station web site at www.libertystation.com.
Officer David Whifield, SDPD, encouraged all of us to pay attention. There has been an increase in home robberies, and the best thing to do is note strange people and cars in the neighborhood. Call (619) 531-2000 to report suspicious behavior. You can also call Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477 to report a crime. All calls are anonymous.

Captain Paul Marconi, Navy Region Southwest, Naval Base Point Loma, provided updates about naval activity on the base. He stressed that the Navy is growing, with 60% of the fleet in the Pacific region. There were 56 ships here in 2008; there will be 83 ships by FY 2014. Capt. Marconi also spoke of the Navy’s economic impact to the region, boasting that 23% of San Diego jobs are related to Department of Defense work. He also reported on the fuel storage tanks, saying that “they are fully funded and on track,” and that the facilities will be operational by the new year. The old tanks will be demolished by March, 2011. As for the fuel plume, the migration towards the bay has been contained. Remediation efforts have recovered 125,000 gallons of fuel.

On traffic generated by the base, Capt. Marconi stated that the Navy “is sensitive to the traffic [impacts],” and that they are conducting a traffic study on Catalina Avenue. The Navy is also tackling speeding issues using a radar gun.

Airport Authority Representative Bryan Ennarson spoke about the “Green Build” at the airport, which is the first phase of the airport’s Master Plan. The Terminal 2 expansion is the largest project in Lindbergh Field’s history, and will include a dual-level roadway for arrivals and departures. There will also be check-in at the curbs, and additional security lanes. The ten new gates will provide expanded waiting areas.

Peninsula Community Planning Board Chairman Chuck Teller spoke about the Peninsula Planning Board’s efforts on the Liberty Station Precise Plan, Lindbergh Field, and upcoming board elections in March. Contact Chuck at (619) 222-2240 if you’re interested in running.

Harbor Police Chief John Bolduc talked about the mission of the Harbor Police, which is to “provide patrol operations for the Harbor and protect 22 Homeland Security targets.” The Harbor Police also patrols the tidallands and 27 parks, and monitors vessels for environmental impacts.

County Supervisor Greg Cox talked about challenges the Board of Supervisors is facing due to economic conditions. The County is focusing on these key areas: Outsourcing government services such as jails and shelters; evaluating services; and capital projects. Cox also stated that the Emergency Preparedness Alert System is in place. To register for this reverse 911 system, go to www.alertsandiego.org.

City Council President Pro Tem Kevin Faulconer talked about issues facing Point Loma, including the design and financing of the aquatic center at Liberty Station, the Midway Community Plan Update, which includes a redesign of the Midway/Rosecrans intersection, and the Rosecrans Corridor Study, for which there are 22 recommendations going before the PCLB. Faulconer also addressed the Rock Church’s Conditional Use Permit for the closure of Truxtun Road, and the Airport Authority’s curfew for takeoffs. During the question and answer session, Faulconer stated that he would never support a second runway at Lindbergh Field, and that he is opposed to a huge parking structure on Harbor Drive.

The event was a great success due to the efforts of Malinda Dickenson, Cecilia Carrick, Tony Calabrese, Martha Phillips, Megan Eckard, John Pedersen, and Kerri De Rosier. Special thanks to Patti Adams, who lent her expertise from past Town Hall meetings. Many thanks to Pete’s Coffee for donating coffee, and to Charlie’s Best Bread for donating bread.

Don’t miss the next Town Hall meeting, which will be held with Board elections in May!

**PLA Tree Plaque Project**

PLA member Robert Jackson has had great success with the Tree Plaque project. So far, 18 families or groups of individuals have participated:

- The Tarentino Family, in memory of John Tarentino
- The Kelly Family, in memory of Jack Kelly
- The Walker Family, dedicated to Archie, Tug and Bailey Walker
- The Faulconer Family, in memory of Thomas Faulconer
- Robert Jackson, Norm Magnuson, Bill Kettenburg, Charlie Bishop and Nancy Palmtag, dedicated to Hedy St. John
- The Lareau Family
- Robert Jackson, in memory of Ann Tripp Jackson
- The Hugh Story Family, dedicated to Karen Davis
- The Peckham Family
- The Garrett Family
- The Kunzel Family
- The Brooks Family
- The Laub Family

The cost is $350 for a 7 x 5 plaque that will be installed at the chosen tree location. For more information, call Robert Jackson at (619) 987-1970.

On December 11, a tree plaque was dedicated to Point Loman Hedy St. John. Hedy served on the Peninsula Community Planning Board for many years in addition to other contributions to our community. At the dedication ceremony, Hedy was honored for her years of community service. She received a County Proclamation from County Supervisor Ron Roberts, a State Senate Proclamation from Christine Kehoe, and a City Council Proclamation from Councilman Kevin Faulconer. Our thoughts are with Hedy and her family as Hedy is battling a serious illness.

At the Fall Festival on October 16, Bob Brower, President of Point Loma Nazarene University, presented Dick Lareau, a Community Service Award for a lifetime of selfless giving to Point Loma and San Diego. For over 40 years, Dick has chaired the slide show and awards committee for the Annual Dinner, and was a former president of the PLA.

Joe Watkins, Vice President for External Relations and former PLA Board member is also pictured.

Congratulations, Dick!!!
Landscape plans have been professionally designed by Marty Schmidt of Environ and thoroughly reviewed by our own Mean Green Master Gardeners. Over time, and with additional funding, there will be further enhancements. The PLA is committed to providing ongoing maintenance and continuous improvements to the area, relying on the financial support of a generous and caring community.

We are hopeful that a single, major donor will provide for the costs of monthly maintenance, who will be honored on the site for this support. Additional donations, large and small, from lovers of Point Loma will allow us to further beautify the area. Join us in supporting this project and other improvements in our neighborhood by the Bay.

Thank you to all who have worked so tirelessly to make this dream come true. You can add your support by contacting Cecilia Carrick at (619) 222-2254 / carrick@cox.net, or Kerri De Rosier at (619) 226-4896 / kerriderosier@gmail.com.

Special thanks to Greg Murphy of Supervisor Cox’s office for his vision, and for all of his help in coordinating the grant paperwork.

These pictures show some of the plants and trees that will be planted in the median. They include Torrey Pines, Ceanothus (blue), Encelia giganteum and St. Catherine’s lace.

Support your local businesses

Taken from a Warwick’s flyer:

When you shop at an independently owned business, you benefit:

The Economy. Spend $100 at a local business and $68 of that stays in your community. Spend the same at a national chain, and your community sees only $43. Local business create higher-paying jobs for our neighbors. More of your taxes are reinvested in your community.

The Environment. Buying local means less packaging, less transportation, and smaller carbon footprint. Shopping in a local business district means less infrastructure, less maintenance, and more money to beautify your community.

The Community. Support local retailers and they’ll support you. Local businesses donate to charities at more than twice the rate of national chains. More independents mean more choice, more diversity, and a truly unique community.

We thank the following corporate/business sponsors for their membership in the PLA, and encourage you to support them!

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