Point Loma Association

Town Hall Forum

May 16th, 2017
Portuguese Hall
2818 Avenida De Portugal, San Diego

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:
6:00 PM: Social Hour (hosted food, no-host bar)
7:00 PM: Program

Join us for a discussion on handling information in the digital age.

- The hottest topic in news today is news itself – how it’s gathered, how it’s reported, how it’s consumed.
- Free Admission

OUR PANELISTS:

ALLISON ASH
10News
Investigative Reporter

MICHAEL SMOLENS
San Diego Union-Tribune
Government Editor

GENE CUBBISON
NBC7
Political Reporter

LYNN WALSH
NBC7 Investigative Reporter & President
National Society of Professional Journalists

SCOTT LEWIS
Voice of San Diego Editor in Chief

CLARK ANTHONY
Moderator

MYSTERY GUEST

A mystery guest will join us midway through the program to provide sage wisdom from a slightly different perspective.
Challenges & Opportunities on the Point

Even if we don’t spread fake news, we still want to believe that what we believe is true. How can we be sure? Fortunately, there are still professional journalists who dig, and check trusted sources. Their credibility and their reputations ride on getting it right.

How do they do it? How tough is it? Who can we trust? Attend our PLA Town Hall Forum on Tuesday, May 16th to find out.

In the 1970’s Gene Cubbison and I worked together at KFMB TV. He was a general assignment reporter when video tape was replacing film. I delivered daily weathercasts using magnetic numbers, cardboard clouds and a smiley face sun.

Back then, San Diegans, like many folks across the country, got their news from two daily newspapers, three television channels and a handful of radio stations.

Telephones had dials and cords, no keyboards. They didn’t fit in pocket or purse. Nor did they take or show pictures or video.

Today, news is everywhere. It’s inescapable. Information and misinformation are gathered, delivered, devoured and discussed. With cable, satellite and internet – in addition to print – we have more choices than ever to keep up on the world.

Yet, the choices we make in the news we view, make it likely we’ll be fed more of the same. Algorithms and aggregators track our consumption, then focus and narrow our news diet. It’s like a waiter handing you only the dessert menu because you often order ice cream.

And the line between news and commentary is severely smudged.

Opinions are passed around as facts and wielded like swords.

Everyone on Twitter is a reporter. Everyone with a blog or a podcast is an expert.

Steven Colbert coined the word, “truthiness,” to describe things with “the quality of seeming or being felt to be true,” even if not necessarily true. Most of us live in that world.

The election of two progressive members, Fred Kosmo and Margaret Virissimo, bodes well for the Peninsula board continuing its new direction of the past year.

The community sent a mandate that it wants and expects a broader mission from the planning board. Rubber-stamping building project after building project is no longer enough.

We’ll continue to safeguard the 30-foot height limit while pressing for some public spaces in Roseville. The coming park will be a source of community pride. The Peninsula has world-class views – views marred by ugly power lines. We must accelerate the pace on undergrounding.

Economic forces will gentrify commercial corridors such as Rosecrans and Voltaire if entrepreneurs are given a chance. When start-ups are drowning in red tape, the planning board and the community should lend a hand, not look the other way.

Our voices will be heard as we continue the top-level networking approach with the Point Loma Association, service clubs and other planning boards. Together, we can make Point Loma even better.

John Linney,
Chairman, Peninsula Community Planning Board
Mayor Kevin Faulconer declared homelessness the City's No. 1 challenge during his annual “State of the City” on January 12. On March 20, the City held a forum. The upshot: Big problems change slowly.

"It's like a huge iceberg that we are unable to move in one piece and unable to melt, but we need to chip away thoughtfully and carefully," said Stacie Spector, the mayor's senior advisor for housing solutions.

Approaches from Spector (in coordination with new Regional Task Force for the Homeless Chair Supervisor Ron Roberts and Vice Chair Chris Ward) include a comprehensive evaluation of programs, a 2-1-1 bed hotline, a regional plan, and a countywide services tracking system.

And, although the administration is already citing accomplishments of several hundred temporary beds, reuniting “the unsheltered” with family members, bolstered shelter facilities, and even the expansion of the San Diego Misdemeanants At-Risk Track (SMART) program –which offers life-changing social services over jail– the results aren't fast enough.

So communities have taken matters into their own hands. Some hiring security officers to usher the homeless folks away from storefronts in Hillcrest and our own Ocean Beach: “They (business owners) want immediate results,” said Ben Nicholls, Executive Director of the Hillcrest Business Association in Voice of San Diego interview: “They need to make the cash today or they go out of business.”

Enrique Gandarilla, Executive Director of City Heights Business Association, prefers outreach efforts over security workers: “There clearly needs to be more of a comprehensive approach and leadership on a local level.”

Discover Pacific Beach's business district pulled together $40,000 and received another $20,000 from City Councilwoman Lorie Zapf’s office to start a one-year pilot program to combine safety patrols with hiring homeless residents to clean streets.

Other efforts range from temporary cabins to a request that Qualcomm Stadium parking lot be used for homeless services. Longer term solutions include a five-year $531 million plan from Father Joe's Villages to purchase motels for housing, and the San Diego Housing Commission's three-year $79 million plan focused on prevention and subsidizing apartments.

According to Voice of San Diego, activist Michael McConnell says San Diego's current approach to engaging the homeless fosters disagreement between communities and frustration among the homeless: “All these business districts can take all the steps they want but unless there's regional outreach in all the hot spots, all we're going to do is move people around.”
PLA Welcomes New Board Members

Julie and her husband Bruce Borcher have owned a home in Point Loma for about ten years and became full-time Peninsula residents in 2015. Julie is a homemaker with work experience in the legal and insurance fields, and has held board positions in other organizations. She and her husband sold a software company in 2011. They have a daughter and a son. Julie has been volunteering with the Mean Green Team, and says she has, “met wonderful people all while serving the community we love.”

Richard Bregante is a retired attorney and long-time Point Loma resident. He has served, and is serving, on the boards of many community organizations including Cabrillo National Monument Foundation, Committee of 100, San Diego History Center and the Boys and Girls Foundation as President. Rich is a past President of the Peninsula Community Planning Board. He is married with two children.

Come Join us

Our Board meetings are open to everyone. Several of our Directors are termed out at the end of June. If you’re a PLA member and interested in joining the Board, come learn more! Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month, 7:30 am upstairs at the Bali Hai Restaurant on Shelter Island. Thanks to owner, Larry Baumann, there is free coffee!

Veterans Memorial is Coming Our Way
Donate Now to Build the Wall!

San Diego Regional Veterans Plaza, to be built at the coast in Ocean Beach, is now a shovel-ready project. Permits and construction documents are completed. The Ocean Beach Community Development Corporation held its first capital campaign event at Wonderland Pub on April 19th. Now, we encourage all Peninsula residents to donate to this wonderful project. The new Veterans Plaza will replace the original one, which has deteriorated. It will be a shining tribute to veterans, literally at the edge of the Pacific Ocean. Names of 1500 veterans – living or deceased – will be etched on the black granite wall. The space is filling fast. If you are interested in donating or getting an application to have a name placed on the wall please act now. For further information, go to obcdc.org. If we all pitch in we can make this a reality. Help us pay tribute to our veterans’ sacrifices by honoring those who have served.

Tom Perrotti, OBCDC President
Nimitz Art Project - A Decision Is Reached!

Following months of vetting artists and reviewing their proposals, the Art Committee narrowed the choices and displayed them at several community gatherings.

The artist most favored by the community is Jeffrey Laudenslager, who is based in Encinitas. His kinetic steel and titanium sculpture is the one we hope will be installed on the Nimitz Boulevard median, south of the intersection with West Point Loma Boulevard.

A prominent piece of public art was planned for the location some years ago, when PLA tackled the huge project of beautifying this entryway to the Peninsula. But funding was not available at the time. Now, thanks to a generous donation from Dorothea Laub, this gift to the people of San Diego is happening!

Two hurdles remain: Approval by the City of San Diego Commission For Arts and Culture, and acceptance by the City of the donated art. Our group of community volunteers has done a terrific job of meeting all the necessary requirements for approval. And we hope for a speedy, positive response from City officials.

Watch this space.
And thank you Dorothea!

PLA Business Member A. L. Jacobs & Sons Jewelers - Now and Then

Eighty years ago, the Golden Gate Bridge opened in San Francisco. Franklin D. Roosevelt was President of the United States. Look Magazine published its first issue. And in downtown San Diego, A. L. Jacobs & Sons Jewelers first opened their doors. Celebrating the store’s 80th anniversary, Point Loma native/resident Chris Jacobs continues the family’s legacy of providing fine quality jewelry to fit all budgets, along with expert jewelry and watch repairs. A. L. Jacobs & Sons, now located in the Point Loma Village at 1055 Rosecrans Street.

Chris Jacobs is an ardent supporter of PLA – especially our annual dinner party. This year’s theme is The Gems & Jewels of Point Loma.
Join us on October 4th. And thanks to Chris, you might go home with a sparkling diamond!
When you see projects popping up around the Peninsula that look like this, what do you think?

Do you think... appropriate higher-density housing for an urban community that has nowhere to expand but up? Let's build more...

Or do you think... there goes the neighborhood? I'm sure glad my family home isn't right next door?

And if there were multi-story condos on one side of a street...

How would you feel about more of them on the opposite side, adjacent to your favorite, bay-side beach?

A lot of us in this area speak out passionately about what we think and how we feel about change. Three organizations in our community are “officially recognized” by the City of San Diego to provide recommendations on land use, community goals and development proposals. And they want your input! The groups which meet monthly are:

Peninsula Community Planning Board, meeting 3rd Thursday 6:30 pm at Point Loma/Hervey Library, 3701 Voltaire St.

Ocean Beach Community Planning Board, meeting 1st Wednesday at 6 pm at Ocean Beach Recreation Center, 4726 Santa Monica Ave.

Midway Pacific Highway Corridor Community Planning Group, meeting 3rd Wednesday at 3:30 pm at San Diego Community College District Continuing Education, West City Campus, 3249 Fordham St. Room 208

What do you think?

It Makes Good Sense to Join the PLA!

You and your family can help improve our quality of life with a yearly membership. To join go to our website POINTLOMA.ORG and follow the prompts, or contact our Membership Chairman Robert Tripp Jackson at 619-222-5956, or rtrippj@aol.com. You can also leave a voice mail at 619-736-1752.

PLA Mixer
Save the date!

Tuesday, June 6th, 4:30-6:30 at Solare, 2820 Roosevelt Road, Liberty Station. Check our website, your email and social media for more details!

PLA Annual Dinner
Save the date!

The Point Loma Association Presents Our Annual Dinner Party Gala The Gems & Jewels of Point Loma Starring Special Places and the People Who Make Them Sparkle October 4, 2017 Kona Kai Resort Shelter Island More information coming soon. If you'd like to volunteer for the Dinner Committee or have items to donate for auction or drawings, let us know! 619 736-1752 or info@PointLoma.org.

This man is...

And we have him! Catch Tony Calabrese at PLA's Gems and Jewels of Point Loma Wednesday, October 4th Kona Kai Resort
PLA Knows the Score!

We are happy and proud to support the Little League teams playing at Point Loma Park. We cheer for all the young players and the parents, grandparents, coaches, friends and relatives who make it all possible. Look for PLA members at the park in the weeks ahead. Drop by to say hello. Bring a friend and introduce them to PLA!

PLA Supports Summer Concerts

Concerts at Point Loma Park are Fridays, July 14 – August 11th at 6:30 pm.

Join us on July 21st for Detroit Underground, sponsored by PLA!

New this year...
Neighborhoods are invited to sponsor a program. And there are perks! The neighborhood with the most donations will get reserved seating at their concert of choice – complete with signage!

If you’re interested in donating on behalf of your neighborhood, go to the Summer Concerts website, plconcerts.org, and click “donate.” Then, enter a donation amount, and “Write a note,” to enter your NextDoor neighborhood name.

The PLA Mean Green Team works hard to get Point Loma Park ready for the Summer Concert season beginning in July.

In Memoriam

These Point Loma Association members have recently passed away.

Nick Frazee
Jeanne Frost
Betty Gibbs
Marcia Haas
Mary Jones
Janet Richards
Ed Streicher
Blanche Welch

We acknowledge their service and extend condolences to their families.

PLA Memorial Plaques

Ever since our organization was called Village Beautiful, name plaques beneath that area’s trees have honored individuals who bettered our community. Today, PLA families are still remembering loved ones that way. The plaque may include a small message and can be installed at any available tree. The cost is $375.

The Association will continue this program until we run out of sites. Contact Robert Tripp Jackson 619 987-1970 or rtripp@aol.com.
9pm Tuesday, July 4th

The 17TH Annual Fireworks Show benefitting the Armed Services YMCA will shoot from four San Diego Bay barges at 9:00PM to music on THE MAX 105.7FM and live television from 8:30pm on FOX5SD.

EVENT INFO @ www.bigbayboom.com

To support this event with a charitable contribution, make your check out to ASYMCA and mail to: FIREWORKS - ASYMCA 3293 Santo Road, San Diego, CA 92106