

Neighborhood Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Westchester Senior Center

November 13, 2013, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Committee members present

Lynne Scarboro - LMU community liaison, Co-chair
Erika Anderson-Kemmerer – community representative, Co-chair
Hampton Cantrell – representative, LMU Department of Public Safety
Sergeant Ruben Garcia – representative, Los Angeles Police Department
Anthony Garrison-Engbrecht – representative, LMU Student Affairs Division
Cyndi Hench - representative, Westchester-Playa del Rey Neighborhood Council
Nate Kaplan - representative, Council Office
Linda Kokelaar – community representative
Patricia Lyon - representative, Westchester-Playa del Rey Neighborhood Council
Caitlin Maher – student representative
Jennifer O'Malley – student representative

General Updates

1. Staff Updates

- Community Relations at LMU falls under Mike Wong, Associate Vice President for Administration Services.
- Grace Yao was recently hired as Director of Community Relations.
- Andrew O'Reilly is the coordinator for community relations team.

2. Parking

- Per the Councilman's request, LMU reduced parking fees by as much as 50% to accommodate low income students and contract workers.
- In an effort to expand alternate transportation offerings for students, LMU increased the size of its Zip Car fleet from 2 to 10 vehicles.
- Every day, over 30 employees utilize campus shuttle to the Metro Green Line.
- Half of the Hannon field is now being used as a valet lot for additional campus parking.
- Carpool networking technology is available to all faculty and staff to facilitate the identification of possible carpool partners.
- As a direct response to neighbor requests, parking charges will be added to all student bills by default in the spring semester. Students who do not actively opt-out will automatically get billed for parking.
- LMU filed annual compliance reports with the city, which certifies enrollment vs. space counts and parking occupancy.
- LMU has agreed to post these reports on its community website:
www.community.lmu.edu.

3. Update on evaluation of closing Loyola Gate to pedestrian traffic

- In response to a request made by the Councilman's Office and Westchester residents, LMU assembled a team comprised Public Safety representatives, technology specialists and architects to explore options for closing the Loyola gate.

- The team will present materials to Lynne Scarboro before the winter break.
 - Neighbors are welcome to submit suggestions.
4. Students off campus
- LMU Department of Public Safety (DPS) responds to all neighbor complaints.
 - DPS encourages neighbors to contact Dispatch while the incident is in progress either by phone (310-338-2893) or through the Report A Concern online form (www.lmu.edu/reportaconcern).
 - DPS officers are available to observe and report. They are unarmed. If there is a crime, including a fight or a possibility of violence, they will differ to LAPD.
 - Responding officers will file a report with DPS, and that report will be forwarded to several offices, including the Office of Off-Campus Student life.
 - DPS recently expanded its patrol to include the area immediately outside the Loyola Boulevard gate.
 - Every entry submitted through the Report a Concern system is reviewed.
 - Every house receives a notification when it is the subject of a neighbor complaint. If the complaint is verified, every resident that is registered at the house may be brought to judicial affairs.
 - If an incident merits judicial action, the case will be put through the judicial conduct process. Sanctions may include community service in Westchester, fines, and required attendance at an LAPD open forum or a noise seminar.
 - 2,700 LMU students live off campus, 1,100 are currently living at 712 addresses in 90045.
 - Neighbor complaints are down from last year by 30%. The number of houses that identified as repeat offenders is down by 42%.
 - 98% of LMU students in Westchester have *not* been the subject of complaints.
5. Update on LAPD MOU update
- LMU is in discussion with the LAPD regarding a Memorandum of Understanding.
 - Off-duty LAPD officers can be paid overtime to go into the community and enforce raucous parties, vandalism, traffic violations, and other crimes.
 - MOU is currently being reviewed by the City Attorney's office.
6. Life Sciences building update
- Workers have started to pour slab for lower level parking in southern portion of construction site.
 - Construction workers park off campus and take a bus to the construction site.
 - The building will open in time for Fall 2015.
7. Multi-year Landscape Plan
- Facilities Management submitted an initial draft of a multi-year landscape plan and is currently working on modifications.
 - Neighbors will be invited to provide input.
 - During the installation of field lighting, the University paid close attention to light levels and is in full compliance with both the city code and the Master Plan.
 - Facilities Management is available to meet with neighbors who are affected by field lighting to propose solutions on a case-by-case basis.
8. Service in Westchester

- Service organizations volunteer at Westchester High School, St. Bernard High School, Orville Wright.
- Faculty are able to create service requirements in their community-based learning courses. One course requires volunteer hours at the LAX food pantry, which is housed in the Westchester United Methodist church.
- LMU students are very involved with Westchester/Playa Village Program. These students provide business plans for seniors and participate in other senior-related volunteer activities.
- As part of first year service program, LMU students volunteer at the Emerson Community Garden, Orville Wright Middle School and the Westchester Park.
- For the Special Games, Westchester residents invited to attend three days of events held with athletes with special needs.
- The Center for Service and Action House is located off campus. Student residents are working towards social justice initiatives in the Westchester neighborhood.

9. LMU Family of Schools Update

- The LMU Family of schools has three core focus areas: academic achievement, school culture and climate development, and college and career readiness.
- There are 13 partnership schools in the Westchester area.
- In the past year, LMU Family of Schools brought 1,300 students to campus for college visits.
- In the past year, 60 LMU students and 150 administrators/staff have worked with students in the partnership schools.
- 680 LMU students have worked with partner schools through service projects.

10. University's Winter Schedule

- Final Exams end on December 13, 2013
- On-Campus student residents are permitted to return to campus on January 11th.
- All neighbors are invited to attend the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 6th.

Community Comments

- Neighbors expressed concern over possible safety issues connected to students speeding and riding their bikes and skateboards in the dark.
- One neighbor noted that street parking is restricted from commercial uses.
- Several residents indicated that the ample, permit-free parking was a determining factor in their decisions to move to the area. They expressed concern that their property values were being negatively affected. One neighbor indicated that an offer on a house in the neighborhood was rescinded due to limited availability of street parking.
- It was suggested that neighbors who experience problems with student parties should contact Kentwood Home Guardians who will assist in contacting landlords of student tenants.
- Other neighbor proposals to manage parking in the neighborhood included the creation of a gated community, downsizing LMU, and restarting the discontinued Metro line #115.

- One neighbor expressed concern over party busses that were loaded and unloaded off campus. Off Campus Student Life indicated that unregistered buses posed a challenge to the University since they are not in violation of any regulation that the University is able to enforce. DPS expressed optimism that extra LAPD patrols would help reduce impact and frequency of party busses in the neighborhood.