

LMU Neighborhood Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Loyola Marymount University
University Hall – Roski Dining Room

Thursday, April 19, 2012

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Attendees: Hampton Cantrell, Anthony Garrison, Clarence Griffin, Cyndi Hench, Nate Kaplan, Erika Kemmerer, Linda Kokelaar, Katie Pope, Ross Williams, Tony Ramos

Absent: Art Flores, Pat Lyon

Introduction of Committee Members:

- Hampton Cantrell - Chief of LMU Public Safety
- Linda Kokelaar - Westchester neighbor
- Anthony Garrison - Director, Off-Campus Student Life at LMU
- Katie Pope - Student, ASLMU officer
- Clarence Griffin - LMU Director of Community and Local Government Relations
- Nate Kaplan - Representative from Councilman Rosendahl's office
- Cyndi Hench - Westchester/Playa Neighborhood Council President
- Ross Williams - Westchester neighbor
- Erika Kemmerer - Westchester neighbor
- Tony Ramos - Senior Lead Officer, point person for LAPD in this area

Update on LMU's parking plan

On campus parking fees

Kathleen Flanagan, vice president of Communications & Government Relations, reported that on March 6, the university announced that the rates for the faculty and staff are \$696 on an annual basis, and for students it will be \$670. Visitors will also be charged for parking, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., at \$2 for 20 minutes, with a daily maximum rate of \$10. Everyone is being asked to pay for parking, including these meetings, if they continue to be held at LMU at 6:30 p.m. on a weeknight. Visitor parking rates are going to be effective at the start of the 2012-2013 school year in August. Faculty, staff and students will start paying in January of 2013.

Permit-parking districts

Nate Kaplan stated that the Master Plan stipulates that LMU has to pay \$24,000 a year for parking permits if a permit district is formulated. That money does not roll over and it has to be spent that year. The Department of Transportation (DOT) conducts a survey of residents and if 66% of a block indicates they want permit parking, they'll get it. There is currently a moratorium on parking districts due to staffing cutbacks. But, according to the City, unless there's a problem that's happening today, they can't set up a parking district. They might be able to head off this problem if by having a consultant go out and survey the area now and figure out whether or not people want it, so that when and if the parking problem occurs, they'll have all the paperwork so it will happen quicker.

Erika Kemmerer stated she thought there was a City moratorium, and asked if this is a way to get around that. Kaplan responded that the Councilman noticed this is a serious problem and talked to the city manager for the DOT, and he'd be willing to make an exception in this case, if the community supports it.

Kemmerer added that if LMU agreed to allocate a portion of the \$24,000 to provide surveying to the residents on streets that surround the University, they could switch to permit parking before LMU starts charging. Kaplan replied that it wouldn't happen that fast, as it takes up to a year to establish a district.

Ross Williams asked Flanagan if this meeting might be moved to another location, that wouldn't cost anything, and guarantee there will be a parking place. Flanagan responded that in the evening she can guarantee there will be parking available. The issue of where to hold meetings is up to the Committee with input from the community.

Williams asked if LMU is ready, upon complaints of neighbors, to encourage students not to park in the neighborhood. Clarence Griffin responded that LMU doesn't have any jurisdiction on public streets. The first call needs to be to the Los Angeles Department of Transportation.

Kemmerer stated it might be productive to have a Council District organized meeting for the neighborhood with LMU to talk about this issue because it is complicated and has a lot of nuances to it.

Cyndi Hench suggested the University put the \$24,000 in an Escrow account. She added that one of the big selling points of the Master Plan was that LMU would not expand their footprint, but if students are parking in the neighborhood, you've expanded your footprint. She concluded that they should be creative about addressing it.

Linda Kokelaar clarified that there is a specific area that LMU agreed to, and that \$24,000 only covers two permits per household. It will basically cost about \$300 per year to park in front of their homes. They are allowed to have three annual permits of \$34 each. They are allowed to have two visitor permits of \$22.50 each and those need to be renewed every quarter. They are allowed to have an unlimited number of visitor one-day passes, for that day only, at \$2.50 each.

Kaplan stated that the City Council office is not advocating for or against it. He does have the authority to carry out their will on this decision.

Off-campus student behavior

Student parties

Anthony Garrison encouraged everyone to use the online Report a Concern process in order to track complaint numbers accurately. That way it also gets sent to multiple administrators on-campus, including Judicial Affairs, Community & Government Relations, the Department of Public Safety (DPS), and Off-Campus Student Life. Every time they receive a complaint from a neighbor regarding a party the DPS will support the investigation. Every Monday morning, students will be notified of the complaint about their house. They also work actively with the LAPD, the DPS and Judicial Affairs to make sure they follow-up with students individually.

He reported that they've had 18 judicial cases with 18 houses this year regarding off-campus student conduct. Off-Campus Student Life also has conducted 25 meetings with 25 households. They also have mandated that all LMU affiliated buses pick-up on-campus. He asked the community members if they see a bus outside of the gates on 80th, to please call the DOT or notify the DPS that there is an unauthorized bus off-campus, and to note the DOT number on the side of the bus, or license plate so they can follow up with the sponsoring bus company.

Garrison reported that they've seen an increase in small social gatherings of 20-25 people in a house. If it's in process, he encouraged the community to contact the DPS via the Report a Concern link online, or

to call the LAPD. The DPS will follow-up with an investigation, and Judicial Affairs will make sure they're held accountable if they're in violation of the Student Conduct Code.

Kaplan asked the gathered community members if they've used the Report a Concern and, if so, to share their experience. Linda Kokelaar shared that she is not satisfied because she does not receive a response or any follow-up.

Garrison stated that one of the biggest issues with the Report a Concern process is that neighbors do not reference a specific event. For Student Affairs to adjudicate, they need a specific event, issue or actual behavior in violation of the Student Conduct Code. The Student Conduct Code is available online for review on the Judicial Affairs page. Some cases are pending until they're able to figure out the next steps for those students.

A community member asked if they've ever held a student accountable and have they made those records public.

Garrison replied that at the end of the year they release their annual report. He reported that in addition to the 18 houses that were sent to judicial this semester, there were 81 email notifications, and 13 university follow-ups. They also do community service, letters of apology, and a mandatory Noise Seminar on-campus for students who are in violation of the noise ordinance.

Garrison clarified that student names, location, addresses, and what they've held them accountable for, all goes into the student's record which is protected by privacy rights spelled out in FERPA. They are not able to release any identifiers or information regarding a particular student incident.

Garrison continued his report by saying that students have rights and receive due process. Every Monday, Judicial Affairs meets to review weekend reports, but it takes time to adjudicate, and it also allows students to review a report and attend educational meetings.

Garrison concluded his report by stating that students are looking now for fall housing, and encouraged the neighbors to let the landlords and property-owners in their neighborhood know about their concerns.

Public Safety – Fence jumping

Hampton Cantrell reported that DPS has posted signs on Fordham Road that fence jumping is prohibited. During an approximately eight week period, DPS contacted 19 students, issued six citations and 13 warnings. According to his officers, the number of students doing jumping the fence has declined considerably. This summer Public Safety will work with Student Affairs to develop some messaging, particularly to the commuter students, about fence jumping. The university has agreed to build a higher fence surrounding the campus within one year of charging for parking. Cantrell also clarified that the DPS does respond to buses off-campus and works with the LAPD, the California Highway Patrol (CHP), and also the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC).

Williams responded that every night at 7p.m., he walks from 7929 Fordham down to 78th Street, and that he sees an average of 10-20 students jump the fence all the way up and down the street, not just at the gate, and that he's only seen one officer, one time. Cantrell acknowledged that they have not caught everybody but that the messaging they will do, combined with enforcement, should improve the problem.

Update on University Hall exhaust units

Flanagan reported that there were neighbor complaints about the new vents that were put on the roof of University Hall. They met with the Councilman's staff, including Nate Kaplan, a week ago Tuesday, and there was no resolution to the issue. The university believes they are in full compliance with the Master Plan. Some of the neighbors want the vents painted and other neighbors want them taken down. Kaplan said that he knew that a lot of people are upset with their view right now. The fact of the matter is, the Master Plan is written to apply to new buildings, and old or pre-existing buildings, like University Hall, aren't under the same stringent guidelines, and the University is not under any obligation to inform or solicit ideas from the people affected. Some of the people at that meeting suggested painting them gray, to improve their view, and that might go a long way, as far as the people living there are concerned

On-campus student noise

Use of former recycling center area for extracurricular activities

Griffin reported that students applied for a film permit to do some filming within specific hours, however, unbeknownst to the University, they decided to shoot at hours that were not approved. When the complaint came in, the DPS responded to the matter. Unfortunately, this disturbance had already taken place. The university is looking into its overall policy regarding film permits.

A community member asked when filming is done in the neighborhood how are they are notified.

Griffin responded that when it comes to filming outside of the campus, Film LA or Hollywood Locations is supposed to notify them. However, if the neighbors notice filming in-progress on the weekend, they can contact the DPS. If it's after the fact, go online and fill out the form: www.lmu.edu/ReportAConcern.

Griffin clarified that their film department does tell their students exactly what they're supposed to do. If someone chooses to act outside of the rules then they have to institute some kind of corrective action. After the fact, allows them to follow up with the students.

Master Plan annual review – public meeting

Griffin reported there were a couple of questions regarding the university having a public hearing regarding LMU's compliance with the Master Plan. However, the requirement actually falls on the Director of the Department of Planning to call a meeting.

Griffin read from the LMU Development Agreement, section 4.3 Director's Determination:

Prior to making the first annual determination of compliance, the Director of Planning shall host a public information meeting regarding compliance with this Agreement including compliance with the Project Approvals. Individuals and homeowners associations who request notification shall receive notice of this public information meeting. In subsequent years, the Director shall hold a public information meeting if there is evidence of noncompliance with the Project Approvals.

Kaplan added that they put in a request to the Planning Department, but haven't received a final date yet. They asked for at least 30 days notice, and that the meeting be held close to LMU. As soon as they have that date, it will be published.

Traffic calming

Griffin reported there were concerns regarding speeding at intersections off-campus, as well as issues with the related costs of installing speed bumps or a four-way stop off-campus. From the University perspective, this is something that would have to be dealt with at the city level, as they don't have any jurisdiction off-campus.

Kaplan added that DOT traffic studies have not been held for almost two years because the city's struggling and talking about cutting essential services. He added that he is more than happy to keep bugging them because sometimes they'll do something. They can put a request in, but the official city policy is there's a moratorium on these kinds of traffic studies.

Kaplan suggested that if they got a letter from LMU, a letter from the Neighborhood Council, and some support letters from the community, it's going to be a lot harder for the DOT to say no.

Hench proposed that the committee formally request to present to the Neighborhood Council and present to LMU a request to support whatever action they decide is appropriate, and then ask these different bodies to make these requests and recommendations.

Landscaping

Flanagan reported on "Area C" on the boulder of McConnell Avenue and LMU. Area C will be re-graded this summer and will include the five foot buffer and landscaping that was approved in the Master Plan. Al Tipon has offered to conduct a tour to the affected residents before any work begins to show exactly where the lines are, etc.

Public Comment

Ron Dutton

I've lived on Loyola Blvd. since 1962, and I think generally the community's been relatively supportive of the university and tolerant certainly. It seems that the master planners gave not too much thought to parking, which is a priority in your expansion, 600 spaces is pathetic, and then on top of that, you're going to dump this on the backs of the students and staff and workers, and so you're not only charging them but we get stuck with this permit parking, I'm here to tell you I don't need to pay to have parking in front of my house. Maybe we should educate the fundraisers to go out, or dip into reserves of this college, and keep the fees you're planning to charge the students radically low, maybe \$100 or so, or keep it free as it has been, and find another source to do it. My further suggestion is, there's a lot of land by the airport, some of it for sale, put some parking down there and run up a periodic van for the university as other college's do for off-campus parking. You could even move that recycling thing down there and nobody is going to be bothered with it. But I, for one, am quite opposed to any form of my having to pay and the inconvenience if I have more than three people for dinner to pay \$20, \$30 and \$40 because you people did not do your homework.

Tommy Roys

Saturday, March 17th, St. Patrick's Day - Another huge party, cars parked all over the streets, blocking driveways. Then two possible opposing gang members having a confrontation on a private lawn were asked to leave by the owner. They decided to team up and go for the homeowner. Another neighbor intervened and prevented a possible disaster. Police were called and did respond. Several neighbors discussed the high probability of a future Martin/Zimmerman event happening here in Westchester. All off-campus students need to have a formal gathering in person with mandatory attendance with LMU

staff giving the guidelines expected of them or until LMU is serious about correcting the problems with consequences such as a lowered grade, suspension, and complete expulsion from LMU.

Saturday, March 4th, Sorority Party - Students were nicely dressed, drink cups in hand, going from one house to another. One didn't look well, she either blacked out or passed out, and fell face forward flat on the street. Thankfully, her girlfriends were able to get her up and check her over. This was at 8:30 at night. The party must have started early.

Good Friday, April 6th, afternoon - Many houses had their front water faucets turned on full blast. Guessing from the approximate time, and sightings of others, all are pretty sure it was a fellow from LMU. It wasted 100s if not 1,000s gallons of water. We now have disabled our front faucet, it is both inconvenient, and a safety issue.

Francis Christenson

I would like to second what the first gentleman had to say with regards to your parking. I totally agree that this is something that should have been discussed at the master planning. I don't know how intelligent people could possibly be so terribly neglectful of their neighbors. It's just rude for you to impose upon us your problems and expect us to pay for them. That is just adding insult to injury. And the other gentleman, I support what he had to say as well.

Marge & Phil Roberts

(read in their absence) These meetings are very frustrating for LMU neighbors. LMU, very often, is not aware what their students, faculty and staff do in the neighborhood. LMU is reactive rather than proactive in these issues. Parking issues in the neighborhood will be a problem with the new fee structure. It would have been helpful if the parking fees were added into the tuition for all students, as it has been in the past. I will not agree to speed bumps on 78th or 80th.

Marilyn Beard

You say fence jumping is something you can enforce, yet you can't enforce parking on Fordham, which is only in order to jump the fence, because you "don't want to create rules you can't enforce." And the other issue about speeding on 80th and right around Fordham. Cars that are parked there keep you from being able to see out in the street and see those speeding cars when you are crossing Fordham and 80th and it's dangerous.

Ron Marks

Good neighbors don't block other neighbor's views. Good neighbors do not make agreements that they do not uphold. Good neighbors do not exceed 139' when they say they're not supposed to. You are not good neighbors, you're bad neighbors. Good neighbors will respond to their neighbor's problems, you try to put them off.

Griffin responded, as a point of clarification regarding the exhaust fans, that they made the offer to the Councilman's office to have someone come out and inspect the exhaust fans. The University installed exhaust fans; out of all of them, there was one that was ¾" above the 139' level, which was corrected.

Kaplan added that he read the survey and it was obviously done by a legitimate survey consultant. He added that it isn't the height; it's the fact that they block the view.

Marks interjected that the first letter he received stated the exhaust fans were in compliance and the second letter said they were not.

Griffin responded to Marks that he reported on the information he was given. That information was incorrect. When they discovered one exhaust fan was $\frac{3}{4}$ " above 139', it was corrected. He didn't intentionally mislead anyone.

Next Meeting

Griffin reported that the next meeting time is up for discussion among the committee members as there are members who find the Thursday evening to be a bit of a challenge. They will set another date and give the community ample time to participate

Dutton asked Griffin what feedback he'll receive from the suggestions he brought up this evening.

Griffin replied that the minutes from this meeting will be posted online. If anyone is not online they may request a copy of the minutes be sent to them. The committee will, hopefully, have a response to your questions and concerns at the next meeting in July.

Meeting adjourned: 8:10 p.m.