

LMU Neighborhood Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Westchester Senior Center

November 14, 2012

6:30 – 8 p.m.

Attendees: Hampton Cantrell, Clarence Griffin, Cyndi Hensch, Nate Kaplan, Erika Kemmerer, Linda Kokelaar, Patricia Lyon, Tony Ramos, Shirley Sher, Jade Smith

Absent: Ross Williams

Committee Members introduced:

- Clarence Griffin - LMU Director of Community and Government Relations/Co-chair
- Cyndi Hensch - Westchester/Playa Neighborhood Council
- Erika Kemmerer – Co-chair/Westchester neighbor
- Nate Kaplan - Representative from Councilman Rosendahl's office
- Linda Kokelaar – Co-coordinator/Westchester neighbor
- Shirley Sher – Westchester neighbor
- Patricia Lyon - Westchester/Playa Neighborhood Council
- Hampton Cantrell - Chief of LMU Public Safety
- Jade Smith – LMU Assistant Dean for Student Engagement, Retention and Transition

LAPD Sr. Lead Tony Ramos Addressed the Residents' Concerns:

Ramos introduced LAPD's Night Watch Commander Lieutenant Munoz to the meeting. Ramos started by congratulating LMU for having a "very quiet year" in terms of the number citations, party calls and disturbances when compared with previous years.

He told the audience that the best way for success is for them to personally contact him regarding problems they are having. He gave out his phone number and email address.

Old Business:

Master Plan Compliance Update

Nate Kaplan explained that since the last compliance meeting in July personnel changes in the city's Planning Department have delayed the Master Plan compliance report. He said he believes it will be completed in a week to a few weeks. Once he has the report he will pass it on to LMU so they can post it to their Web site.

Parking Update

Nate Kaplan reaffirmed to the residents what he said in the former meeting in August about the city currently having a moratorium on creating new residential permit parking zones. It is possible the LADOT may do away with the moratorium come January 2013.

Kaplan also repeated some other information that he spoke about at the previous meeting, such as the commitment by LMU to pay for an independent contractor to perform a survey of permit parking of the neighborhoods in question.

Kaplan told the residents about the process of getting approval for becoming a residential parking permit district. There has to be a survey done that shows that there is indeed a problem. Also, the residents need to come up with a petition in which a 66 percent approval per block, for a total of six blocks, shows the majority of residents want a parking permit district. Then, a public hearing will be held. If approved, the residents would be able to make their own rules about their permit parking, such as what times, days of the week, etc. that the parking permit would be needed.

Kaplan suggested that the residents should start holding town hall style meetings with their neighbors. He said he would be open to helping set up those meetings if that is the route the residents would like to take.

Some residents questioned what constitutes a block and claimed that it would never get done since there doesn't seem to be an actual definition.

Those in the audience raised concerns about the affect the parking permit will have on visitors or other non-permit neighborhoods that will feel the impact of their permit-only parking. They also raised concerns about the cost of the permits.

Kaplan said an annual residential permit is \$34 and each household is allowed three. A visitor permit is \$22.50. It is good for four months and each household is allowed two. It is \$2.50 for a day pass.

LMU has agreed to pay for \$24,000 a year in residential parking permits if it is the way the community decides to go.

Fence Installation Progress

As of the date of this meeting, LMU had installed an 8 foot chain link fence along Fordham. Eventually, the fence will get a green screen and be covered with vines.

It is planned that by the end of the calendar year there will be a wrought iron fence where Altavan turns into 78th to prevent students parking there and jumping over the fence to get to campus. Erika Kemmerer asked Clarence Griffin why the fence will not go all along 78th from Altavan to Fordham. She thinks that the fence should go the whole way and stated that was her understanding from the Master Plan. Griffin responded that LMU needs to first work on what is in the Master Plan, but he will take the suggestion back to the University.

McConnell Ave., near parking lot H, an 8 foot fence was installed to deter pedestrian traffic from entering and exiting through McConnell Ave residences. Linda Kokelaar questioned why the fence on McConnell did not go all the way along the campus. Griffin explained that there are safety restrictions that must be followed for fire access, etc.

New Business:

Off Campus Issues – Student neighbors

Jade Smith spoke about the plans for a LMU “Party Smart” Campaign to be launched with the Student Government and Greek Life in the spring that will discuss with students the expectations they have as students and as neighbors. The campaign will work to try to increase the awareness and civic duty of students.

Smith also informed the residents of the success of a student address verification program that is going into its 3rd year. Students are now expected to register their current address with the University. This year has had the highest number of students addresses registered within the first month of school since the program began.

Off Campus Issues – Mediation

Smith brought up the possibility and accessibility to mediation for residents and student neighbors that are having problems. LMU is willing to provide a neutral mediator for two or more parties to work together to come to a compromise to better be able to live together.

Smith urged residents to use city resources for problems off campus. The city has more resources and legal power than the University does.

Off Campus Issues – Public Safety

Hampton Cantrell reiterated that the Department of Public Safety at LMU has the main roll of responding to neighbor complaints. After they respond, they write a report and give it to LMU’s Student Life.

So far this semester the department has responded to 121 complaints and has made 102 referrals.

Cantrell said that LMU’s Public Safety does not respond to any criminal activity or accidents off campus.

Off Campus Issues – 7371 W. 81st Street

At the last meeting a resident brought up concern over a frat house that seemed to not be in compliance with building codes, etc. Nate Kaplan requested that the L.A. Department of Building and Safety take a look at the house and stated that the dilapidated balcony and the illegal dwelling units in the garage have been removed.

Linda Kokelaar said that the house continues to have major parties.

NAC Meeting Notification

Shirley Sher said that she and Linda Kokelaar take issue with some of the committee having interim meetings without the proper notification to the public that is called for in the Master Plan. Nate Kaplan, Clarence Griffin and Erika Kemmerer had an interim meeting that was not advertised.

Griffin and Kaplan said that the meetings are working meetings that are held because all of the problems can’t be solved at the quarterly meetings and agendas need to be set for the upcoming public meetings. They are definitely open to the public if they want to attend.

Non-Agenda Items:

Residents Larry Hunt and Dennis Trip both had comments about parking and permit parking.

Hunt questioned what a block consisted of. Kaplan thinks it is intersection to intersection. Also, Hunt questioned who gets to vote as to whether a parking permit district will be approved. Each home gets one vote and it is the current resident, not the owner that gets to cast the vote so that means that students residents will have an opportunity to vote.

Trip said that he agreed to let LMU expand, but it has gotten to the point where emergency vehicles can no longer get within a block of his house that is on Gonzaga Ave. He said that the problem is LMU and the fact that the city is holding hands with the University, but he is glad that LMU is stepping up. Trip asked about how long it will take for the permit parking district to be complete if they go in that direction. Kaplan said six months to one year.

Cyndi Hench suggested that residents start getting out and talking to their neighbors so that they are prepared when they hear about the possibility of living in a permit parking district and what will happen in January when LMU starts charging for parking.

Chuck Hudson, a neighbor of the house mentioned previously in the evening for violation codes and mentioned last meeting for being a problematic frat house, spoke again about the house on 7371 W. 81st St. He said that there is no change from the house since the previous meeting. He had finally gotten to the end of his rope so he called the head of the national chapter of the fraternity of the residents. He said since that call the front of the house has been cleaned. He suggested to Jade that more be done by working with the national chapters of the Greek clubs or groups.

Randy Rogers, a resident from Altavan Ave., claimed that LMU has destroyed his neighborhood. He is very upset about students smoking pot, drinking, etc. across the street from his home. He said that LMU creates the problem and lets the LAPD clean it up.

The next NAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013.