

**Westdale Homeowners Association  
General Meeting  
Mar Vista Park  
Tuesday, January 30, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Jerry Hornof, in the Auditorium of the Mar Vista Park at 7:35 p.m. There were a lot of empty chairs as people were still listening to the Trump *State of the Union* speech on T.V, however it filled up as the evening wore on. Jerry had provided cookies and bottled water for all to enjoy.

**Jerry Hornof – Opening Remarks**

Jerry opened the meeting by thanking everyone for taking out the time in their busy lives to attend the meeting. He reminded everyone that the 2017 theme was “Westdale Cares;” We care for our neighbors, the environment, and our community. This year’s theme will be “Westdale connecting with people and places.” That means “places we live in, protect, and enriching our communities.”

Jerry brought up the subject of the annual Block Party. Our last one was held in the park, which was easier for the committee members to organize, but many neighbors have expressed that they prefer having it on one of our local streets. Jerry is looking for a Block Party committee of 5 – 10 people and is open to volunteers.

Jerry acknowledged the work of Marjorie Templeton and Ina Lee for their work on our newsletter, *The Villager*. He also mentioned the Mar Vista Community Council which keeps us updated on activities in our community. They are presently keeping tabs on the proposal to build a building at 11244 Venice Boulevard, as well as the various Venice Development Projects, including the *Restore Venice Boulevard Movement*. They are also promoting art in the Mar Vista area with the many art galleries we now have.

Finally, Jerry acknowledged Len Nguyen, who is moving to a new position downtown after eleven years of service to our community.

**Mike Bonin - 11th district Councilmember**

Mike said that he does not have a presentation prepared, but he would like to hold a Q & A session:

Question: What is the current status of the Police Department in our area?

Answer: There is good news about public safety. There are plans to increase the number of police officers on patrol. They will be hiring more civilians for office work to put more officers “on the ground.” We already have eleven new officers in the Pacific Area and we will be getting more in the near future. They have made significant gang arrests since their arrival. He plans to assure that new applicants for the position of Assemblyman will be committed to that policy.

Question: What is being done about our sidewalks?

Answer: The city is beginning to get around to repairing sidewalks. One billion dollars has been allocated for repairs; starting in front of city facilities, i.e. parks, libraries, schools, etc. People with disabilities can call in for areas that need special attention.

Question: Will the sidewalk work be done by city employees or contractors?

Answer: A little of both.

Question: How can I get my sidewalk repairs fixed that were “messed up” by contractors?

Answer: Give us the information and the address, and we will look into it.

Question: Why are they resurfacing streets that do not need it and not streets that do need it?

Answer: 1) some of the areas are having preventative work done. 2) some streets need so much work that they will be fixed using city monies set aside for that specific purpose and that process takes longer.

Question: We need road repairs at Rose Avenue and Kingsland. Pools of water are causing trouble.

Answer: We will check it out. (Jerry asked “where is the water coming from during our drought? Perhaps there are broken sprinklers on the block?”)

Question: What happened to the Federal Grant for more Police Officers?

Answer: LAPD traditionally had 10,000 officers (plus or minus). The force is now ageing and retiring officers need to be replaced. The goal should be the number of officers “on the beat,” not the number on the payroll. They are pushing the police to use better technology to be more effective.

Question: Let’s address the “elephant in the room.” What is the status of the study regarding the Venice Boulevard redesign?

Answer: The purpose of the street redo is to slow vehicle speed. It is being done for only one mile along Venice Boulevard. The biggest problem the city has is that we have the worst traffic safety record in the country. The leading cause of death of children is traffic collisions. A “ton of money” was spent on reducing gang violence. Now they want to slow traffic down in the city. A crash of a car going 20 miles per hour has 80% survival; a crash of a car going 40 miles per hour has a 10% survival. The program is called *Vision Zero*, and the goal is to reduce traffic fatalities to zero. So far, traffic fatalities in the city have been reduced 6%.

No matter what we do, the population of Los Angeles will increase by at least a half a million. At the present time, 50% of all car trips are three miles or less. They want to get us out of our cars and using bicycles, the Metro, and buses.

On Venice, in an attempt to reduce the speed of cars, they have created mid block crossings, created protective bicycle lanes, changed right turn lanes, and added green paint for bicycle lanes. They still want to create left turn lanes on Centinela Avenue and Inglewood Boulevard as they cross Venice. The goal is to reduce the speed of the traffic. The collision rate has improved and speed has been reduced.

Question: Going north on Sawtelle, the left turn lane arrow on Olympic discontinues at 7 p.m. while there is still a lot of traffic. There should be a way to keep it on longer, especially when traffic is backed up.

Answer: Cal Trans does not talk to DOT.

Mike told us that there will be citywide elections of Assemblymen in April and June.

He also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Officer Adrian Acosta for his service to the community.

## **Adrian Acosta – Senior Lead Officer**

Adrian Acosta began by thanking the leaders in the area, Mike Bonin, Len Nguyen, Rob Kadota, and Leah Oye, all of whom work with the police to make the neighborhood safer. He realizes that everyone wants to know, “How safe is my neighborhood?”

Violent crime is down; a 7.8% reduction.

Property crime is up .2%

Burglary from cars is up 47%.

People are not securing their cars and they are being burglarized, even from back yards. It is up to us to keep our property secured.

Their goals are continued reduction of all crimes; especially transient related crimes. They have fifteen new officers and are expecting twelve new officers in the next period. They are continuing officer education, officer participation with non profits for the homeless (i.e. PATH and St Josephs), and continuing work with park personnel and security.

Question: What became of the Anarchy tagger?

Answer: He was arrested in Ohio and is facing charges in two other states. Security cameras led to his arrest. If you have security footage for any crime, please send it to me.

Question: What is constitutional policing?

Answer: We police according to the constitution. For example, homeless people have the right to sleep on the sidewalks as long as they leave space for pedestrians and wheelchairs to pass by. (You may notice that while the homeless have tents on the North side of the Venice Boulevard freeway underpass, no one sleeps on the South side. That is because the South side is in the city of Culver City and they do NOT do “constitutional Policing.”) In addition, abandoned property can not be touched for 72 hours. There are sanitation sweeps every ten days in an attempt to keep the area reasonably clean. The city is also considering installing Porta Pottys along the underpass.

Question: Has there been a study done about the response times for emergency vehicles since the Venice street redo is slowing down traffic?

Answer: I do not think that it affects our response time. We know about the cut-throughs in the neighborhood.

Question: Do you have a recommendation for security cameras?

Answer: I can't give any specific recommendation, but Home Depot and Costco both sell good ones. Make sure you get one with motion sensitive lights.

Adrian's e-mail address is: [37285@LAPD.online](mailto:37285@LAPD.online) and his telephone number is (310) 622 – 3973

## **Rob Kadota – Mar Vista Community Council President**

Rob described the Mar Vista Community Council as a regional neighborhood association, founded as part of the city organization and funded by the city. They are involved in a number of projects.

They work with the Windward school to improve the Mar Vista Park. Their Planning and Land Use committee objects to and supports various building projects in the area. They support the Mar Vista Art Walk on the first Thursday of the month (on a quarterly basis) from 6 p.m. to midnight. Local galleries remain open late and invite visitors to view their exhibitions. The next Art Walk is scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup>. It is held on Venice Boulevard between Grand View Boulevard and Centinela Avenue.

There are various volunteer opportunities to get involved: the Park Advisory Committee; the Ageing in Place Committee which meets at the Windward School and provides speakers talking about subjects of interest to the elderly; the Planning and Land Use Committee; the Safety and Outreach Committee; the Great Streets Ad Hoc Committee which meets at the Mar Vista Library, and the Transportation Committee.

Rob thanked all those who volunteered for the Homeless Walk last week and those who donated blood today at the Los Angeles Fire Station. He reminded everyone that the Mar Vista Farmer's Market takes place every Sunday morning.

Rob told us that MVCC has acknowledged "Heroes in our Community," and one of them is our own CERT leader, Carl Ginsberg.....a great segue.

## **Carl Ginsberg – CERT update**

Carl began by reminding us that in case of an earthquake, we will each need at least two gallons of water per person per day plus water for our pets. He told us that smoke alarms stop working after about ten years and should be replaced. Someone asked about "Fifty Year Water," and Carl said that it will indeed last longer than most of us at the meeting, however it has no taste. He spoke about "blue barrels" which can be obtained at the SOS Disaster Supply store in the Valley.

He spoke about the Disaster Preparedness Class which is offered regularly in the neighborhood and encouraged everyone to attend it. It only takes 3 and ½ hours and the speaker is very knowledgeable and entertaining. It is a good introduction to earthquake preparedness, first aid, fire suppression, search and research, how to treat shock, CPR, and how to use an automatic defibrillator.

There was a question from the audience asking "How do we know when the fire extinguisher needs to be replaced?" Carl said that there is a gauge on the top of the appliance that will tell you. You should also shake it up regularly because the contents tend to settle on the bottom. It costs about \$25.00 to refill a fire extinguisher and should be done every two years. They last about 15 years. Don't buy the ones with plastic valves.

## **Jami Olson – Dues & Membership**

Jami reported that we have 226 paid memberships out of about 900 addresses in our association. We also have 89 memberships paid through 2019 and 26 memberships paid through 2020.

## **Jay Swerdlow – Treasurer’s Report**

Operating Bank Accounts at One West Bank:

General Account: \$7,506 + \$3,200

Emergency Response Team (ERT) Account - \$8,706 + \$500.

Laddered CD’s:

One West Bank CD: \$20,000 + accumulated interest (matures 11/20/2018)

Two Chase Bank CDs: totaling \$21,000 + accumulated interest (maturing Feb, 2019 and Jan. 2020)

All submitted invoices have been paid.

## **Park Director Caroline Lammers - Mar Vista Park Report**

Caroline said goodbye to Ernesto Diaz who is being promoted to Education Coordinator for the Parks Department. The winter sports program has 500 kids enrolled, ages 5 – 15. The basketball program is doing wonderfully and our teams are winning city wide competitions. They have a girl’s softball program for ages 8 – 12 at a cost of \$10.00 per student. She wants to offer piano lessons and guitar lessons for ages 7 and up as well as arts, ceramic and painting classes for ages 18 and up.

## **Debbie Kaplan – Real Estate**

Debbie reported that the red house on the corner of Barrington/Federal/McLaughlin/Indianapolis will be four units. The project on the two lots closer to Whole Foods will be five units.

A tear down on Allaseba was rebuilt as a 6 bedroom/5 bath house and sold last July for \$3,629,000. It was a 4,200 square foot house and sold for \$864.00 per square foot.

There is a 3 bedroom/2 bath home of 1349 square feet on McLaughlin for sale at \$1,300,000. The average selling price per square foot for homes sold in the neighborhood was \$870.00 per square foot.

## **Jerry Hornof - Closing Remarks**

Jerry thanked everyone for coming.

And he said, “Remember....”Connecting People and Places.”

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Barbara Algaze*

Recording Secretary