

**Westdale Homeowners Association
General Meeting
Mar Vista Park
Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 7:30 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Jerry Hornof, in the auditorium of the Mar Vista Park at 7:30 p.m. There was a good-sized audience, and people continued to arrive as the meeting progressed. Jerry had provided cookies, dates 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 mentioned the names of the three individual who are instrumental in the writing, editing, and publishing of our local *Westdale Villager*: Ina Lee, Dick Henkel and Marjorie Templeton. Only Marjorie was in attendance. Jerry reminded everyone that the 2019 theme was *Planning is Essential*. He quoted Warren Buffet who said “Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.” To that end, we are working to maintain the lovely tree canopy that we have in our neighborhood.

Jerry reported that the Mar Vista Recreation Director, Caroline Lammers, was promoted in the Spring and now we have Andres De La Hoya as Park Director. Andres has a very strong sports programming background and we are happy to have him directing the variety of programs offered at Mar Vista park.

Jerry told us about Senate Bill (SB) 50 as well as some of the major developments in our area. The first is the Camden project at Pico and Sepulveda, the second is the area where Martin Cadillac was at Olympic and Bundy, and a third is possibly at Palms and Sepulveda which will probably be a “mixed use project” meaning retail on the first floor and housing above. He said that they want to build five or six stories and they have a justification for the height because of the height of the building that is adjacent to the lot.

Jerry told us about the Van shuttle service (LANow) for our area. You can call for a ride by telephone or by using their app and they will drive you to fixed locations including the nearest Expo station for \$1.50 each way. He would like to have them extend their evening hours to later than the present 7 p.m. in order to serve individuals returning home from downtown venues.

The Homeowner’s annual Block Party was held again on Colby and it was a huge success. We had music, hot dogs, and a taco truck. There were about 300 or 400 of our neighbors who came by. There was also a *Boo on Purdue* event on Halloween night which was another success.

Jerry Hornof – Homelessness Discussion

Jerry attended the recent meeting held by our Councilman, Mike Bonin, on the subject. No one is happy with the present situation. How do we address the problem? New York State has a clause in their constitution that guarantees housing for everyone. They have very basic housing for everyone so that they can move the homeless from public spaces into a shelter. Many western states, including California, do not have a constitutional guarantee for housing. Currently, the courts have determined that given the lack of housing guarantees, local jurisdictions do not have the authority to remove individuals from many public spaces. This has made for a very challenging situation. As a community we recognize the dignity of everyone. We also recognize that the reason for homelessness varies by individual. Causes include mental illness, addiction, unemployment, and the overall cost of housing in Los Angeles, specifically in West Los Angeles. Jerry brought up the SB 50 proposal. His concern is that SB 50 assumes more housing will result in more affordable housing. Jerry suggested a better approach would be to incentivize new construction to include larger percentages (> 50%) designated as low income units with appropriate regulation and monitoring. The present situation

provides that developers can set aside as few as 15% of the new construction units for low income designation if they want to get the “full incentives package”.

There was a question as to “What are the rules regarding the homeless on public space?” There are few rules. On public sidewalks the only restriction is not blocking pedestrian access (three foot walkway) which is why we tend to see encampments in wide sidewalk areas. Mar Vista Park is closed to the public from 10:30pm until 5:00am. Officers can remove people from the park during the closed period, however, the challenge is that individuals return to the park after the police leave. For Mar Vista Park issues, Jerry provided a list of contacts to call (see below). These contacts are best for park issues, however, contacts like homeless services, sanitation, and Los Angeles Police Department are appropriate for situation beyond the park. In closing, the desired solution is to transition individuals to housing.

Leah Oye – Police Liaison

Jerry recognized the work Leah Oye has done to organize and coordinate our Block Watch Program. Leah introduced two Senior Lead Officers (SLO) for our neighborhood. Juan Ceja has been covering our neighborhood for a while as a substitute and our new SLO is Karwon Villery.

The two officers spoke about the homeless problem generally, as well as in our neighborhood. They said that their hands are pretty much tied. The police can cite or arrest, but neither helps the situation. Officer Villery’s cell phone number is (310) 622 – 3973. Or you can e-mail him at 38717@lapd.online He told us that burglaries are occurring throughout the city. There are three separate groups of three that are “working” our area. The police are pursuing these groups and appreciate our diligence in assisting their efforts. Be sure to notify Los Angeles Police Department if you observe suspicious activity and also report crimes. Bicycles are easy targets; most are not registered. We need to cooperate by registering all bicycles.

Mike Bonin - 11th district Councilmember

Mike told us that we now have 10,000 officers in the Los Angeles Police Department; it is the largest it has ever been. The City Council is trying to get volunteers to work in the police department to do clerical work to free up the officers to do street work. In the past, civilian volunteers have added 600 officers to the street. The more volunteers we can get, the more police will be on the streets.

The City Council will be re-drawing the district lines.

There is a 12 – 16 person van in our neighborhood (LANow) to drive residents to and from their closest Metro stop. It runs from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and serves Mar Vista and Palms. It costs \$1.50 per person per trip and can be called on your Smart Phone like Uber or Lyft.

Mike has been working to get more left turn signals and more speed bumps to help ease automobile traffic.

The homeless situation is unacceptable. Three individuals die on Los Angeles streets each day. Every day 130 people get housing and 150 additional people become homeless in our area. There are 100 units being refurbished on the VA property, there will be 60 units at the former Martin Cadillac location on Olympic and Bundy, sixty units will be built in the Venice area and there will eventually be beds for 350 people at the St. Vincent Hospital. The State is not willing to partner for Safe Camping Zones.

Developers are required to pay a Traffic Impact Fee for every project they build; this fee is for traffic mitigation.

Rob Kadota – Mar Vista Community Council

There will be an event called “Coffee with a cop” in the Grandview Market on Venice tomorrow. Come and visit with our new Senior Lead Officer.

On Sunday, February 9th, there will be a *Love Song Sing along* in the Mar Vista Farmer's Market

On February 23rd, there will be a CicLAvia in South Los Angeles.

At the Farmers Market, Mike the mechanic does all he can with the tools he has and will advise on other needed repairs. While he has no spare parts onsite, bike owners can walk to a nearby shop and buy the part they need, such as a new inner tube or brake cable. Mike will assist with repairs with his own tools.

The Mar Vista Art Walk is scheduled every fourth month on the first Friday of the month: March 7th, June 5th and September 5th.

The Mar Vista Public Library will be having a used book sale.

Whole Foods has a *Shopping for Others* program where you can shop for your neighbor and charge it to your neighbor's credit card. If you have a neighbor who needs groceries, or you can get them to purchase a gift card and purchase their items and deliver it to the neighbor for them.

Westside Village (on the east side of the 405/Palms area) has a regular Walkie/Talkie event to create community amongst the neighbors.

Andres De La Hoya – Park Director

Winter Season Basketball is starting with girls teams, boys teams, and co-ed teams. There are 46 teams. There are even teams for 5 – 6 year old players. Picture day will be this coming Saturday.

Registration for spring sports (soccer and baseball) is now online. All our volunteers and staff receive checks.

Girl's Volleyball Program registration starts on February 8th.

New floors in our gym will be installed March 9th through April 29th. We will be having practices and games at the Windward School Gymnasium.

Regarding homeless encampments in the park, Andres said that he can not enforce anything; he can only take pictures and pass them on to the authorities.

Jay Swerdlow – Treasurer's Report

Jay reported that we are in good shape.

Operating Bank Accounts at One West Bank as of 1/28/2020:

General Account: \$12,754 and Emergency Response Team (ERT) Account - \$10,366.

CDs

One West Bank; \$25,642 + accumulated interest (matures 11/27/2020)

Chase Bank CD: \$8,517 + accumulated interest (matures 12/11/2020)

E & O Insurance premium paid through 6/25/2020.

All submitted invoices have been paid through 1/28/2020.

Only 35 – 40% of our homeowners have paid their dues which is about the same as previous years.

Debbie Kaplan – Real Estate

Debbie reported there have been 17 sales in Westdale Trousdale this year. The average price was about \$1,700,000. Average homes are selling for about \$900 per square foot and larger homes are selling for about \$800 per square foot.

Debbie reported that she tripped and was injured on a broken sidewalk during a walk in the neighborhood. She recommends owners fix their broken sidewalks or work with the city to get repairs completed. It is better for you to get them fixed now rather than later.

Jerry Hornof - Closing Remarks

Jerry mentioned the terrible tragedy that took the lives of Kobe Bryant, his daughter, and seven other individuals. He reminded us to appreciate what we have in our lives as things can change so quickly.

The theme for the 2019 year was *Planning is Essential*.

The theme for the 2020 year will be *Sharing a Common Environment* and that will encompass health, location, growing things, transportation, and moving together within a shared space.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Algaze

Recording Secretary

FOR PATRONS AND NEIGHBORS OF MAR VISTA REC CENTER

WHO TO CALL

FOR HOMELESS, SANITARY AND SAFETY ISSUES

The Mar Vista Park Advisory Board and recreation center staff have prepared this flyer to aid park patrons and neighbors in reporting issues that they see. While recreation staff report what they see, they need everyone's help! The more people that report issues, the more attention they will receive by the City. **If you see it, report it!**

Reporting issues related to homelessness, sanitation, and safety can be confusing and frustrating. Below are the phone numbers to use depending upon what you see. For your own safety, please do not engage directly with people who are perpetrating any of these.

WHAT YOU SEE	NUMBER TO CALL TO REPORT
You want to get help for a homeless person	Call 213-683-3333 for the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (www.lahsa.org) <i>After hours:</i> LA-HOP.org
Someone on the Mar Vista Recreation Center grounds during closure (10:30pm - 5:00am)	Call 877-275-5273 , LAPD (non-emergency number)
Unsanitary conditions such as human waste, needles, or using drinking fountains to wash clothes or rinse bike parts.	Call 310-391-5134 , MV Rec Center Office <i>After hours:</i> 800-773-2489, LASanitation or LACitySAN.org
Weapons (e.g. knives), violent behavior or threats	Call 911
Graffiti, vandalism, or other damage to park property	Call 310-391-5134 , MV Rec Center Office <u>if it has already happened</u> Call 911 <u>if the act of graffiti, vandalism or park property damage is occurring</u>
No improvement in, or resolution of, your reported issue	Call 310-575-8461 , Councilmember Mike Bonin 11th District West Los Angeles Office