

Westdale Homeowners Association
Annual Meeting
Tuesday, January 24, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by the President, Jerry Hornof, virtually, on the ZOOM platform.

Present were: 77 participants. Participants included Los Angeles City Council representatives 11th District Council Member Traci Park, 11th District Mar Vista Field Deputy Ashley Lozada, and 11th District Director Gabriela Medina; Los Angeles Police Department representative Sargent Brian Cook; Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Mar Vista Recreation Center Director Keith Price; and Mar Vista Community Council Chair Tyler LaFerriere and Zone 3 Director Andrew Marton.

Opening Comments – Jerry Hornof

Jerry began by thanking all who were able to join the meeting. He stated his disappointment that again this year we were meeting virtually which made it difficult to share cookies and other snacks. He noted that the decision by the Board to conduct the meeting by Zoom was made in early January when we were dealing with COVID, Flu Season, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection (RSV) and it seemed prudent. He reminded everyone of the 2022 theme of “Re-imagining Westdale”. This was an opportunity to think about our community as we emerged from COVID and how we have changed (new families, restoring our tree canopy, home renovations). To think of ways to keep our community active and vibrant. Jerry then focused on three highlights for the year. The first was the tree replacements on Butler and Coolidge Avenues. Thanks to George Oswald and Molly Selvin for their leadership and hard work. The second item was the Neighborhood Block Party held on October 8th. After a few years without a block party due to COVID it was great to continue the tradition and see friends and new neighbors. Thanks to our neighbors on Colby for hosting and special thanks to Lauren Altman and Ethel Oderberg for shouldering much of the planning and coordination. The final highlight was the BOO on Purdue held on Halloween. The neighbors on Purdue do a wonderful job of decorating their homes and inviting the neighborhood to a fun and safe evening of Trick or Treating. Jerry thanked Matt Liston, Rachel Berman, and Heather Butterfield for their efforts in making this a very fun and successful event. The Boo on Purdue is also a fund raising event by the families on Purdue Avenue for Children’s Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA). A special shout out to Sienna Listen, a CHLA Junior Ambassador, and the Purdue Avenue families who were able to raise over \$7,000 for CHLA. Opening comments concluded with a reminder of dues and noting they support the Villager publication and mailing, the Block Party, the Boo on Purdue, and other services. The treasure report shows that the Association has \$37,000 in our accounts and an additional \$8,000 in the Emergency Response Team Account. Jerry thanked the Board members with a special thanks to the officers with special recognition to the Villager and Webpage team Marjorie Templeton, Ina Lee, and Dick Henkel. He also noted the Villager Nature articles prepared by Ms. Umar.

Westdale Homeowners Association Board of Directors Elections

Elections are held in the odd years. It was noted that although the current Board members enjoy their positions they are ready for new neighbors to step up. Please contact Jerry Hornof (jerryhornof@yahoo.com) if you are interested.

The nominations included the following slate:

Westdale Homeowners Association
Board of Directors Nominations
2023-2024

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
President	Jerry Hornof
Vice President	Ethel Oderberg
Secretary	Jerry Hornof (acting)
Treasurer	Jay Swerdlow
Police Liaison/Block Watch	Leah Oye
CERT	Carl Ginsberg
Dues & Membership	Jamie Olson
Villager	Marjorie Templeton
Webpage	Ina Lee
Welcoming Committee	Heather Butterfield
Board Member	Shari Dunn
Board Member	Lisa Rosenbloom
Board Member	Debbie Kaplan
Board Member	Lori Gilder
Board Member	Larry Shuman
Board Member	Judy Bauman
Board Member	Geoff Forgione

The slate was elected (33 for and 1 opposed for those responding to the Zoom Poll)

Invited Speakers

The first speaker was Mar Vista Recreation Center Director Keith Rice. Keith joined the Mar Vista Recreation Center in May. He has been working for Los Angeles Recreation and Parks for 23 years and previously held positions at Palisades, Westchester, and Oakwood Recreation Centers to name a few. Keith highlighted the seniors club that meets on Fridays at the park. Sports are going well with basketball this session being the largest participation since COVID. Spring will include baseball, softball, volleyball, and soccer and they are always looking for instructors, coaches, and volunteers. The sports teams have been very successful with the volleyball teams taking 1st and 2nd place in the Regional competition. The park also offers art, drumming, piano, camps, and a very active pre-school program. Tennis is very popular with over 90 participants and they are looking at ways to support pickle ball at Mar Vista Park. Keith concluded his remarks talking about how the Winter Camp was featured on LA CityView35.

The second person to speak was Sergeant Brian Cook of the Los Angeles Police Department. Sergeant Cook is in the Community Relations Office of the Pacific Division. He reported that Year to Date Part 1 crime (includes: *CRIMINAL HOMICIDE, FORCIBLE RAPE, ROBBERY, AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, BURGLARY, LARCENY THEFT, GRAND THEFT AUTO, ARSON*) in our area is down 30%. The two major concerns for our area are burglary theft for motor vehicles and burglaries. Burglary theft for motor vehicles is usually about 30 incidents per quarter. The last quarter of 2022 reported 78 incidents. 60 of those 78 incidents involved

catalytic converters. 50% (or 30 incidents) of the catalytic converter thefts involve Toyota Prius vehicles. Sergeant Cook emphasized the need to park wisely. This includes park in garages if possible, driveways, and well lighted areas. Burglaries are occurring in two types: 1) in the northern area of the Pacific Division these are targeted on garages with thefts of tools and hardware. Some of these thefts have been traced to homeless encampments. Have good locks on your garage. In the southern area of the Division the thefts are tied to a crew of three individuals who are breaking into homes between 6pm and 9pm and stealing cash, jewelry, and safes. Sergeant Cook recommends good lighting and cameras as a way to deter these type of thefts. No other issues for Part 1 crimes in our area. Our area looks very good.

The third speaker was newly elected 11th District Council Member Traci Park joined by 11th District Mar Vista Field Deputy Ashley Lozada, and 11th District Director Gabriela Medina. Council Member Traci Park thanked Westdale for the invitation and appreciated the opportunity to participate. Council Member Traci Park noted that one of the important and critical first actions was to recruit and build a strong, capable, and passionate staff. Later in her presentation she gave Gabriela and Ashley an opportunity to introduce themselves. The Council Member and staff have spent most of the initial weeks in the Westchester Field office. The Los Angeles City council had their first meeting for the new session on December 13th before recessing for a 3-week holiday period. Looking ahead to her Council responsibilities (Council and Committee meetings), Council Member Park anticipated needing to be downtown 3-4 days per week but will be in 11th District working directly with the community as much as possible. Upon taking office there was a large backlog of issues that needed to be cleared, and she and her staff are getting up to speed. Council Member Park encourage everyone to visit the 11th district website (<https://councildistrict11.lacity.gov/>) and subscribe to the weekly *Better11* emails. A major objective in the first few months is to advance the legislative agenda and community outreach that was part of her campaign. Council Member Park is proud of the partnership that has already been established with Mayor Karen Bass. Mayor Bass's Inside Safe Program is a "citywide proactive housing-led strategy to bring people inside from tents and encampments for good, and to prevent encampments from returning". Council Member Traci Park voted to fund the Mayor's Emergency Declaration on Homelessness, activating the City's Emergency Operations Center, and issuing an Executive Directive to dramatically accelerate and lower the cost of affordable and temporary housing. Council Member Park, Mayor Bass, city departments, and non-profits have utilized the Inside Safe program to house over 100 people in the Venice Bridge Home encampment area. There are plans to bring similar initiatives to the entire 11th District. It is an imperative to get the unhoused off the street and into housing. Council Member Park has introduced a motion to establish key performance measures to determine effectiveness and return on investment of organizations and programs that are funded to address homelessness, mental health, and addiction. Council Member Park will serve on four city committees. She will chair the Trade, Travel, and Tourism Committee. This committee is essential to the economy and business community of Los Angeles especially as we emerge from COVID-19 restriction. She will serve as vice-chair of the Transportation Committee that addresses the city's transportation infrastructure with the goal of building a world class transportation system. She will also serve on the Public Safety and Government Reform committees.

Council Member Park then introduced her 11th District Director Gabriela Medina. Gabriela has worked with the city for over ten years. Her previous position was with the 15th Council District. She is very familiar with the 11th District, the largest District spanning 64 square miles with over 290,000 residents. She noted that our primary point of contact will be Mar Vista Field Deputy Ashley Lozada , but we will have access to the entire Council staff. She emphasized that a primary focus will be to restore the safe and accessible use of public space including parks and

beaches. 11th District Mar Vista Field Deputy Ashley Lozada also spoke about her 15th Council District experience especially being very familiar with Field Deputy actions and responsibilities.

Council Member Park then took questions:

- 1) What are you looking for in staffing? – She responded that there is a need for a blend of people with 11th District familiarity and institutional knowledge. This is her first elected position and she recognizes she has a steep learning curve, but will get things done. There are staff who have been recruited from the 15th Council District but they have familiarity with the 11th District due to the close coordination between the Districts. She is confident she has the best team in the city. It is a team committed to serving our community.
- 2) Does the Inside Safe Program provide appropriate housing that works for the residents? – She recognizes that the situation is not great. There are not a lot of ideal housing solutions available. Shelters, interim and permanent housing did not suddenly appear. Her approach is to be more granular. She has spent time at encampments and in talking with unhoused individuals and noted that there is no singular need. Options for older folks (55 and older) to be housed together do not exist; youth (especially those aging out of foster care) would like a shared housing option that does not exist; shared housing will not work well for families. There is also making sure supportive services (mental health and addiction care) are coordinated with housing. She recognizes that Inside Safe is not a long term solution but hopefully better than life on the street. It is primarily hotel rooms but unlike Project Room Key, the stays are unlimited. Project Room Key had folks returning back onto the streets after 12 weeks. She plans to lead and be innovative on developing long term housing opportunities here on the west side.
- 3) Your thoughts on the death of Keenan Anderson? – She grieves over the loss of any life and feels the weight of his loss to his family. There will be a process that needs to be transparent and accountable. The quick release of the video is a positive step of transparency. She recognizes the community concerns over the death. There is a need to address mental health issues that are often a part of these tragic events. There needs to be an education process of how Mental Health Evaluation Teams are used and what represents appropriate intervention. They are not 1st responders. We do not have enough teams. She has joined Council Member Monica Rodriguez in a motion for additional funding. Sergeant Cook noted that the LAPD has the largest number of Mental Health Evaluation Teams of any city in the country. He noted it is a tragedy that is under investigation and will most likely be a long process.
- 4) Your thoughts on the Venice Boulevard configuration controversy? – She noted that she often rides a bike and likes bike lanes. Smart design is critical. Traffic congestion that impacts emergency vehicle response time needs to be addressed. With any of these traffic flow changes there needs to be adequate outreach and community input. In this situation many people feel that did not occur.
- 5) What are your thoughts on the Reward on Reporting Illegal Dumping (the Illegal Dumping Reward Program, established in 2002, offered up to a \$1,000 reward for information leading to a conviction but the program has been inactive for over a decade, according to LA Sanitation)? – She noted this was not targeted toward unhoused individuals. It is focused on the illegal dumping by companies of building materials, waste material, trees, and other waste.

Council Member Park concluded her remarks stating that she is here to be our partner and advocate and we should reach out anytime.

Our fourth speakers were our Mar Vista Community Council (MVCC) Chair Tyler LaFerriere and Zone 3 Director Andrew Marton. Tyler spoke first and emphasized the upcoming MVCC Board election on March 26th. Tyler noted that Andrew is running unopposed but that there are many at large positions that will be contested. Voting will be available by mail or in-person. It is important to note that the deadline to request by mail voting is March 7th. You will need to go to the EmpowerLA website (<https://empowerla.org/>) to request a vote by mail ballot by that date or your only option will be to vote in person. Tyler closed by emphasizing the importance of participating in committees. Besides the established committees, you can also form your own if the area of concern is not already addressed. So get involved. Andrew opened his comments by thanking Tyler for his stabilizing leadership as chair. He views his role as a director as representing the community. He described an important role of the MVCC was to gather input and participation from the community. He encouraged people to attend MVCC meetings and participate in the public comment portion of the meetings. The meetings continue to be held virtually on Zoom. He noted you can also provide electronic input through the MVCC website. The website (<https://www.marvista.org/>) contains the calendar of meetings and other community related information. Andrew chairs the Public Health & Safety (PH&S) and Homeless Committee. The committee promotes stakeholder input concerning PH&S and homeless issues in our community. The Committee encourages involvement, provides relevant information and resources, acts as advocate and liaison, and supports viable and equitable solutions. A question was posed about whether the MVCC fairly represented the Mar Vista community especially given the polarizing nature of the last election. Tyler and Andrew responded that there were challenges that included the volunteer nature of the MVCC and the wide variety of stakeholders. They both felt the MVCC had become more representative and less polarizing.

Closing Remarks

Jerry closed the meeting by stating the 2023 theme – Homeward Bound. Besides being a popular Simon and Garfunkel song, the theme represents the two aspects of a home. One aspect is the physical structure that offers protection from the elements and facilitates daily activities like cooking, bathing, and sleeping. The second aspect is home as a supporting and loving space and community. It is the smell of cooking, and the movement of sunlight through the space. It's the happiness, contentment, and calm we feel because of the space and surroundings we're in. Home is experiencing community, a community that includes family and neighbors. The home we strive to establish in our Westdale community.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Hornof
Acting Secretary