

**Westdale Homeowners Association
General Meeting
Via ZOOM website
Tuesday, January 26, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Jerry Hornof, on the ZOOM platform at 7:05 p.m. According to ZOOM there were up to 62 families participating. People continued to join and leave the group as the meeting progressed.

Jerry Hornof – Opening Remarks

Jerry opened the meeting by announcing the Agenda for the meeting:

- 1) Opening remarks
- 2) Election of Board of Directors
- 3) Crime and Safety with Los Angeles Police Senior Lead Officer, Karwon Villery
- 4) Presenting 11th District Councilman Mike Bonin
- 5) Mar Vista Park Director Andres De La Hoya
- 6) Historic Fire Station #62 by Rob Kadota

Jerry thanked all the participants for taking out the time in their busy lives to join us. He asked for a moment of silence for the loss of Kobe Bryant and the others who were in the helicopter accident one year ago (January 26, 2020.)

Jerry reminded us his theme for the previous year was “Sharing a Common Environment.” Little did he know at the time how appropriate that would be for the situation in which we all found ourselves this past year.

Jerry thanked the present members of the Board of Directors with special thanks to Ina Lee and Marjorie Templeton and Dick Henkel for all their wonderful work on the *Villager* newsletter. He said that normally he would list all of the WHOA activities that were sponsored by the Board of Directors and members of the community. However, there was a Pandemic and that changed everything. He expressed deep condolences to everyone on our call who has lost a family member or friend. He also expressed condolences to all of us who lost movies, parties, theaters, concerts, or going out to a relaxing dinner with friends and family,

However, there was a silver lining to the situation:

- 1) Spending time connecting to immediate family members
- 2) Connecting with people around the world via ZOOM or email for business or social
- 3) Appreciation for our neighborhood during regular walks,
- 4) Appreciation of inequities and how fortunate we are in our nice homes, with plenty of food, and high-speed internet.
- 5) Special events: Space X launches; Dodgers winning the World Series; and Laker championship.

Going forward, Stay Active, Stay Safe.

Election of Board of Directors

Jerry expressed his appreciation of working with the present Board of Directors. He said that he would like to keep the present individuals in their current posts. He had asked at the last Board of Directors meeting if they would each be able to serve and they all said “yes.” Based on that, he proposed that we keep all the present Board of Directors. There were no objections. Jerry also said that if anyone is interested in serving on the board, they should let him know.

Leah Oye/Senior Police Lead Officer, Karwon Villery

Leah introduced SLO Karwon Villery of the Pacific Division and Supervisor Brian Cook.

The two officers told us that home burglaries are down 35%, but burglaries from cars are up 189%. The thieves are often out to steal the catalytic converters and the most popular cars are the Toyota Prius models. Groups of thieves come into the neighborhood, steal the converters, and leave the area quickly. It is a problem all over the county. **DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS VISIBLE IN YOUR CARS!!! AND LOCK THE DOORS !!!** Thieves have been known to break into cars and steal bags of clothes destined for the Thrift Shop.

The officers took questions,

Q. How do you deal with street racing at intersections?

A. We work with the police department. If you see it happening, call 911.

Q. How is the Police morale in relation to the COVID pandemic?

A. We are “hanging in there,” we continue to come to work, and handling calls as fast as we can. We all want to do a good job.

Q. Is there a lock that works to prevent theft of catalytic converters?

A. There are a number of them out there and most of them are very simple...they simply “slow down the process,” so that the thieves will go to the next car.

Q. Since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, what has been the biggest event that affects the Police Department?

A. When we make arrests, we are always concerned about the virus.

Q. How is the homeless situation this year as compared to last year?

A. About the same.

The remainder of the questions were mostly about the general subject of homelessness in our city, specifically in our local park. There was a concern about the encampment in Mar Vista Park that is growing larger and larger. The officers told us that the Police Department only deals with people; they no longer deal with property. The city Attorney has determined that you cannot move homeless people unless you can move them to a COVID free location. The Police also have to deal with Park Rangers, the Sanitation Department, and other city departments.

Mike Bonin - 11th district Councilmember

Mike expressed condolences to those of you who have lost family and/or friends during this pandemic times. He said that it is impressive and inspiring to see so many neighbors helping other neighbors.

Mike listed three major crises that are being dealt with by the council:

Public Health – news about vaccines and re-opening the city,

Economic – re-opening while many in our city have not been vaccinated, and

Homelessness – reports say the homeless population in our city will double by 2025

The City Council will be meeting with Barbara Ferrer tomorrow to get the latest news.

We are now in the midst of a horrible, brutal recession, harming renters, unemployed, and small businesses. We should use CARES funding to help...everyone should stay at home. The City Council is working on two major projects to help with the homeless.

Project HomeKey – So far 18 motels & hotels have been purchased; 2 of them are in our district. One by LAX and one near Lincoln Boulevard in Venice.

Project HouseKey – Shared housing.

The city's fiscal situation is not good...we are now \$600 million in debt through June 2021. We need a lot of help from the Federal government. Biden announced over the weekend that FEMA will pay 100% for these programs through September 2021. The Council is also considering "safe camping" areas and "tiny home villages."

Q. What is the city doing about the trash all over the city?

A. We are trying to get a new program.

Q. What percent of the homeless are mentally ill or addicted and can't take care of themselves?

A. There is not a right situation for everyone. We need long term intervention for the mentally ill and homeless specialized case workers to triage individuals.

Andres De La Hoya – Park Director

The staff at the park work from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The rest rooms are closed at 4:45 p.m. There is staff in the office. The tennis courts are open from sunrise to sunset. The playground requires social distancing and there is a 30-minute limit for each child to be there. The hockey field and the artificial grass soccer field are both closed, but people break in and use these areas, anyway. Taking walks in the park and kicking around a ball are allowed. Groups must consist of family members only.

The homeless encampment has gotten larger. You can call 911 to request a cleanup of the area. The last cleanup took place in October.

There are only two sports groups that have permits to play on the synthetic grass. The permits are issued by the Municipal Sports Department. They must sign waivers. Permits are given to conduct classes or clinics, no full-fledged, organized games.

There was a big event at the park on September 10th. The park staff planted 20 new trees with the support of Windward School. Future plans are to get more trees planted around the perimeter of the park with the support of The Los Angeles Parks Foundation and the Forestry Department. Most of the neighborhood trees were planted in the 1940's and 1950's and are up to 85 years old.

There was a complaint of dogs running off the leash in the park. The leashes should be no more than 6 feet in length.

Rob Kadota – Mar Vista Community Council

Rob spoke about the renovation of the old Mar Vista Historic Fire Station #62. It will be named after Bill Rosendahl, a former City Councilman from the Mar Vista area. You can learn more about it at www.Historic62.org It will have community meeting rooms, a library, senior services, youth services, and cooking classes. They need to raise \$1.5 million. Big donors like to see lots of smaller donations from neighborhood individuals to know that there is community support for the building.

Rob also spoke about the Mar Vista Farmer Market and the Mar Vista Art Walk.

Jerry Hornof – Wrapping up

Jerry read a portion of the poem by Amanda Gorman who presented it at the recent Inauguration of President Joe Biden. He announced the theme for 2021 as *Together in Hope*.

Jerry closed by saying, *Take care, be safe, get vaccinated as soon as possible*.

The meeting was ended at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Barbara Algaze, recording secretary