

North Westdale Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes - Monday, September 12, 2011
President Bill Koontz, Vice President John Kuchta

I. Call to order: 7:05pm

II. Introductions and Public Comments

A. Personal introductions

III. General Reports

A. Richland Avenue Elementary Report Card

- i. Karina Salazar was not yet present so the report was revisited later in the meeting, item IIIg.

B. LAPD Senior Lead Officer Crime Update

- i. Drake Madison is on strike detail and could not attend but mentioned to Bill that there are no real crimes to speak of. Bill mentioned that Martin Rubin mentioned a break-in that occurred Sunday, September 11.

C. All other groups or reps

- i. Len Nguyen could not attend because he took a meeting with the mayor

D. Treasurer

- i. Wayne Matsuyama reported that the current budget is about \$6300 including \$85 worth of dues.

E. Vice President

- i. John Kuchta reported his email address, jmkuchta@gmail.com, in case anyone is interested in becoming involved with one of the committees

F. President

- i. Bill Koontz reveals that bi-monthly meetings are within the bounds of the bylaws and there was general agreement that bi-monthly meetings (odd-numbered months) were preferable to quarterly meetings. The next meeting will be in November.

G. Karina Salazar for Richland Avenue Elementary

- i. Scores have improved to 806 from ~690 a few years ago.
- ii. There have been collaborative staff changes
- iii. New tech purchases include smartboards and iPads
- iv. The visual arts and theatre programs have been cut, along with supervision time
- v. The school has been selected to be an SAS
- vi. Current attendance is 62%, target is 96%
- vii. Current enrollment is 249 students without preschool

IV. Committee Reports

A. Santa Monica Airport

- i. Chair Martin Rubin was predisposed at the Ocean Park Association meeting but passed along a memo regarding the SMAC and the Aviation Justice Express, as well as a letter in support of Ted Lieu's letter asking CA EPA DTSC Director Debbie Raphael to investigate lead levels at SMO. John Kuchta

read the letter and edits were suggested. Stacy Brown took point on proofreading and editing the letter, which was later approved (revised letter is attached)

B. Outreach

- i. Block captains are needed, especially across Bundy Drive and Barrington Avenue.

C. Safety

- i. Bill is in touch with Drake Madison on a regular basis, but regular meetings can be scheduled if requested.

D. Richland

V. New Business

A. Dues collection starts in October

- B. Stacy Brown and other stakeholders would like uniformity regarding trees, Bill Koontz suggests an ad-hoc beautification committee

VI. Public Comment

VII. Adjournment

Revised Letter from NWN to Debbie Raphael of the CA EPA DTSC

Dear Director Raphael,

The North Westdale Neighborhood Association supports Senator Ted Lieu's July 18, 2011 letter of request to you asking for a formal investigation by the Department of Substance Control (DTSC) regarding the pollutants produced by Santa Monica Airport's aircraft operations.

The Los Angeles neighborhood of North Westdale is separated from Santa Monica Airport by Bundy Drive with homes as close as 250 feet from the east end of the airport's runway. Jets idle and take off from the runway's east end, blowing enormous amounts of pollutants over North Westdale and into the homes and lungs of residents. Although there have been studies that have concluded dangerous pollutant levels, we have not received any relief. We have recently been made aware of the potential dangers from leaded fuel, which is still being used by piston aircraft. Piston aircraft, as well as jets, fly over North Westdale at low altitude as they approach the airport to land. We seek your help to establish that there is indeed a health concern from the toxic pollutants caused by aircraft using Santa Monica Airport.

We join with Senator Lieu in his request to you and we would very much appreciate this investigation by the DTSC.

Thank you,

CC – Senator Lieu