

**Westdale Homeowners Association  
General Meeting  
Mar Vista Park  
Tuesday, January 25, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Jerry Hornof, in the Auditorium of the Mar Vista Park at 7:10 p.m. There was an almost empty house and Jerry commented that President Obama did not check with him for a conflict of dates when he scheduled his State of the Union Address. As the evening wore on, more and more neighbors came in from their cars where they were listening to the end of the President's address, so that eventually we had a full house.

**Opening Remarks - Jerry Hornof**

Jerry introduced himself and suggested that we all introduce ourselves to those sitting next to us. He told us that the theme of our Homeowner's Association this year would be "connecting with the community". He mentioned the neighborhood watch program and the WISE program, both of which connect neighbor to neighbor.

Jerry mentioned the name of Bob Revelle, who is our new association Treasurer, doing the job that Debbie Kaplan has done so efficiently for such a long time. He also introduced Dick Hinkel, who is the new Villager Editor, and who designed the yard signs advertising this meeting. Dick will be taking over the job that Christine Yoshihara has been doing so admirably for over ten years. Also introduced was Marjorie Templeton, new Advertising Coordinator for the Villager, a job that Bette Rudick has been doing so judiciously since anyone can remember.

Jerry also introduced Richard Resnick, who designed and maintains our association website so well with lots of links to other websites. One of last year's highlights was our third-in-a-row neighborhood block party which was a huge success. The first one was on Coolidge Avenue, last year it was on Colby Avenue, and this year it was on Barry Avenue. Ethel Oderberg amiably chaired the event again this year and it was a huge success. Jerry then introduced Jan Burns, one of our neighbors, who took pictures during the block party and created a lovely photo book which she is selling for \$50.00 per copy. He suggested that we all come up after the meeting to admire Jan's work.

Jerry announced a Police Department donation towards the Mar Vista Park Festival which will be chaired by Albert Oken.

Jerry brought us up-to-date on the Metropolitan Transit plans, which are being closely monitored by Ken Alpern. The line should be completed to Robertson Boulevard by 2012 and in 2015 it is scheduled to reach Santa Monica. The biggest issue is how it passes over/past Sepulveda Boulevard. The present plans are for it to cross Sepulveda at grade (i.e. at street level) and Overland Avenue above grade (i.e. raised over the street). The city plans to increase the quantity and quality of connecting buses down Venice Boulevard with the goal of 46 minutes to downtown.

**Barrington Project Development – Jerry Hornof**

The Barrington Avenue Project has finally found closure last month. The owner pretty much renovated what was already there and did not do any more building. His permit to expand the footprint of the buildings was withdrawn last month.

Jerry concluded his remarks by saying, "Stay connected; enjoy your neighbors and your neighborhood."

## **Board of Directors Elections – Eugene Manusov**

Gene read the slate for Board of Directors and introduced each member who was up for election. He announced that Jerry Hornof has graciously agreed to take on the Presidency for another two years. Gene had kind words to say for each individual. There was a motion to accept the slate as presented, which was passed by a show of hands.

## **WISE Connections – Lori Gilder**

Lori introduced the concept of “Concierge Services for Seniors” who want to age in their own homes. The program provides members with trips, clubs, lectures and community support. WISE has strategic partnerships with hospitals and health care services on behalf of its members. “Living Room Chats” are being held in our neighborhood to explain the program in more detail. The next event will be at Ethel Oderberg’s home on Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be an Open House on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at St. Andrews Lutheran Church on National Boulevard.

There will be two Mar Vista walking groups offered – one fast-paced group and one moderately-paced group. They will start on Saturday morning, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

There was a question of whether there will be a Bridge Club and/or a Book Club. Lori said that she would check it out.

## **Treasurer’s Report – Jerry Hornof**

Jerry read the details of the current budget and how much we have in assets. Natalie Fisher is our membership chairperson. We have 303 paid members (out of 900 homes), which is pretty much what we have had in the past.

## **Real Estate Roundup – Debbie Kaplan**

The highest price that a house sold in our neighborhood last year was \$1,900,000. The lowest price was \$834,000. The lowest priced home was probably handled by a broker from outside the neighborhood, as our houses don’t generally sell that low. The average price of a house in our neighborhood is \$500 per square foot, so that a 2,000 square foot home would sell for one million dollars. Interest rates are still low so that this is a good time to re-finance.

## **11th district Councilmember - Bill Rosendahl**

Bill Rosendahl is currently recovering from surgery, so his report was given by his assistant, Len Nguyen. Len spoke about the issue of RV’s parking overnight in the Venice, Mar Vista and Palms areas. Bill’s office is currently working with the organization, PATH (People Assisting The Homeless), to try to get RV residents transitioned into more permanent housing.

The Bundy Village developer has declared bankruptcy and we are not sure what his plans are for the parcel. He may remove the house and retail components of his development and just build a dramatically reduced project--the Medical Plaza portion of the original plan. He will have to go through the City Council Planning and Land Use Committee

Regarding the final development of the Barrington Project, Len requested suggestions for future planning for the area in order to maintain cut-backs and height limits. The City Planning Department is greatly reduced due to budget cutbacks.

The Skate Spot project at the Mar Vista Park has been abandoned. Money has been allocated, but they can't find a good spot to build it in our park.

### **Comments from the floor:**

A Los Angeles Times article said that the court ruled for the FAA and against Santa Monica City in their attempt to ban certain classes of jets at Santa Monica Airport and improve safety. The court ruled that such a law would be discrimination against certain classes of people. Is it a health or a safety issue? The Santa Monica airport is the most residentially encroached airport in the country. However, it is heavily used by politicians and movie stars.

Cities are learning that they lose money on red light cameras on corners. The city pays for installation, policemen have to appear when a driver appeals the ticket, and the paper work is horrendous. It costs the city over a million dollars a year.

There was a concern about the overgrown trees on Corinth and other streets.

On Stoner Avenue by the elementary school, there are no signs saying, "School Zone" between Indianapolis and Palms. There are signs on Indianapolis, but the exit gates are on Stoner, and between the hours of 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. there are lines of cars picking up school children, all honking their horns and disturbing the residents and sleeping babies.

There are many trees in our neighborhood that attract birds and the birds make a mess on our sidewalks.

Robert McKinsey lives on Coolidge Place and reported that the street slopes down to the end of the cul de sac and that when it rains, it puddles in front of his driveway. He wants to know if the street can be sloped away from the dead end when they re-surface the street. Len replied that he will put him on his list of residents who have made similar request for their streets.

The request for additional students at Windward School on Palms Boulevard has been approved pending additional parking.

Len brought along a Certificate of Appreciation for Christine Yoshihara for her 10+ years of service to the Westdale Community working on the Westdale Village. Jerry Hornof accepted the certificate in Christine's absence.

There will be two community meetings (on January 24<sup>th</sup> and January 25<sup>th</sup>) to discuss the drafting of EIR rules for the Scattergood Project (the high voltage line which is proposed to be built by the DWP along Inglewood Boulevard.)

### **CERT Update - Jerry Hornof**

Carl Ginsberg is not in attendance as he is presently taking a Crisis Response Team Training Class. This class is intended to create a volunteer team to be on the scene for intervention and emotional support in the event of a city wide emergency. Carl is looking for new recruits for the CERT program. Many of our members are getting older and we need "young blood."

The Westdale emergency container is fully stocked and fully operational. Pat Nagy reported that the Emergency Operational Center will not be able to provide food and water for all of us in case of an emergency, so each of us needs to stock away food and water for our own use—the recommendation is 3 days to 2 weeks of supplies. Check out the website at [www.RedCross.org](http://www.RedCross.org) for suggestions of what to stockpile for your family's use.

## **Crime and Safety - Leah Oye**

Our new Senior Lead Officer is Drake Madison. Crime is down 18.8% in the Pacific Division in the last four weeks. Leah provided a map showing robberies from cars during the last week—this is the main problem in our area. We should make the targets harder by not leaving computers and iPods visible in our cars. Officer Madison will be patrolling in the evenings starting next week.

A new way the burglars are operating is by riding bicycles and checking the car doors as they ride down the block to see if any of them are unlocked. If you see suspicious activity, call [ask lapd](tel:877) to report it. If you see a robbery in progress, call 911.

Get to know your neighbors. Officer Madison can be reached at [3997@LAPD.LAcity.org](mailto:3997@LAPD.LAcity.org). Report everything. The Los Angeles Times has a crime statistics website where you can check out crime in the area and see how we compare to other areas. Go to [www.LATimes/crime](http://www.LATimes/crime)

Report graffiti for removal. Check out our website under “Community Service—bulletin board”

## **Mar Vista Community Council Report – Albert Olsen, President**

Past events were the Mar Vista Park Fall Festival and the Wise Power Expo at Windward School. In March, there will be a stakeholder meeting with the Venice Neighborhood Night School. There will also be a Safety and Security Emergency Preparedness CERT Training class.

On April 30<sup>th</sup> the MVCC will again be sponsoring the Mar Vista Garden Showcase. Last year we had 75 homes included. This year we already have 45 homes. Check it out at [www.MarVista.org/Green](http://www.MarVista.org/Green)

On April 13<sup>th</sup> there will be an Educational Summit organized by Kate Anderson, who is the co-chair of the Education Committee. They will be discussing budget cuts for schools, school reform, and community involvement.

## **Zone 3 Representative of the Mar Vista Community Council - Kate Anderson**

You can reach Kate at: [Kate@KateAnderson.org](mailto:Kate@KateAnderson.org), [Kate.Anderson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kate.Anderson@mail.house.gov), or by calling her district office at (310) 643 – 3636.

## **Park Report – Jerry Hornof**

Laura Island, our past park director, is now working at Cheviot Pacific/Shoreline District. The new staff members are Liz Navarez, Park Director, and Damon, the Assistant Recreation Coordinator. Our park has been designated a “Full Recovery Park” which means that all services, staff, and programs must be self supporting. If they have extra income, they can hire temporary staff members. In addition, they are now open on Sundays.

We have a new basketball court and are accepting final bids for acoustical tiles for the basketball gym. New energy efficient safety lights have been installed around the park. By the hockey rink, “directional lights” have been installed so that the lights do not shine into the homes of neighbors. The new lights on the tennis courts are directional and on timers to save money. The sports field project has finally been completed along with new exercise equipment along the running trails. The skate spot will NOT happen at our park—there is no good place to put it and

there is not enough room in the park. The soccer field hours are 7 – 7:30 a.m. to dusk during the weekdays and 8 – 8:30 to dusk on weekends. There are no lights on the soccer fields.

The soccer field is now eight years old; life expectancy is 10 – 12 years. The seams have been sewn together and glued. It is really well used. It cost under \$750,000 to install and was paid for with Proposition K money. The running track and exercise equipment was paid for by Quimby funds, which are funds contributed by developers who have new projects in the area.

### **Jerry Hornof – Adjournment**

Remember the community theme for this year: “Let’s Stay Connected”

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Barbara Algaze*  
Secretary