

October 10, 2019 Neighbor Meeting Notes
6:30-7:30pm

Welcome and Introductions

Nora De Cuir, the evening's moderator from Kearns & West, shared the agenda and ground rules for the evening.

Kathy Layendecker welcomed neighbors and explained that the meeting will focus on day-to-day operations and feedback now that there are public forums for discussing the CUP application.

Neighbors were invited to upcoming school events and invited to contact Lorraine Brown for complimentary tickets.

Feedback on School Operations, led by Kathy Layendecker:

Traffic:

Neva Yarkin: The Bryant Bike Blvd. was discussed at Monday's City Council meeting.

Carla Befera: Opening Day did not go well. She heard traffic monitors shout "Just park anywhere!" There was also an accident involving a Paly bicyclist that morning.

Nelson Ng: Opening Day traffic has been problematic before. How will Castilleja address this?

Kathy Layendecker: Opening Day is the school's single largest event; we need to learn from this year, including improving our traffic monitor training.

Nanci Kauffman: With Spieker Field open, perhaps too many cars count on parking in the school's immediate vicinity, and we should re-evaluate that next year.

Alan Cooper: Gamble Gardens might be a good location for school drop-off.

Kathy Layendecker: We do work with Gamble Gardens, but we have not discussed that idea.

Other:

Andie Reed: I'm disappointed we're not discussing the garage. Disagrees with the intent of these biannual meetings; as they focus on neighborhood issues, neighbors should decide what is discussed, e.g., meeting the garage architects

Nora: Castilleja's meeting notes will not enter the public record.

Nelson Ng: Why was the building architect at a neighbor meeting and not the garage architect?

Kathy Layendecker: The garage design was shared in 2016 before its submission to the City.

Nelson Ng: What happened to the Blue Atlas Cedar on Kellogg? Castilleja's trees have declined since 2016.

Dan Chapman: There are more sick trees in the area due to drought.

Rob Levitsky: Castilleja is trying to kill ~ half of its trees.

CUP Process discussion and Q&A, led by Kathy Layendecker:

Kathy Layendecker showed a general timeline of the CEQA process and where we are now vis-à-vis the EIR, ARB, PTC, etc.

Alan Cooper: Has Castilleja done anything since hearing the input from the DEIR?

Kathy Layendecker: We are closely reading the comments and will be prepared for subsequent hearings.

Rob Levitsky: Can you explain Castilleja's participation in the City design review?

Kathy Layendecker: Different City departments bring their comments to the meetings, and then our architects revise plans accordingly.

Andie Reed: Why doesn't Castilleja reach out to neighbors for compromise? Or listen more to neighbors?

Kathy Layendecker: We are depending on the process with the City to guide us.

Nanci Kauffman: This process started with Castilleja relying on the neighborhood Small Working Group for input, and this was a mistake. We listened, made changes based on their input, but the process wasn't public. We now want to be part of a public process. We've been advised that everything has to be part of this public process, and we'll ultimately be told what we can and cannot do.

Nelson Ng: Will Castilleja legally fight a City Council decision it disagrees with? It sounded like your attorney (Mindie) was threatening a lawsuit.

Nanci Kauffman: We've not discussed it. Council can decide to support Castilleja's plans with over-riding consideration if it deems the benefits of the project exceed the significant and unavoidable impacts.

Kathy Layendecker: Mindie meant that the DEIR must be legally defensible.

Nanci Kauffman: Based on the DEIR, the current drop-off plan through the garage may need to be changed.

Alan Cooper: Would Castilleja ever enforce a rule stating that seniors can't drive to school?

Kathy Layendecker: We have to determine how to achieve our required traffic count.

Nanci Kauffman: Our requirement that employees cannot park come to campus by single occupancy vehicle more than 2 days/week is a good example of TDM enforcement.

Rob Levitsky: The garage is our biggest objection (and others in room concur).

Andie Reed: And we oppose the demolition of two houses and the trees in order to build that garage.

Rob Levitsky: What is the school's cost per parking space?

Kathy Layendecker: We do not have that information here.

Andie Reed: What is the number of faculty and staff at the school?

Nanci Kauffman: That information is in our CUP application.

----- Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm -----