

Neighborhood Liaison Committee Meeting 5/22/20

In attendance (via Zoom): Crystal Land (HRS), Rosanna Mucetti (HRS), Mikki Frazier (HRS), Mary Fahey (HRS), Jerry Mullaney (HRS), Jennifer Beeson (HRS), Rodney Thompson (NSC), Karen Caronna (NSC), JoAnn Tracht-Rawson (Dimond Improvement Association), Adam McClure (NLC), Matthew Napoli (Councilmember Thao's Policy Director)

- **Welcome from Rosanna Mucetti**
Introductions, including new member Rodney Thompson.
- **Summer Program Update from Mikki Frazier, Director of Programs**
Mikki Frazier announced that HRS's Summer Program has been cancelled this year due to the pandemic. There is currently no in-person programming planned on campus this summer. Students may come to pick up supplies at the end of the school year.
- **Vegetation Management from Jerry Mullaney, Chief Financial & Operating Officer**
The School has hired additional crew members to assist with vegetation management this season. Fire inspection will happen unannounced. The School's rental properties adjacent to campus will be addressed in the next two weeks for June inspections. Neighbors should feel free to pass any concerns about vegetation management along to Jerry. The School removed 6 large eucalyptus trees from the South Campus in the last month. Rodney also asked why debris from this project hasn't been cleaned up after several weeks and inquired about when the woodchipper in the middle of the property would be removed. Jerry stated he would follow-up, as he wasn't aware these items were still there.

A couple of eucalyptus near Alida Court have been trimmed down but the trunks are still there. There is a plan in place to remove those altogether to make sure the entire South Campus is eucalyptus-free. We are working with an adjacent homeowner to coordinate this work.

Rodney stated that the neighbors appreciate the removal of eucalyptus and moving the lawn mowing times to later in the day. He wondered if there is a plan to remove eucalyptus on the North Campus. Jerry noted that tree removal is not altogether HRS's decision as some neighbors have indicated that they want the trees to remain there for shade and privacy. In addition, a fire specialist toured the area last year and recommended the School not remove the trees but instead focus on trimming the lower branches and maintaining the ground beneath the trees to ensure that they are not a fire hazard. The school is open to considering a large-scale removal but given there are almost 100 such trees, removing all North Campus eucalyptus would be a challenging and complex undertaking. Rodney stated that the neighbors would like to keep this as an open topic of discussion. Jerry agreed to keep the discussion going and stated that

in the meantime HRS is open to evaluating and removing specific trees on an individual basis as appropriate.

Facilities Update, Jerry Mullaney

It will be a fairly quiet summer on campus in terms of various repairs and maintenance. No big trucks or noise is expected, and the projects will be mostly indoors. There will be one outdoor patio project.

Crystal said that the School will be examining the kind of campus retrofit needed for a safe campus return in the fall, assuming schools are allowed to reopen. Should the School need to install portable classrooms, neighbors would be given notice in advance. One of the School's biggest considerations will be reducing the numbers of students in classrooms and on campus at any given time. The School will also be considering a careful plan for entrance and egress of students in addition to clear food distribution and restroom protocols.

Rodney asked if the School was aware that there have been transients on the South Campus. What steps has HRS taken or might take to keep South Campus free of transients? Jerry heard of two reports. The School has 24/7 security that makes regular rounds and would move anyone along. Jerry will point Rodney's observation out to the security team.

- **Transportation and Traffic, Mary Fahey, Director of Neighbor Relations**

Karen asked about any transit plans and wondered if kids will be able to ride on busses and use carpools during the (COVID-19) pandemic. Mary has been in contact with AC Transit and Michael's Transportation, and said it's too early to make a plan at this stage. Michaels Bus is coming up with a protocol at the moment. AC Transit buses are operating at lower capacities. Karen mentioned that Laguna and Potomac are both now designated Slow Streets (which means that they are not open to through traffic) and the neighbors are very much enjoying the Slow Streets and would be loath to give them up. Karen asked how buses will navigate the Slow Streets. Mary explained that the School only has one private bus that uses the Loop, and HRS could potentially change that route. Mary said that HRS has nothing to do with AC Transit's routes suggesting we contact AC Transit to talk to them about their route through the Slow Streets and also suggesting the Councilmember may be able to help in this area. Karen asked if the School could use smaller buses if the student count will be smaller. Mary noted the buses are normally full, so she will need to look more closely at the best path forward. Rodney stated that before the pandemic, neighbors noticed parents/students were parking on Lincoln and not using parking lots. He asked if, in the future, HRS would agree to enforce keeping a parking lane open on South Campus and/or enforce the usage of HRS lots. Mary said the School would explore options. Karen noticed that people have been jaywalking across Lincoln and many cars have not been stopping at the red light across from the Gatehouse. Rodney hopes the School can arrange for more

enforcement on Lincoln. Adam stated that there is some ability for HRS to influence behavior, but there has always been a secondary public problem. Do we ask the City for better enforcement? HRS continues to push driving guidelines within the parent and professional community. HRS authority is limited; a conversation with the City should also happen. Rosanna wondered if the City and School could reinforce safety together. JoAnn wondered if the City is doing any traffic studies in the neighborhood. Matt didn't know but said he would follow-up. Crystal suggested writing a joint letter, as she has also noticed that Lincoln has become a speed thoroughfare during the shutdown. JoAnn said that DIA might be willing to co-sponsor said letter. Jennifer to follow-up on joint letter approach.

- **Graduation Plans and Events**

Mary shared that the School has been working with Alameda Public Health so kids can come to campus to pick up diplomas. HRS has a carefully crafted plan for a graduation procedure for all three divisions in June. Karen asked if any events were planned for the fall, like Back-to-School Nights. Mary stated that it was too early to know, but we are planning for different scenarios. The School will continue to get direction from Alameda Public Health and will keep the neighborhood updated via the web portal. Karen wondered how many students HRS will have in the fall. Crystal explained that the School has a cap of 906, but the number of students on campus will depend largely on space available with social distancing requirements.

- **Master Plan Update**

Crystal reported that there is not a lot to update on, as the School is waiting on the draft EIR. The expectation is that there will be a review in the fall.

- **Next steps**

Do we want to have a fall NLC meeting earlier this year?

Two follow-up items: wood chipper/debris removal and letter to City re: traffic in the neighborhood. JoAnn would appreciate it if HRS shared fall reopening plans with neighbors once solidified. HRS agreed to organize another virtual meeting once their reopening plans were solidified.