

Neighborhood Liaison Committee Meeting 5/19/21

In attendance: Karen Caronna (NSC), Rodney Thompson (NSC), Joann Tracht-Lawson (Dimond Improvement Association), Crystal Land (HRS), Jason Langkammerer (HRS), Mikki Frazier (HRS), Jennifer Beeson (HRS), Mary Fahey (HRS), Jerry Mullaney (HRS), Matt Napoli (Councilmember Sheng Thao's Office)

Welcome and Introductions (Jason Langkammerer, HRS Board member)

End-of-Year Events (Mary Fahey, HRS Director of Neighbor Relations)

HRS is able to have select on-campus end-of-year events because of the shifting Covid restrictions. The planned events include promotion and graduation ceremonies on the athletics field (10 am promotions ceremonies, Thursday and Friday - 1 hour; Sat graduation will be about 2 hours long.) There will be a retirement party on campus on May 28, 5-7 pm. This Friday and Saturday we have our spring drama production from 5-7 pm; matinee at 1. We have a special use permit and sound permit. We will use the center of campus. We have sound permits for all events and they are located on our website.

Summer Program Update (Mikki Frazier, HRS Director of Programs)

Last summer we didn't have any programming, and there will not be a summer camp hosted on campus this year again. There will be Heads Up programming June 14-July 9. Heads Up is a 35-year partnership with Oakland Unified School District. Summer typically has over 700 students on campus. This year it will be no more than 125. Staff is moving from 200 to much smaller this summer. Priority will be health and safety. There will be one covid testing date on June 9 using a drive-through model. We will be utilizing the lower school; students and staff will be self-contained and aware of noise. We will not be having bouncy houses or bullhorns on the upper field. Almost all transportation to and from campus will be private -- some will take AC Transit, but most will have parents drive them to campus.

Rodney stated that Summer families are problematic because they don't know driving rules as well and wondered if there will be security monitors to help with this. Mikki explained that the School will be employing the same strategies we have had in place in former years, which included monitors. Driving rules and expectations will be explained to families in tomorrow's orientation.

Facilities and Vegetation Management (Jerry Mullaney, HRS COO/CFO)

Vegetation:

Jerry shared about the recent vegetation management work, and that the facilities team has been making sure there are low levels of ground cover throughout the campus properties. HRS expects an inspection in the first week of June and is committed to keeping levels low throughout the summer and fire season. Vegetation management remains an ongoing priority. There are 2 inspections - June and September. The School is paying extra attention to the hillside around the athletic field where the eucalyptus are. Those trees are already compliant;

there are no branches below 6 feet and the underbrush has been cleared. Rod stated that he observed branches that reached the ground and that fire ladders haven't been addressed adequately in neighbors' opinion. Jerry stated that he and the facilities team would take a more aggressive look at the lower branch level. Rod stated that he has also observed leaf litter and some dried weeds lately and that neighbors would like to see continued thinning out of north campus trees. Jerry explained that he had just met with the facilities director to specifically discuss trees and trimming and the School will take a deeper look and take further action as needed. Jerry noted that a vegetation inspector discouraged full removal of eucalyptus, but we know it's a controversial topic.

Exterior Lighting:

Rodney stated that lights along the South Campus were intrusive and requested that replacement fixtures be full-shield to ensure that all light is directed down on the pavement with lower intensity. The School put an interim fix in place which Rodney says has remedied the issue. Jerry was unaware the lights were a nuisance; they were supposed to be on a timer and he apologized for the inconvenience. Lighting should be a complete non-issue soon, as days are growing longer and not much is happening on campus. In October, HRS will assess whether we need more path lights facing down. Small low level lights may be added if employees feel it's too dark on the south campus and it compromises safety.

Rodney shared some concerns about recent activity on the South Campus. He stated that a bulldozer was used next to Building 0 in the early morning and neighbors weren't given advance notification. Jerry noted that the work notice was posted on the neighbor website, but understands that direct notice to neighbors most affected by the noise would be good moving forward. Development work on the South Campus is very limited now while permits are pending with the City. If any work were to be planned, Jerry said that the School will do direct outreach to neighbors.

Jerry noted that the turf on the athletic field will soon be replaced. The project will involve a large amount of soil removal with the use of bulldozers and other heavy equipment. A synthetic turf surface will be installed. That work is about a month out -- we will communicate directly with neighbors on the perimeter of the field. The project will take all summer; continuing work that should be quieter will happen around the perimeter (new dugouts, netting and fencing structures) in the fall months. Neighbors haven't been notified yet because we are still in the permitting process, but we will be notifying them directly.

Rodney inquired if the School had any plans to develop the Ability Now Bay Area (ANBA) field. Jerry said there are no plans for further work on the ANBA field.

Fall Preview (Crystal Land, HRS Head of School)

We have 800 students on campus right now. We have been successfully reopening slowly by adding divisions over the spring. School will be wrapping up in 2 weeks. According to the Health Dept, we should be able to have all students and faculty back on campus on Aug 23. Enrollment is at 906 students right now, which is the limit of our CUP. We hope to have all buses up and

running. ACDPH and ACOE are the drivers of our planning. We hope to be able to return to in-person events in the fall and will be following all Conditions of Approval set in 2016.

Karen asked if there were any plans for traffic mitigation and the use of the Slow streets. Crystal stated that we will have monitors along Lincoln as is the School's normal practice. We have 8 traffic monitors every morning and upwards of 10 monitors in the afternoon to help with traffic flow. We are evaluated on traffic by an outside organization. The status of the Slow streets is unknown for the fall. The School will be encouraging families to carpool again, and we will have our full buses back. Karen wondered how a neighbor might be able to identify a monitor. Mary stated that HRS monitors wear green vests and often have flags. Monitors often communicate with each other via text. Rodney said they would like to see more security at key times to prevent families from picking up and dropping off in unallowed areas in front of neighbors' homes. Jerry will share feedback with Rhonda, HRS security supervisor, and will act on it if security isn't doing its job. Rodney stated that he wants to see Head-Royce take greater responsibility for mitigating traffic problems and not put the burden on neighbors. Jerry said he hears the feedback and will follow-up and take appropriate steps.

Master Plan Update (Jason Langkamerrer)

HRS is still waiting on the draft EIR. Rebecca Lind is the lead City Planner.

Crystal's retirement and replacement: Crystal announced that she will be retiring at the end of the 21-22 school year. A search is underway and a new Head of School should be announced in the fall.