

Neighborhood Liaison Committee

June 13, 2025

In attendance: Rachel E. Skiffer, Jerry Mullaney, Ana Gomez, Rodney Thompson, Anne Purcell, Sam Palley, Paige Berardo, David Gross

Absent/Invited: Murali Naidu, Iris Merriouns, Dylan Strangmeyer

NLC requested to have more detailed notes that follow the historical pattern to share on our website, and the school agreed to do so..

South Campus Update (Sam Palley and Dylan Strangmeyer)

Work on the site is mostly finished, which is good news. Final touches are being completed. Offsite work is now the focus. Storm drain work with the City of Oakland planning is still being discussed. Sam from Cahill thanks our neighbors for their patience. What is being installed will be a better solution to water management on Lincoln Avenue.

Sam reports that traffic signals are also going up on Lincoln Avenue. The storm drain work on the east side up the hill starts on Monday, June 23, and patching concrete trenches that go across the street, and a permanent concrete patch will begin a week from Monday. The City has extended the patching to incorporate a lot more of Lincoln Avenue, and it will improve the surface quality of Lincoln Avenue. Sam notes that where it transitions from asphalt to concrete will stay asphalt. Further up Lincoln Avenue, there are sections that will be replaced with concrete.

Sam says EBMUD is the unknown. They said they want to get it done before the beginning of the school year, but we are currently waiting to see. We think EBMUD will begin work installing new permanent water (SOMETHING) the week of June 23. Once patching is done in early July, we'll do restriping, and then the lights will be activated. It's looking like the end of July for the activation of traffic signals. There may be EBMUD work that drags on, but the intent is for traffic signals to be working in July.

Ann notes the new crosswalk at Alida and Lincoln and that neighbors are having a lot of difficulty turning left on Lincoln during the day. She states that at the end of the day, it is really a problem because of uphill visibility. She suggests that a mirror be installed at the crosswalk and has already asked the City about this. She reports that City staff said they would talk to the planning department — noting that the crosswalk has been installed to city specifications — but she is hoping that when the inspection occurs, they will acknowledge the issue and help. It's not a problem when fewer people are parking, she states, but even the parking zone sign is obscured now, she reports.

Rod asks with respect to his property, what is the source of water that is pumped across the sidewalk and his driveway? He notes that it's happening daily.

Sam responds that the storm drains associated with the South Campus all route down to a box at the exit driveway near Rod's house. Sam continues that we're tying into the one at Alita right now, as it currently has nowhere to go unless we do something with it. This issue will be addressed with the tie-in.

Jerry notes with respect to wildfire prevention and the trees and vegetation on the South Campus that some have thrived, and some have struggled. He has been very involved with tree health. We unfortunately lost a couple of trees, but have planted new ones, noting that these will be visible when you tour. The South Campus is a verdant environment, Jerry reports. The old classic protected trees are being watched carefully. Neighbors report there may be some decline in the health of some trees from their view, and hope there's improvement

Jerry says the arborist did not recommend treating trees until the end of the construction process, noting that they expect the trees to rebound. They target doing a treatment at the end of construction, which begins with identifying those trees that are candidates for treatment.

Summer Programs

Ana shares that we are hosting Heads Up and Summer Programs this summer. They run from June 16 to July 11. There will be 150 Heads Up students on campus from 8:30 am–3:30 pm, with two holidays and a talent show on July 11. For the sports camp, there will be drop-offs for 10-20 students over four weeks. Parents have been informed that work is happening and have been asked to follow instructions carefully. We will be using Lot F and the Greek parking lot. This is a manageable summer.

For the upcoming school year, we will begin on August 18. We are working on instructing parents to create clarity around how to use the new drop off, and we may be doing a test run of up to 30 cars or so of parents in early August.

Rod notes that in the "For our Neighbors" section of the website that the conditions of approval document links to an old 2016 document. He'd like it updated with the City Council document of September 19, 2023. Head-Royce confirms we'll update the document, and that the special events calendar will include the location and will be made available mid-July

Rod asks what the total student enrollment was at the end of the past school year?

Jerry says our enrollment was 906 during the school year, noting that a couple of students dropped off, so we went down to 903, and then 902 at the end of the year.

Rod says that (per the Conditions of Approval), once the school exceeds student enrollment of 906, to ensure compliance with the TDM (transportation demand management) rate, the school is required to maintain an average of 50% of the student enrollment traveling by modes other than single occupancy vehicles (meaning more than one student, more than one teacher). This is a 20% increase from the previous requirement of 30%. Rod asked if those reports would be made available to the public.

Jerry notes that DKS conducts the transportation studies and will send them to Rebecca in the planning department at the City of Oakland. He thinks that it can be made public through a public records request. Ana also notes that that is her understanding of how that information is reported back.

Rod requests that, in the interest of improving relations with neighbors through greater transparency, the School should consider making the transportation study reports more readily available to the public (by means other than public records requests).

Jerry responds that he agrees and will take Rod's request under advisement.

The emergency evacuation plan was discussed, and feedback from neighbors about the wildfire plan needing additional changes. Head-Royce School confirms the plan was made in collaboration with experts and has been approved by the City of Oakland.

Rod notes that the conditions of approval also require a vetting process that includes review and approval of the school's evacuation plan by the Oakland Fire Department, with input from emergency services, the police department, and the Department of Transportation. Rod also notes that issuance of the certificate of occupancy for the South Campus is contingent on having met the vetting requirements. Rod requests a status update on Head-Royce School's compliance with the vetting requirements and emphasizes the importance of compliance to help ensure the safety of both the School and the surrounding community. Jerry and Ana request that Rod point out the specific condition that includes the vetting process for the evacuation plan, and Rod agrees he will send it.

Vegetation Management

Jerry shares that during the year-round process of vegetation management and wildfire vegetation management, trees are trimmed, and we do have inspections. We have to follow careful regulations, and we preemptively do these tasks in order to pass inspections. We have passed all the recent ones, and there are more to come – the expectation is we will be cleared as we usually are, and if we get something that needs correction, it is our practice that we take care of it immediately.

Jerry invites our neighbors to share concerns with him so that we can address them immediately and “be a good neighbor.”

Inspections come at the beginning of the summer and the end of the summer/fall. This next one is the big one because there has been a lot of growth due to the rainy season. However, he shares, we are in good shape,

Ann signs off and says she will follow up with Jerry about trees and tours.

Summer Projects

Jerry says, of the summer projects, solar panels by the athletic field are being installed, we are fixing the pathway along the field that's rough, and both projects will wrap up next week. No real impact on anyone. Attention is on the South Campus opening in the fall. We have minimized North Campus work to small remodels in office spaces—nothing big. He says the summer project environment is the quietest in his time at HRS.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 am.