Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa Education Committee

Special Meeting Agenda – October 25, 2017
Westchester Municipal Building Community Room, 7166 W. Manchester Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Our NCWP Education Goal:

To engage the Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista community in support of advancing the success of the local elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as that of the local colleges and universities, manifested by enhancing:

i) School resources;
ii) Students’ educational experiences;
iii) Parental involvement; and/or
iv) Community partnerships.

NCWP Education Committee Members
Michele Cooley Strickland, M.Ed., Ph.D. – Chair
Grace Yao – Co-Chair Matthew Fede
Andrew Kamm Heather Tuttle
John-David Webster Denny Schneider

www.NCWPdr/Education

1. 6:30pm Call to Order – Dr. Michele Cooley Strickland, Chair
2. Vote to approve September 27, 2017 Meeting Minutes
3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (2 minutes maximum) – Complete a Speaker Card*
4. New Business

Action Item 1: LAUSD, NCWP, & SpeakUp Facilities Forum for the Westside Communities – Nov. 13, 6:30-8pm

Work progresses in the planning of the jointly-sponsored LAUSD, NCWP, and SpeakUp Facilities Forum for the Westside Community. Other education-related organizations have been invited to support the Forum, including confirmation from the LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce and its Education Foundation.

This Facilities Forum is in response to longstanding interest in both maintaining/improving the interior and exterior conditions of our school facilities on the Westside as well as understanding space allocation issues related to Proposition 39. The latter issue will not be addressed at the November 13th forum, but we plan to co-host a separate LAUSD Co-Locations Forum for the Westside Community in the first quarter of next year.

Confirmed participants in the Facilities Forum include: Nick Melvoin, LAUSD Board Vice President; Allison Holdorff Polhill, LAUSD District 4 Senior Advisor and Director of Community Engagement; Mark Hovatter, LAUSD Chief Facilities Executive; Cheryl P. Hildreth, Superintendent, LAUSD Local District West; and Dr. Janet Mack, Principal, Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets High School. We will extend more invitations to other potential panelists and special guests. The free event will have a moderated Q&A format held from 6:30-8pm in the auditorium of Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets (WESM) High School on November 13th.

Details for the event planning and execution are the focus of discussion.

- Committee Discussion on Action Item 1
- Potential Plans of Action
- Motion and Vote to support/modify/deny Action Item 1

Action Item 2: Discussion of Community Inquiries: UPDATED

In what seems to be a continuing pattern, more school representatives and community members have expressed significant traffic safety concerns around their schools, including: 1) Crossing guard at Wright STEAM Magnet Middle School and WISH Elementary School before and after school; 2) Flashing crosswalk at Playa Vista Elementary School; and 3) Stop sign at another Westchester elementary school. They asked if it's
possible to have Councilmember Bonin and LAUSD initiate mitigating measures to reduce speeding and failures-to-stop at the intersections. They reported that the frequency of morning and afternoon violations on a daily basis may lead to a major accident involving school children. Potential solutions include police citations, speed bumps, crossing guards, new striping, and additional signage that school children are present. The NCWP Education Committee made inquiries to Councilmember Bonin’s office and LAUSD Local District West on this school-related traffic safety issue. An excerpted emailed response from Councilmember Bonin’s Field Deputy, Anna Kozma, responded that:

We are happy to do what we can. The life of DOT requests all begin with a submission to the MyLADOT.lacity.org website, and then everything near LAUSD schools ends up with the LAUSD school safety section and police at some point before approved and installed by DOT. It is good to get those requests in one by one directly from the schools to DOT, so DOT knows exactly who they need to follow up with when they process them. I would recommend having folks submit those requests individually with their contact info, keeping the tracking numbers, then we could follow up with DOT on next steps.

I am actually wondering if it would helpful to have someone from DOT and/or LAUSD to come discuss the steps for each of these requests with the Education committee to brief everyone on how to get these requests through (for example, I advised New Middle School Pathway that as far as I knew the City only provided crossing guards to elementary schools) at some point?

In the meantime, however, all requests first go through the MyLADOT.lacity.org system to start.

Discussion is needed about how to best serve the traffic safety concerns of our local school communities.

- Committee Discussion on Action Item 2
- Potential Plans of Action
- Motion and Vote to support/modify/deny Action Item 2

**Action Item 3: SoCalGas Educational Grants for STEM Initiatives**

Last month, the Public Affairs Manager of SoCalGas, Mike Harriel, attended the NCWP Education Committee because resources had been identified by SoCalGas to invest in the local Westchester/Playa schools. A modest amount is available this year, with a larger amount to be allocated next year. Initial discussions resulted in targeting STEM-focused middle and high schools in Westchester/Playa as the primary focus this first year, with smaller (“micro-grants”) to other local schools. Mr. Harriel received grant applications from several Westchester/Playa schools following their attendance at our September meeting and at the LAX Coastal Chamber Education Committee meeting.

In order to facilitate the smaller grant awards, the NCWP Education Committee was encouraged to develop a mechanism to solicit and encourage “micro-“grant applications from schools located in Westchester, Playa del Rey, and Playa Vista. A version of the SoCalGas Education STEM ‘Micro-Grant’ Application has been drafted. See the attachment for discussion purposes.

- Committee Discussion on Action Item 3
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- Potential Plans of Action
- Motion and Vote to support/modify/deny Action Item 3

Action Item 4: Community Outreach and Announcements

a. LMU: Government and Community Relations
b. Otis College of Art and Design
c. LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce – Education Committee
d. Local Schools and Groups

4th Annual Neighborhood School Expo hosted by the LAX Coastal Chamber and Education Foundation. Come learn about local schools in an evening of education and fun! Meet and greet with community resources, pizza, face painting, and more on October 24, 4:30-7pm, Westchester Family YMCA Annex. Admission is free.

Open Charter School Fall Festival 2017 – Haunted house, ghoulish grub, and chilling challenges on Saturday, October 26, 11am-4pm, 5540 W 77th Street, Westchester; Free admission; purchase reduced-price games and food both tickets: www.OpenCharter.org/events/fall_festival

Playa del Rey Natural Gas Storage Facility OPEN HOUSE - Find out how PDR helps meet the region's energy needs, hear from storage operations professionals, and tour the facility. Refreshments will be provided. Saturday, November 4, 10am-1pm, PDR Natural Gas Storage Facility, 8141 Gulana Avenue, Playa del Rey; RSVP: (818) 701-4572 or LPerez2@semprautilities.com

St. Jerome’s Hawaiian-themed Evening – November 4, 6-10pm; contact the school for more info.

City of Los Angeles Survey of the community to help decide where to spend funds (e.g., parks, housing). Survey open until November 22; www.Research.net/r/LosAngelesCityConPlan2017

Run for Education - LAX Chamber Education Foundation and LMU sponsor this 5K/1K Family Run/Walk on March 10 at Loyola Marymount University. Save the date.

- Committee Discussion on Action Item 4
- Motion and Vote to support/modify/deny Action Item 4

Next meeting – November 15, 2017 at 6:30pm in the Westchester Municipal Building Community Room. The final meeting for 2017 is December 20th.

Motion to Adjourn (Target: 8:00pm).
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