Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa Education Committee

Meeting Minutes – July 22, 2015

Westchester Municipal Building Community Rm, 7166 W. Manchester Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Members Present: Michele Cooley-Strickland (Chair), Grace Yao (Co-Chair), Andrew Kamm, Denny Schneider, Matthew Tecle, and Bryan Williams; Member Absent: John David Webster

The meeting was called to order by Michele Cooley-Strickland at 6:35pm.

The Committee unanimously approved the Minutes from the March 25 and May 27, 2015 meetings.

Guests attending today’s meeting included:

Frank Noyes (Lawndale School Principal, Retired and Westchester resident), Diane Kaiser (Westchester resident), Brett Roberts (Metro Construction Relations Officer), and Gwen Vuchsas (LAX Chamber of Commerce Education Committee Co-Chair).

Announcements from Local Education Group and City Representatives were made, including:

a. Loyola Marymount University:
   i. LMU Family of Schools - Bryan Williams announced that July 31st from 8am-2:45pm - Better Together: California Teachers Summit (at the Pasadena Conference Center); free to all California PreK-12 teachers and administrators. For more information: www.CATeachersSummit.com
   ii. LMU Community Relations – Grace Yao announced that on November 7, 2015 LMU and LAWA will co-host a free community event, “Day of Discovery: Aviation & Aerospace Expo.” For more information: http://www.lawa.org/dayofdiscovery/

b. Otis College of Art and Design – Matt Tecle announced:
   i. July 23, 2015 from 5:30-7:30pm – LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce “Networking @ Night – Otis College” (Room 102).
      http://business.laxcoastal.com/events/details/networking-night-otis-college-1088
   ii. July 31, 2015 from 2-4pm - Otis College Summer of Art – Student’s Final Exhibition
   iii. New president of Otis College of Art and Design, Bruce Ferguson, is interested in meeting the NCWP Board and learning about opportunities for furthering community relations. The Committee will recommend that an invitation is extended to President Ferguson by the NCWP President.

c. LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce’s Education Committee – Gwen Vuchsas stated that monthly meetings of their Education Committee will resume in September and invited Michele Cooley-Strickland to meet with their Committee to discuss the 2nd Annual Neighborhood School Expo.

d. Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority – Brett Roberts (Metro Construction Relations Officer) announced that the Metro is sponsoring the Metro Naming and Illustration Contest for the new Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) for students from...
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Kindergarten through 12th Grade. The TBM will be used to dig the twin tunnels for the Crenshaw/LAX Line. There will be a ceremony and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes in both the naming and illustration categories. Deadline to enter is September 1, 2015. For details, see http://www.metro.net/projects/tunnel-boring-machine-tbm/

2. **Public Comment** on a non-agenda item was given by Diane Kaiser, a Westchester resident and retired teacher, who reported that she and her neighbors have had problems with Westport Heights Elementary School (6011 W 79th St, Los Angeles, CA 90045) because of excessive trash on the school property that spreads to the surrounding homes. She has communicated directly with the school principal who reportedly allowed Ms. Kaiser to communicate with the school population. The Committee made several recommendations to Ms. Kaiser to help improve school/community relations and invited Ms. Kaiser to return to the August 26, 2015 NCWP Education Committee meeting to provide an update.

**Action Item One:** Updates and Discussion on Westchester Secondary Charter School:

An update was given regarding the Westchester Secondary Charter School’s (WSCS) ongoing re-location issue. Although LAUSD had reportedly allocated WSCS classrooms at Crenshaw High School (over 7 miles away from its current 8820 Sepulveda Eastway, Los Angeles, CA 90045 site), a potential new site within Westchester has been identified. The Committee discussed ways it could continue to support the community’s request for assistance in engaging local representatives and stakeholders to maintain WSCS within the Westchester community. It was concluded that more information is needed, including hearing from Westchester residents who live near the proposed school site.

**Action Item Two:** Co-Host Local Education Summit

Discussion was held regarding the NCWP potentially Co-Hosting a Local Education Summit for parents and local stakeholders to have Q&A with their local education leaders to engage their support for strengthening our local publicly-funded schools. Although this issue has been discussed since January 2015, a final conclusion of the type of event to recommend to the NCWP Board was not identified because time ran out. The Committee unanimously agreed that a local education event is warranted, but more discussion is needed.

The next regularly scheduled NCWP Education Committee meeting is **Wednesday, August 26, 2015**, although a special meeting may be held sooner because today’s Action Items required more discussion and are time-sensitive.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.