Neighborhood Advisory Committee Minutes
May 24, 2016 Meeting

The Neighborhood Advisory Committee met on May 24, 2016, in Argyros Forum 209B.

PARTICIPANTS:

Committee Members
William Crouch
Jeff Frankel
Robert Hitchcock
Dan Jensen
Teri Lepe
Pete Maddox
David Nichols
Sandy Quinn
Judy Schroeder
Mayor Teresa Smith
Tim Virus

Staff and Administration
Dawn Bonker; Recording Secretary
Alisa Driscoll
Kris Olsen
Jerry Price
Jack Raubolt
Daniele Struppa

Guests
Jason Gavin, KTGY
Craig Lee, Chapman University, in Chief Burba’s absence
Sara Lozano, Dudek
Leslie Roseberry, City of Orange
Ken Ryan, KTGY
Thom Ryan, Dudek

ABSENT:

Committee Members
Brian Lochrie
Dennis McCuistion

Staff and Administration
Randy Burba
Harold Hewitt
CALL TO ORDER

Chancellor Struppa called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

DISCUSSIONS

Introduction of New Members

Jack Raubolt welcomed Captain Dave Nichols from the City of Orange Police Department, who will be attending the meetings and representing the Orange PD on discussions related to public safety. Mr. Raubolt also noted that Kris Olsen, Vice President of Campus Planning and Operations, Jerry Price, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Randy Burba, Public Safety Chief, had previously attended as special committee guests but will now be regular attendees so that they can be available to the committee during all of its discussions.

“Undie Run” Discussion

Chancellor Struppa led a discussion recapping the most recent undie run and exploring ideas for mitigating the event.

Judy Schroeder said that she researched similar runs in college communities across the country to see how they were controlled elsewhere and was convinced that such events are hard to eliminate. She asked if insurance was purchased to cover the undie run and whether the revelers could be corralled to prevent them from wandering into the neighborhoods. She shared that her daughter’s friend lives seven blocks from campus and was awakened by an apparently drunken runner pounding on her door, mistakenly believing he was at his own home.

Jeff Frankel also asked if it was possible to contain the runners on campus. He said he, too, was awakened at 1 a.m. by intoxicated runners walking home and talking loudly. He said he thought the crowds had grown more disruptive and asked why more student code of conduct violations hadn’t been filed.

Chancellor Struppa said that when students are off campus, the University has no jurisdiction and must rely on police reports or complaints issued against specifically-named students to initiate a University investigation into a code of conduct violation.

Mr. Frankel said it was his understanding that the University supported the event by helping offset the city’s related public safety expenses.

Chancellor Struppa said the University provides that support because it understands that the undie run impacts city staffing, but that it in no way supports the event, which is not sponsored by the University or any student group, but occurs out of an unofficial tradition.
Mr. Frankel asked if it was up to the city to shut down the undie run. Chancellor Struppa said he would be willing to explore options with the city, similar to the ordinance that was created to address party houses, as the University has no jurisdiction off campus.

Captain Craig Lee added that University Public Safety officers can’t detain students or other undie run participants from venturing into the community.

Ms. Schroeder added that her daughter’s friend made two calls to police to report the disturbance. She said she was concerned that the police were overloaded with calls. She expressed concern that one day one of these encounters might end in violence.

Mr. Sandy Quinn suggested assigning a small group with the task of creating a list of specific solution-oriented actions that could be taken before the next undie run. He urged that student government representatives be included.

Dan Jensen endorsed the idea, adding that the event is not unique to Chapman and that other schools must also be looking for solutions. He said the spillover of revelers from undie run was not so different from what happens during the Labor Day weekend International Street Fair.

Captain Nichols pointed out that Orange Police have officers on duty within the Street Fair. In the case of the run, he said city officers’ main focus is on protecting property, maintaining traffic safety and community welfare. He apologized if anyone had to call twice for a situation involving a belligerent person at their front door and echoed the concerns that someday such an altercation could end tragically.

Mr. Frankel suggested that the solution might be to conduct the run on campus.

Chancellor Struppa said he and the University officially discourage participation in the runs, but added that the University is not a policing organization. It does, however, pursue conduct code violations when it has specific names of students, he said.

Mr. Hitchcock asked if the runs could be more orderly if operated by permit, similarly to parades on public streets.

Captain Lee said the run alone isn’t the problem, but the fact that the runners arrive on and leave campus intoxicated. If it’s on campus, they’d still leave by way of the neighborhoods, he said.

Mr. Frankel said he had seen a video of the run that showed city police officers forming a protective sweep.

Captain Nichols said the technique worked well to funnel runners back onto campus and to bring the run to a conclusion in about 15 or 20 minutes.

Dean Price said he and his staff are on campus where the run starts in an effort to reduce potential problems and to discourage students from gathering in the neighborhood areas. He
acknowledged that they risked appearing to endorse the event by their presence, but that they did so only in the interest of trying to avert even more problems.

Chancellor Struppa suggested looking at how other colleges and universities have responded to similar events. He said he would support the idea of a small group focusing on specific solutions.

Ms. Schroeder noted that Chapman’s Chief of Public Safety Randy Burba had connections with campus chiefs across the country and could also contact his colleagues about their experiences with undie runs.

Mr. Raubolt said he had made similar inquiries through an international town and gown organization and had discovered that responses to such events varied widely, including some that endorsed them and helped run a campus party afterward.

Chancellor Struppa said sanctioning the undie runs as a means of bringing them under the University’s authority might be an option to consider.

Mr. Frankel asked if there was a high incidence of sexual assaults reported during undie runs.

Captain Lee said there was not. Dean Price said he has heard of sexual assaults that have occurred, typically perpetrated by non-students who come to the runs from outside the campus community.

Mr. Frankel suggested that if it were sanctioned, the University could zero in on some of the main problems related to the runs.

Mr. Raubolt said he would form a task group soon and report back.

Orange High School FFA Vandalism Update

Mr. Hitchcock asked for an update on the disappearance of a turkey belonging to the FFA program at Orange High School and the two Chapman students arrested in connection with the incident.

Dean Price said the police investigation was continuing. The University investigation and disciplinary process is not public, pursuant to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Mr. Quinn said the community was aware that the students had been suspended from the lacrosse team but had been reinstated. He said the community was aggravated by the decision and felt it was not getting enough information about why they were reinstated to the team.

Dean Price said the suspension and reinstatement was the coach’s decision and added that the students had been charged, but not convicted. In all such cases, the University cannot invoke consequences on students until legal processes are complete, he said.
Mr. Quinn asked Captain Nichols if police officers undergoing investigation weren’t taken off duty while legal proceedings were underway. Captain Nichols said such action was not automatic, but was typical in most such cases.

Mr. Quinn said the University had damaged its reputation by allowing the student athletes back onto the team.

Dean Price said to do otherwise would have been atypical of how it responds to such situations, which is to await the outcome of legal proceedings. He underscored that the University was not influenced by the timing of championship games, but was adhering to a policy that must be consistently applied.

Chancellor Struppa said the University was also eager to receive the legal decision.

Ms. Schroeder acknowledged that the investigation was in a holding pattern, but added that updates needed to be widely shared in the community to avoid having rumor and misinformation from taking hold.

Student Housing Update

Mr. Hitchcock asked for an update on student housing plans and the University’s intent to bid on property near Panther Village.

Mr. Olsen said the first draft of the EIR for the planned housing at the Villa Park Orchards site had been submitted to the city for review. Conceptual designs for the new residence halls on the north side of campus are being created, he said.

Mayor Teresa Smith explained that the parcel near Panther Village was in the midst of being transferred from state ownership to City of Orange ownership. The city is aware of Chapman’s interest in bidding on it as a potential site for expanded student housing, she said, but the city is obligated to meet several regulations outlining the complex transfer before it can plan for its potential sale.

Review of EIR Mitigations

Mr. Raubolt introduced Ken Ryan, Planning Principal with KTGY, who along with his colleagues had been invited to the meeting to review the mitigation measures written into the Environmental Impact Report prepared for the University’s 2004 Specific Plan. Mr. Ryan, along with Thom Ryan, Senior Project Manager with Dudek, presented a PowerPoint slide show summarizing how significant impacts of development are determined and associated mitigations established.

They reviewed the Chapman Specific Plan EIR mitigations related to the following: Historical Resources, Land Use, Visual Impacts, Noise and Population and Housing. Due to a shortage of time, the remainder of their report covering Transportation and a comprehensive evaluation of how well the mitigations had been applied or fulfilled was deferred to the next meeting.
The PowerPoint slides may be viewed here.

Planning for the Next Meeting and Adjournment

The committee agreed on the following meeting dates for summer: June 15, July 6, July 27, Aug. 17 and Sept. 8.

Please send requested agenda items to Jack Raubolt one week prior to each meeting at raubolt@chapman.edu.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.