

Neighborhood Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

The Neighborhood Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members:

Aaron Schulze
Captain Scott Trausch
Cintya Felix
Dan Jensen
Mayor Dan Slater
Pattie Cordova
Paul Guzman

Absent:

Rob Boice
Brian Lochrie
Sandy Quinn
Laura Thomas

Guests:

Diana Zdenek

Administration and Staff

Brian Thomason
Alisa Driscoll, Chair
Mandy Moncure, Recording Secretary
Chief Rick Gonzalez
Collette Creppell
Dean Jerry Price

Call to Order

Alisa Driscoll called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting started with introductions for new members: Brian Thomason, Interim Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and Mandy Moncure, the new Community Relations Manager.

City Updates

Mr. Schulze discussed that the City has engaged Grant Thornton CPAs to create a financial management plan. The plan's recommendations included maintaining cost-saving measures, such as keeping certain positions vacant; renewing the City's focus on economic development, with particular emphasis on partnerships with Chapman

University; and considering a 1% sales tax to ensure stable finances. He also shared that the City has launched its vision for long-term development in the West Katella area, known as “Orange Yards,” and noted that Chapman University provided input on potential partnerships and branding for the project.

Mayor Slater built upon Mr. Schulze’s comments regarding the Grant Thornton report, noting that City leadership is interested in strengthening the relationship with Chapman University. He stated that the City is ready to foster a stronger partnership with Chapman than in the past, emphasizing a desire to be a partner rather than an adversary. Mayor Slater expressed optimism about moving away from past practices that have not always been beneficial and highlighted Councilmember Jon Dumitru’s recommendation for appointing a City Council liaison committee to work more closely with the university.

He also announced that a new city manager has been hired and shared his enthusiasm about the hire, noting that the individual grew up in Orange, has an impressive background, and has received positive reviews from previous cities he has managed.

Finally, he reported that a new park near Lemon and East Maple is nearing completion. The site, which also contains a water well supplying part of the City’s groundwater, will serve as a neighborhood-focused gathering space. While an official opening date has not yet been announced, Mayor Slater noted it is expected soon and will be a welcome addition to the community and a potential gathering place for students.

Mr. Guzman commented that many long-time community members feel they lack understanding about developments involving the City and Chapman University. He noted that some residents feel they have been pushed out over time and emphasized the importance of better communication and engagement from both the City and Chapman to ensure these community members feel informed, valued, and included.

Mayor Slater commented that everyone is welcome to remain in the community as long as they wish, but for those who choose to sell, there may be buyers willing to pay fair market value. He acknowledged that communication between the City, the university, and residents can always be improved.

Ms. Driscoll added that the university’s community engagement strategy for the Specific Plan includes outreach to many neighbors in the Cypress Street Barrio area and expressed interest in finding ways to connect with additional residents.

Ms. Driscoll also thanked Mayor Slater and Mr. Schulze for their kind words about partnership, stating that Chapman is excited about the positive momentum at City Council and looks forward to increased collaboration and joint efforts moving forward.

Disturbance Call Summary

Captain Trausch reported that his team recently met with members of the Chapman University football program to discuss being good neighbors and the responsibilities associated with hosting gatherings. The conversation covered potential fines, penalties, and other consequences of disturbance calls, as well as ways to prevent issues in the first place.

He shared that traffic officers will assist with student move-in as usual and that two dedicated “party cars” will patrol during each of the first two weekends of the semester, from 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., specifically to respond to large parties involving Chapman students. The goal of these efforts is to send a clear message at the start of the semester about community expectations, encourage respectful behavior, and ensure students understand the consequences of noncompliance.

Chapman Updates

Student Affairs Updates

Dean Price reported that approximately 160 orientation leaders had arrived on campus to begin training. On Thursday, the university would welcome about 120 students participating in its summer bridge program for first-generation students. Additional early-arrival programs were also taking place, including a wellness-focused retreat with about 40 participants and a one-day boot camp for incoming freshmen on the autism spectrum, which allows them to move in early and become familiar with the campus before the larger move-in rush. International students, approximately 100 in total, were also scheduled to move in early to accommodate varying travel timelines.

Move-in day for approximately 1,400 new undergraduate students is set for August 19, with graduate student orientation occurring the week prior. Dean Price noted that move-in brings about 4,000 people, including parents, to campus over the first few days. While parents are encouraged to leave by Thursday, many stay longer, which benefits local businesses. Classes for the fall semester will begin on August 25.

Ms. Driscoll also discussed ongoing efforts to connect students with the surrounding community. This includes sharing information about local businesses and resources through social media, with the goal of encouraging students to spend money in Orange and become engaged community members. He added that the university is working with the City to share the “Experience Orange” program with students during move-in.

Mr. Guzman commented that in past years there were students who were not familiar with the customs and culture surrounding the university and the local community. He recalled speaking with students from various countries who were learning about the area for the first time, noting that the community has a distinct culture that may not be immediately understood by newcomers. He shared that, historically, the neighborhood demographics were very different and that exposure to diverse cultures often came later in life for some residents. Mr. Guzman reflected on the value of introducing international and out-of-state

students to the history, neighborhoods, and cultural offerings of Orange, suggesting that this type of engagement could be beneficial today.

Dean Price responded that he remembered the early-arrival leadership program being referenced, in which students were taken into the neighborhood and educated about areas such as the barrio and Old Towne. He explained that while this program had evolved into other initiatives over the years, the idea was worth reconsidering, and he would speak with staff about the potential to bring it back.

Public Safety

Chief Gonzalez reported that Chapman University's Rinker Health Science Campus recently hosted its largest active shooter training exercise to date. This full-scale drill brought together law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical agencies from across Orange County to practice a coordinated response to a simulated emergency. The exercise involved Chapman's Public Safety team, the fire life and safety department, officers and firefighters from the Anaheim, Irvine, Orange, and Tustin police departments, the Orange County Sheriff's Department, and the Orange County Fire Authority. Chief Gonzalez highlighted the significance of this being the first multi-agency exercise at the Rinker Campus, noting the importance of outside agencies becoming familiar with the campus layout in advance of any potential emergency.

Campus Planning

Ms. Creppell reported that the Killefer School adaptive reuse project is now finished and in use for research. She explained that the Killefer School name will remain, while the new building will be called the Experimental Lab Building. Collectively, the geographic parcel will be named the Daniele C. Struppa Research Park in honor of President Struppa's service to the university.

In addition to these updates, Ms. Creppell invited participants interested in viewing the completed project to join her for a tour of the new space following the meeting.

Community Relations

Ms. Moncure reported on several initiatives underway to engage students living in the surrounding community. She shared that proactive liaison visits will begin this week, with a focus on homes that have historically generated disturbance calls. These visits will provide an opportunity for her to introduce herself as the new Community Relations Manager and to educate students on being good neighbors, including reminders about parking, trash collection, quiet hours, and the potential consequences from the City and the university. She explained that these visits will also serve as a resource for students, encouraging them to look out for their neighbors by doing small acts of courtesy such as helping with groceries, hiding delivered packages, or bringing in trash cans. The goal is to help students

understand community expectations while also giving them the tools to build positive relationships with long-term residents.

In addition, Ms. Moncure announced a new outreach initiative designed to reach a wider number of off-campus students: an ice cream social featuring a mobile ice cream truck. The event, scheduled for August 19 and 20, will take place in four high-density student neighborhoods. Students will receive free ice cream along with living off-campus guides, community resources, and giveaway items. She emphasized that the effort is intended to create a positive, accessible space for students to learn about community standards while meeting their peers and connecting with university staff.

Finally, Ms. Moncure noted that her team is working with the City of Orange and Orange PD to ensure consistent enforcement of disturbance call responses and that plans are underway to produce a welcome video for the start of the academic year. The video will highlight important community guidelines while keeping the tone light and engaging for students.

Dean Price emphasized the importance of reminding students that it does not take a large or unruly gathering to be disruptive to neighbors. He reiterated that the City's 10:00 p.m. quiet time ordinance must be respected and that students need to adapt to the community's standards.

Ms. Moncure noted that this message has also been included in the Athletics Compliance Meetings to ensure student-athletes understand and reinforce these expectations among their peers. She added that it will also be communicated during liaison visits to off-campus student residences, as part of broader education efforts to promote good neighbor practices.

Mayor Slater also spoke about creating a welcome video for Chapman students. Ms. Driscoll confirmed that something was already in the works.

Ms. Driscoll also commented that she and her team recently met with Lt. McMullin to discuss opportunities for collaboration with Orange PD and the City on social media initiatives. She explained that the goal is to show that the City and Chapman are aligned in messaging to students and the broader community.

Ms. Driscoll noted that work on the Specific Plan has been placed on pause temporarily to allow the incoming president, Matt Parlow, time to get up to speed and fully assess how the process should move forward. She explained that the City has already been informed of this decision but wanted to ensure that committee members were also aware.

Adjournment

Ms. Driscoll adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.