
FRIENDS

OF SUNSET PARK

A California nonprofit corporation of Sunset Park residents • 1122 Oak Street, Santa Monica, California 90405 • (310) 358-7117

MAY 2001 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs



Friends of Sunset Park

Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 9, 2001, 3:00–5:00 PM

“Come and Meet Your Neighbors!”

“Let’s Talk!”

**Musical Entertainment by the Madrigal Singers from
John Adams Middle School – 3:00 PM**

– The Airport –

Jet operations up 30% last year, noise violations up 20% (540 last year). How can we persuade the City Council to pass the Noise Ordinance Recommendations?

– The College –

There’s lots happening at SMC. Come and share your opinions.

– The Light Rail System –

What is being proposed for the Exposition right-of way?

How will it affect our neighborhood?

– Monster “Mini-Mansions” –

North of Montana and Ocean Park have restrictions on development.

Sunset Park doesn’t. What do we want for our neighborhood?

– The Civic Center –

Update on what has been discussed so far by the Civic Center Working Group.

– Parking/Traffic/Crosswalks –

Are enough FOSP members concerned about this topic to re-form an active committee?

PLUS

Election of the Board of Directors

Displays, including Police Dept, Fire Dept, Red Cross,
and a 1934 topographical map of West LA/Santa Monica.

An opportunity to greet old friends and meet new ones (of all ages)

Location

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
1343 Ocean Park Blvd. (NW corner of 14th and Ocean Park)

For more information, phone FRIENDS at 310-358-7117
or check our web site at <http://www.FriendsofSunsetPark.org>

Refreshments will be served

Fall Community Meeting

Mark Your Calendars! In response to the frequent mention of planning and traffic issues, and members who have volunteered for a crime and safety committee, Friends will be holding a Community Meeting to help reactivate these committees. It will be similar to our group committee meeting last year for our College and Airport Committees. We plan to have short presentations at the beginning by the Santa Monica Planning and Police Departments. We hope you will join us.

TIME: Wednesday, September 19, 2001 7:00–9:00 PM.

PLACE: Community Room, Fairview Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. (Northeast corner of 21st Street and Ocean Park Blvd.)

Stay Informed through www.friendsofsunsetpark.org

Stay informed—visit the new “Bulletin Board” page to sign up for our custom e-mail notification service. Simply indicate your interest in any or all of the following categories: Cell Phone Antennas; Development; Historic Preservation; Parking/Traffic/Crosswalks; Santa Monica Airport or Santa Monica College, and we will notify you of upcoming meetings and post any special reports.

The Bulletin Board also features listings of community meetings, workshops, and events of special interest to our neighborhood. To publicize your meeting or event on the Bulletin Board, please e-mail us at friendsofsp@yahoo.com.

You can also now access the newsletter online. It can be found by clicking on the “FOSP Events” page.

We hope you will visit our Web site regularly. It is a great way to stay connected with what’s happening in the community. Be sure to bookmark “www.friendsofsunsetpark.org.”

Friends of Sunset Park Board Members

President — Kathy Knight
Vice President — Emmalie Hodgins
Secretary — Suzanne Shellaby
Treasurer — Jane Dempsey

Directors

Karen Comegys (College Committee)
Zina Josephs (Membership)
Caroline Denyer (Airport Committee)
Cathy Larson (Airport Committee)
Colin Maduzia (Planning Committee)

Civic Center Update

The City of Santa Monica has held three community meetings during May on re-designing the Civic Center. The meetings have focused on: housing; civic, cultural, and child-care uses; and infrastructure, circulation, and parking.

Sunday, July 1, will be “Civic Center Community Planning Day” at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, starting at 11:30 AM. Parking will be free at the Civic Auditorium parking lot. For more information, please contact Santa Monica Deputy Director of Planning and Community Development, Andy Agle, at (310) 458-2275.

Santa Monica’s Future

Friends talked to the Santa Monica Planning Dept. and found out some interesting statistics. Did you know that Santa Monica is the second most dense city in all of Los Angeles County, second only to West Hollywood? (“Density” is number of residents per square mile.) The statistics are: West Hollywood—19,653 residents per square mile; Santa Monica—12,751; and Redondo Beach—10,668. Los Angeles is way down on the list at 8,155 and Culver City is only 8,607. (Source: City of Santa Monica Housing Element, Table C-5)

Santa Monica is considered an already “built-out” city—since we have no further room to grow. The question is how many more residents/commercial development do we add to our acreage? No wonder traffic and over-development have become such major issues in our City! Also, we are apparently being penalized for having done a good job of residential unit production in the past. To deal with the large increase in population in Southern California, the State Housing and Finance Depts. decide how much housing each city must add. Santa Monica was given a big increase because we already had produced a good share of housing in the past. Cities that had done less, such as Culver City, are being given a smaller amount. In fact, according to Jay Trevino of the Santa Monica Planning & Zoning Dept., of the four westside cities in our planning region (Culver City, Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, and Santa Monica) Santa Monica is being given almost half the total housing requirement! The City fought to lower our limit, but we still must produce 2200 units this year.

This information is important because continued growth citywide impacts all of us. Do we really want to overtake West Hollywood and become “Number One” in density? What impact would that have on our quality of life? What do we want our “built-out” City to look like in the future?

These are important questions, and they are good reasons to keep informed on City-wide issues and to keep in touch with your City Council members.

Unwanted Vendors in the Area

Many members have voiced problems with fruit vendors selling on corners in Sunset Park. The Santa Monica Police Department is very aware that residents have a problem and are citing such vendors. The only way to stop such action is to report the vendors each time you see them to the Santa Monica Police Department at their non-emergency number (310) 395-9931.

President's Message

Thank you very much to all of you that renewed your memberships for 2001!

We are greatly heartened to receive your support of FRIENDS and your interest in staying involved in what happens in our wonderful part of Santa Monica. The feedback we received on the renewal forms has been very helpful to give us an idea of what positive improvements you want in the future. Many people want less traffic flowing through our residential streets, especially on 11th, 14th, and 23rd Streets. Other interests are less jet noise from the airport, no graffiti, stopping mini-mansions, bringing in upscale restaurants, keeping Ocean Park Blvd. "funky and uncrowded" so we don't become another Montana Ave., stopping vendors on neighborhood corners, and repairs to sidewalks. Thank you!

We will be addressing many of these issues at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 9th from 3 to 5 PM at Mount Olive Lutheran Church (14th and Ocean Park Blvd). We hope to see you there. Come meet your neighbors and enjoy refreshments.

— Kathy Knight, President

Special Thanks

FRIENDS would like to thank our outgoing Board members, Karen and Jerry Greenwalt, for their long and outstanding service on our Board. Karen and Jerry were founding members of FRIENDS. Jerry served as our Treasurer for many years and Karen was the chair of our membership committee. They both plan to remain active as members and will be serving refreshments at our Annual Meeting. Many thanks to Karen and Jerry!

Santa Monica College Update

by Karen Comegys and Ed Moosbrugger

The Friends of Sunset Park College Committee met with SMC Executive VP Tom Donner to get an update on projects. Following are some of the things that could impact the neighborhood in various ways.

Replacement Parking Structure

SMC hopes to begin construction by the end of June on the replacement for the structure that was torn down after the Northridge Earthquake. A dispute between the Pico Neighborhood and the city over traffic patterns at 17th and Pico could impact the project but, as of mid-May, the judge had not issued an injunction to block construction. FEMA is providing \$1.5 million and SMC is requesting \$5.5 million of Earthquake Recovery funds from the city.

New Liberal Arts Building

SMC plans to build a new Liberal Arts building to replace the existing earthquake damaged building, which would be demolished. The new complex would be located just east of the new parking structure, and be 50,000 square feet *vs.* 36,000 square feet for the existing building. SMC will receive \$3 million (the approximate cost to fix the old building) from FEMA, and will seek \$4 million from the state and \$6 million of earthquake funds from the city (\$10 million from Santa Monica if there are no funds from the state).

Fourteenth and Pico Property

SMC will seek a permit from the city to use this site at the southeast corner of Pico and 14th as an offsite construction storage yard in connection with the library expansion on the main campus. Eventually, SMC plans to build a Literacy Center on the site.

Library Expansion

SMC hopes to begin construction on the library expansion in July.

Swimming Pool

The timing of completion of the swimming pool on campus, which is a Santa Monica City project, is uncertain because of construction delays.

Offsite Plans

SMC is looking to satellite locations to expand, including its Madison site, where it hopes to demolish the auditorium and build a new 500-seat theater which would become part of a performing arts complex. Also, SMC will hold some classes this summer at the University of West Los Angeles near LAX.

Friends Position

Friends of Sunset Park does not believe the city should provide any funding that would allow SMC to grow on its main campus. We support higher education, but there has to be a balance when unlimited college growth negatively impacts the surrounding community.

Santa Monica Airport News

by Cathy Larson and Caroline Denyer

Noise Ordinance Revision Update

The Santa Monica Airport Commission meeting for May 2001 is scheduled on Thursday, May 31st, 7:00 PM at the Ken Edwards Center on 4th Street between Broadway and Colorado. Parking is in the rear of the building. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DAY, TIME, AND LOCATION OF THIS MEETING due to the Memorial Day Holiday.

Noise Ordinance Revision "concepts" will be discussed by the Commission and Staff. A recommendation will then be forwarded to the City Attorney's Office. Drafting of the Noise Ordinance Revision will be done by the City Attorney's Office and presented to the City Council for consideration.

Hopefully, this will be the last Airport Commission Meeting that this item will be discussed. We are looking forward to its FINAL presentation to the City Council. Anyone interested in more information on the Airport Commission Meetings, the agenda is usually posted on their web site three business days prior to the scheduled Meeting at <http://santamonicaairport.org>.

What can you do to help out? You can write your Mayor and City Councilmembers at 1685 Main Street #200, Santa Monica CA, 90241 or call at (310) 458-8201 expressing your complaints or concerns about the airport noise and other airport issues. We also need volunteers to help with phone trees and join our flyer detail for crucial events. When the Noise Ordinance Recommendation comes before the City Council WE NEED EVERYONE TO BE THERE!! If you are not already on our e-mail or regular mailing list, please contact us with your info so we can let you know what's going on: (310)392-1907 or rcbreez@lainet.com.

Congressman Waxman and the FAA

Congressman Waxman's latest response from the FAA about the Santa Monica Airport is posted on the Friends of Sunset Park web site at "<http://www.friendsofsunsetpark.org>." We are lucky to have

the Congressman and his staff working to get the FAA to respond our issues.

LAX Master Plan Expansion

On January 18, 2001, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) issued their Draft Environmental Impact Report for their latest options for the proposed LAX Master Plan. Santa Monica City Councilmember Kevin McKeown requested an extended 180-day public and agency comment period. To view this Environmental Impact Report and other information on the LAX Master Plan, see the LAWA web site at "<http://www.laxmasterplan.org>."

The Santa Monica Airport Staff report in January 2000 states that previous LAX releases have indicated the desire to shift more regional operations to feeder airports. Read: send corporate jets to other local airports, i.e. Santa Monica Airport (SMO). SMO was never intended to accommodate the jet traffic currently utilizing its facilities, let alone absorb more. For LAWA to offer this "solution" to one of their "problems" is really only shoving the problem on to someone else's doorstep. The City of Santa Monica is working in conjunction with other communities surrounding LAX to create a united front and prepare a submission to the LAWA. This submission will express the opinions and concerns of these communities and the impact the proposed expansion options will have on all of us.

Public comment will be received until July 25, 2001. Please submit your comments to LAWA at: LAX Master Plan, P.O. Box 92216, Los Angeles, CA 90009-2216. There are simultaneous Public Hearings scheduled for Saturday, June 9th, 2001 from 12:00-7:00 PM. You can express your opinions in person at any of the following three locations: The Furama Hotel at Lincoln and Manchester, the Pavilion at Hollywood Park, and the Manhattan Beach Marriot. Check the LAWA web site for more details

For question or information about our Airport Committee, please call (310) 392-1907 or rcbreez@lainet.com.

2001 MEMBERSHIP

Name(s) _____

 Address _____
 Zip _____ Phone _____
 Email _____

I will help with:
 Crime & Safety Committee
 Airport Committee
 College Committee
 Planning Committee
 Annual Meeting Committee
 Traffic/Parking Committee
 Historic Preservation Committee

Membership Dues:
 \$25 Regular Household Dues
 \$50 or \$100 for Sponsor
 \$10 Minimum Household Dues

Membership Status (Please check):
 New Renewal

Please make check payable to *Friends of Sunset Park*.

What positive improvements would you like to see happen in Sunset Park? _____

Please forward to 1122 Oak Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405 as soon as possible so that we can continue our efforts.

(Contact our Membership Committee at (310) 358-7117 for senior/fixed income membership dues.)