
FRIENDS

OF SUNSET PARK

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

SPRING 2001 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

Post Prop. MM and Noise Revision Update

Santa Monica Airport

by Caroline Denyer and Cathy Larson

We would like to express our thanks and gratitude for all those people who helped support the Prop. MM campaign by donating funds or volunteer time. We could not have won without you.

As everyone who lives under the flight path knows, things have gotten worse in the last year. At the March 26th Airport Commission Meeting, Airport Staff presented the Year 2000 Noise Report. Number of Noise Violations last year? 540! Up 20% from the previous year. Jet operations have increased 30% over 1999. The communities under the Flight Path are bearing the weight of these statistics.

Now, you are probably asking yourself, "What has happened since the election?" Airport Staff has projected their recommendation regarding the Airport Noise Revision will not reach the City Council until June, 2001. The last two Airport Commission Meetings have included public input sessions and a presentation by a consultant of a comparative analysis of other airports that have Noise Limits and Noise Enforcement Ordinances. There are only 12 airports in the Nation that fall into this category. Santa Monica is one of them. Fines run the gamut up to \$3000. Which airport has the most violations of their respective Noise Ordinance? Santa Monica. Which Airport has residences closest to the Airport Runway? Santa Monica.

What can you do to help out? You can write or e-mail your City Council Members and City Manager expressing your complaints or concerns about the Airport Noise, Airport Staff and/or other Airport issues. Click on "Citysites" on our website for www.friendsofsunsetpark.org.

We also need volunteers to help with phone tree and 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 denyerla@aol.com

OPCO Launches Airport Committee

Ocean Park Community Organization has scheduled their inaugural airport committee meeting on Thursday May 3rd, at 7:00 PM. It will be held at the Legal Grind, 2640 Lincoln Blvd. Friends of Sunset Park Airport Committee will be making a presentation there. We encourage everyone interested in Airport issues to attend for the latest update on the Santa Monica Airport.

President's Column

Here we are in 2001 already—and it seems like just yesterday we were all looking forward to the year 2000! We are very excited about our very active committees. We are looking forward to re-activating our "Crime and Safety Committee" this year. If you want to join one of our standing committees, please call or email us to let us know.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 9, 2001, from 3 to 5 PM at Mr. Olive Lutheran Church. This year our Annual Meeting will be oriented towards neighborhood issues. We hope that the many new residents to our neighborhood come to the Annual Meeting and join Friends of Sunset Park (membership form on the back of this newsletter). Current members can also use the form to renew their membership.

So please mark Saturday, June 9th on your calendar now to meet your neighbors in Sunset Park! Stop by our booth at the Santa Monica Festival, Clover Park, 26th and Ocean Park Blvd., on Saturday, April 28th.

— Kathy Knight, President

Stay Informed Through www.friendsofsunsetpark.org

We're really excited about the changes to our Web site at 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 updated 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'll visit our Web site regularly. It's a great way to stay connected with what's happening in the community. Be sure to bookmark www.friendsofsunsetpark.org—you'll be glad you did!

Seventh Annual Blood Drive Held

by Jane Dempsey

Continuing what has become an annual tradition, Friends of Sunset Park held our 7th Annual Blood Drive to coincide with the January 17, 2001, anniversary of the Northridge Earthquake. Since 1995, Friends of Sunset Park members have held the blood drive to thank the Santa Monica Police and Fire Departments, and the Santa Monica Red Cross for their help during the aftermath of the earthquake.

True to form, this was truly a neighborhood event! Mount Olive Lutheran Church provided the wonderful site for the drive. Our newly remodeled Albertsons supplied wonderful "goodie bags" for all blood donors to take home.

Santa Monica Mayor Michael Feinstein, Santa

Monica Mayor Pro Tempore Richard Bloom, Santa Monica City Councilman Kevin McKeown, Santa Monica Fire Chief Ettore Bernardinelli, Santa Monica Police Sgt. Gary Galliot, and Santa Monica Red Cross Coordinator Judy Horn accepted commemorative plaques from Friends of Sunset Park during a brief ceremony.

Santa Monica Mayor Michael Feinstein rolled up his sleeve and became a first time blood donor. Annual donor and Mayor Pro Tempore Richard Bloom showed Mayor Feinstein the ropes. To see the photos of the blood drive and follow the process for donating blood, click on our web site at www.friendsofsunsetpark.org and go to FOSP Events.



New Development Coming to Our City

by Tom Cleys

Virginia Park

The long awaited expansion of Virginia Park located near the intersection of Cloverfield and Pico Blvd. is slowly moving towards reality. A timeline for the development of the park presented at a recent meeting of the Virginia Ave. Park Advisory Board shows a targeted approval for the project by the City Council in August this year with construction projected to begin in roughly 18 months. The approval process includes the Recreation and Parks Department, the Public Art Committee and Arts Commission, the Planning Commission, the Architectural Review Board and continued involvement of the Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board before the project will go to the City Council. Once the Council approves the project, construction plans will be developed, and bids obtained and reviewed before a contract can be awarded.

Although the process has been long and arduous, it appears that the park expansion is well thought out and will effectively serve the community particularly the needs of the children and teenagers of the Pico neighborhood. Features of the planned project include a large green with running/walking track, accommodation for the Saturday Farmer's Market, a swimming pool, and more buildings to house expanded children and teen programs including two additional buildings acquired by the City near Pico and 21st Streets.

Anyone interested in the project, should contact staff at the Thelma Terry Center at the park or the Recreation and Parks Department.

The RAND Land

The City some time ago purchased more than ten acres of land from the Rand Corporation at what is its current campus just

west of City Hall. Our City acquired this property for over \$50 million which calculates out to over \$100 per square foot of land. The City is starting the process to determine what to do with the property. One clear use of the land expressed by many council members when the purchase was approved was for affordable housing.

The development of the property will first require a revised specific plan for the civic center area in which the property is located. We understand that this is being "fast tracked" and is being targeted to be completed by November this year. Council Members Bloom, McKeown, and Genser, as well as City Housing, Planning, and Recreation and Parks departments will lead this first phase. A consultant with extensive experience in design, housing, and planning is expected to be hired to do much of the "heavy lifting." The meetings of this working group are expected to be open to the public as are community workshops specifically geared towards obtaining community input.

Part of the property purchase agreement included Rand's development of a new headquarters located close to the Pacific Shore Hotel. The design of this new single building has now been approved by City council, but is not expected to be ready for occupancy until 2004. At that time the existing Rand buildings are to be demolished and the site turned over to the City. We understand that the City is moving quickly to approve a revised specific plan for the Civic Center now to enable it to get started in the development of affordable housing on at least a part of the site that might become available before 2004.

We encourage you to become involved in the process to ensure what is developed

there is what you want as a citizen of Santa Monica. The choice property offers our community the opportunity to create what could become the 'crown jewel' of our recreation and park spaces considering its location close to downtown, part of the civic center, near the ocean and our visitor district. Any one interested in being on a mailing list for the project should contact Andy Agle in the Planning and Community Development office at the City, phone 458-2275.

Monster Mansions

The North of Montana community, in response to very large and imposing new homes being developed in their community i.e. monster mansions, worked with the City to impose new restrictions for development in their neighborhood.

These restrictions generally limit the lot coverage and size of second stories, and encourage variation in the facades of the homes. These changes help eliminate the massive appearance that many of the new homes had that were being developed in that community. These restrictions were needed in the North of Montana community because it is one of two nearly exclusively single-family communities in our City. It had become very popular with residents and developers for building new homes or construction of very large additions to existing homes. The other single-family community is none other than Sunset Park and there are no similar limits on development in our community.

We are looking for input from our members. Please go to our web site www.friendsofsunsetpark.org, click on our "Bulletin Board" and answer our question on this subject: Do you think our community needs to act preemptively to preclude monster "mini-mansions" in Sunset Park?

Santa Monica Airport Park

By Betty Tomeo

Three preliminary conceptual designs for the Santa Monica Airport Park were presented at a public workshop Sunday afternoon, April 1 at the Ken Edwards Center.

The park will encompass approximately 8½ acres on the north side of Airport Avenue west of Bundy. The park will include two soccer playing fields covering about three acres, an off-lease dog park of about one acre, picnic and playground areas, a restroom,

parking area, a walking-jogging path along an improved tree-lined Airport Avenue to 23rd and Walgrove.

Attendees marked which plan they preferred. The architect, Calvin Abe, and City Staff will review the comments and choose one of the alternative schemes. Another meeting is scheduled for June to present the preferred plan. The EIR is being prepared now and construction is planned to start in 2003-2004.

2001 MEMBERSHIP

Name(s) _____

I will help with:

Membership Dues:

- Crime & Safety Committee
- Airport Committee
- College Committee
- Planning/Traffic Committee
- Annual Meeting Committee
- Other _____

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

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Membership Status (Please check):
 New Renewal

Email _____

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.)