
FRIENDS

OF SUNSET PARK

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

SPRING 2002 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs



Friends of Sunset Park

2002 Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 8 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Post 9/11 — Preparedness in Time of Emergency

— Guest Speakers —

Bob Trimborn, General Manager of Santa Monica Airport
Capt. Lee McNett of the Santa Monica Fire Department
Mike Cveyich of the Santa Monica Police Department

— Musical Entertainment and Art Display —

provided by the John Adams Middle School
Madrigal Singers and Art Department

— Reports —

Airport, College, and Historic Preservation Committees
Question and Answer Session

— Plus —

Election of Board Members
Our Plans for the Fall
Community Tables
A Chance to Meet Your Neighbors

— Refreshments Will Be Served —

— Location —

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall
1343 Ocean Park Blvd.
(Parking lot entrance on 14th Street)

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

Stay informed through www.friendsofsunsetpark.org

News from the Airport Committee

By Cathy Larson and Caroline Denyer,
Co-Chairs, FOSP Airport Committee

Airport Commission Votes for Safety: Safety Zone and Aircraft Size Limits Proposed

Mr. Steve Benson, Senior Aviation Planner with Coffman Associates, presented a report recommending a BII designation for the Santa Monica Municipal Airport, which was approved by the Airport Commission at its May 20, 2002 Meeting. The report provided an overview of a design standards analysis of the SM Airport covering the change in the aircraft fleet using the Airport and the demands those aircraft place on the operational limitations of the Airport. There has been a change in the last decade of the mix of aircraft using the Airport, from mainly smaller propeller planes to an increased frequency of larger and faster jets. These changes have created operational demands on both the Airport and the surrounding residential communities.

The BII designation for the Airport would include creating a “runway safety area” which means that the physical runway would remain the same, however the distance available for calculating takeoff and landing would be shortened. If eventually approved by the Santa Monica City Council, Aircraft Operations at SM Airport would be consistent with the BII designation of the FAA Airport reference code. This recommendation would mean certain types of larger aircraft would be unable to fly into SM Airport.

We are pleased at this recommendation by the Airport Commission. We have been working towards having a safety zone at the SM Airport for a long time, so we are heartened

From the President

You never know when you might be of service to your neighbors. I went for a walk here in Sunset Park one evening this spring, hurrying to get my exercise in for the day before I went to a meeting. I turned up a street I rarely walk on. Halfway down the block, I smelled gas. In my rush, I considered walking on, assuming someone else would notice it. But then pictures of an explosion came into my head, so I knocked on the door of the home where the gas smell was. No one was home, so I alerted several neighbors and made a phone call from the house next door to the gas company to come out as soon as possible. I made sure the neighbor knew where the gas odor was coming from, and then I went to my meeting. Later that night, I got a grateful call from the homeowner. Apparently it was a major gas leak, and the gas company had come out and fixed it.

This is what I like about Sunset Park—all the experiences of neighbors helping each other. Our Annual Meeting topic came from wanting to know how to help take care of each other here in Sunset Park, if there were a community emergency. We hope you can join our discussion about this important topic on June 8th. After all, you never know when you might be of service to your neighbors!

— Kathy Knight, President

by this positive step forward in the process. If certain aircraft are unable to use the SM Airport, our neighborhoods will feel a definite benefit, and we will all rest easier knowing a safety zone is in place.

Executive Jet Re-Applies For Commercial Operations Permit

The Airport Commission considered Executive Jet’s application for a commercial operations permit at its April meeting. Commissioners voted to support the Staff recommended denial on the grounds that any “air carrier service” must first conduct an environmental assessment before being granted a permit. Executive Jet has the distinction of being the grossest Noise Violator at the Santa Monica Airport.

At the same meeting, Aircraft mechanic Michael James applied for a COP. A COP is a commercial operations permit applied for by an individual or a company. In this case it is Airport related, so the application first goes to the Airport Commission and then on to the City for final approval. If finally granted, the COP would allow Mr. James to be based at Santa Monica Airport on a full time basis. Mr. James is to be employed by Executive Jet as an independent contractor to exclusively service their aircraft. In a split vote, the Commission voted to approve the mechanic’s application. Members of the community in attendance were outraged. Obviously, if Executive Jet have their own mechanic on site, it will encourage more of their jets to come to Santa

Friends of Sunset Park Board Members

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

Directors

Tom Cleys (Historic Preservations)
Karen Comegys (College Committee)
Zina Josephs (Membership)
Caroline Denyer (Airport Committee)
Cathy Larson (Airport Committee)

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Historic Preservation Meeting Set for Sunset Park Residents

Wednesday, June 19th, at 7 pm

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

(Corner of Ocean Park Blvd. and 14th St.,
enter from parking lot off 14th St.)

*Come learn about landmarking of properties in Santa
Monica and the advantages and disadvantages.*

*Hear the facts straight from Landmarks Commissioners and
residents who live in a Santa Monica Historic District.*

FRIENDS is sponsoring a special meeting on Historic Preservation specifically tailored to our community. Historic Preservation is an important topic because the face of Santa Monica is changing rapidly. Demolition of older homes is running at a feverish pace north of Montana and is beginning to pick up here in Sunset Park.

To date, our City has not had a strong preservation record. We have ordinances on the books that allow for historic preservation. However, since 1976, the ordinances have resulted in only sixteen homes being designated landmarks, and only two Historic Districts being established.

Sunset Park is more vulnerable to the excesses that new development can bring because it lacks the protections provided by development ordinances which cover most parts of Santa Monica in recent years. These ordinances prevent homes of excessive size and style from being developed.

Historic Preservation designation has advantages that many people do not know about, such as a frequent rise in property values and up to 50% reduction of your property taxes. In a Historic District, you are free to remodel the interior, subject to the normal building permit process. Exterior remodeling is allowed and encouraged, but requires Landmarks approval to protect the street's historic look. For an example of a Historic District, take a look at the 3rd St. Historic District in the Ocean Park area, between 2nd and 4th Streets with the boundaries of Ocean Park Blvd. on the north and Hill Street on the south.

Historic Preservation has been presented in a controversial way lately in Santa Monica. The controversy started north of Montana on 18th Street and later occurred here in Sunset Park on the 1300 block of Cedar Street.

To learn more about what is behind the controversy, come to Friends of Sunset Park's presentation on historic preservation ordinances and policies on Wednesday, June 19th. Representatives of the Landmarks Commission will be there to explain the preservation laws, what can and can not be done if a property or neighbor is given landmark status, and the benefits and disadvantages of landmarking. Members of the 3rd Street Historic District will also be in attendance to share their experience on living in and remodeling homes in a historic district. There will be a question and answer session at the end.

If you have any questions regarding historic preservation or the presentation, please contact Tom Cleys at 310-452-9456. Hope to see you there!

Santa Monica College Update

by Ed Moosbrugger and Karen Comegys

Changes that will affect our neighborhood are coming at Santa Monica College because of some recent actions:

- Passage of a \$160 million bond issue for SMC.
- SMC's purchase of the 10.4-acre BAE Systems property at the intersection of Centinela and Airport Avenues for \$30 million.
- Adoption of policies and guidelines that will enable SMC to act as lead agency in evaluating the environmental impacts of proposed college projects.

How the bond money is spent, how the BAE property is utilized, and how the college carries out its environmental reviews will be important to the surrounding neighborhoods. Public comments from college officials have indicated their willingness to listen to the community as SMC moves forward with its plans. The purchase of the BAE site could be particularly significant.

Tom Donner, Executive Vice President of SMC, says the college will reopen its master plan to consider shifting some planned new facilities from the main campus to the BAE site, thereby expanding open space on the campus. "There are lots of possibilities and I think they will all reduce traffic at the main campus," Donner said in response to questions from Friends of Sunset Park.

"Now that SMC has bought the BAE site, SMC may be able to limit the physical growth on its main campus," said Don Girard, SMC's marketing director, when he addressed FOSP's board of directors prior to the bond election.

At a public hearing on environmental guidelines, some SMC trustees said that they want to make sure there is better communication with the public. SMC agreed to have its consultants meet with city staff before the college adopts thresholds that would determine if a project has a significant environmental impact. It is important that the threshold levels be at least as stringent as the City's guidelines. Tom Donner said proposed thresholds will be discussed publicly.

FOSP recently commended college trustees for their comments on the importance of better communication with the community and their willingness to work with neighbors.

Vigilance and a spirit of cooperation will be important in enabling SMC to pursue its education mission and spend its bond money most effectively while minimizing the impacts on neighbors.

Note: FOSP College Co-Chair Ed Moosbrugger has been appointed to the Santa Monica College Bond Oversight Committee.

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Monica Airport for servicing, which would, in turn, increase traffic. All this by a company which already has a terrible track record for violating the noise restrictions, apparently with disregard for the neighbors, since, to date, they haven't paid one fine.

A massive letter campaign to the City Manager has been launched by airport neighbors. The final decision will be made by the city manager.

Susan McCarthy is the City Manager and can be contacted by mail at 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 or by e-mail susan-mccarthy@santa-monica.org or by phone at (310)458-8301.

Santa Monica Environmental Task Force Heard Airport Neighbors' Complaints

On Monday March 18, Martin Rueben, airport neighbor, came before the Santa Monica Environmental Task Force asking them to address the problem of Aircraft Pollution at the Santa Monica Airport and its impacts on the surrounding residences. The meeting, held at the Ken Edwards Center, was standing room only, with residents from West LA, Santa Monica, Venice, and Mar Vista in attendance. Public comment was accepted from several community members and City Councilmembers Feinstein and McKeown. The discussion was continued at the April Task Force meeting. Sunset Park resident and John Adams student Jake Bloch made an impressive presentation of his research on aircraft emissions at our local airport. The Task Force agreed to make contact with the Airport Commission before forwarding a recommendation to the City Council.

Subsequent to this meeting the Environmental Task Force voted in May to form an Ad Hoc Committee to study aircraft pollution at the Airport and make a recommendation of a course of action to the City Council.

Airport Noise

The Revised Noise Ordinance went into effect on Dec. 14, 2001. The Noise Report for January was released at the February 25 Airport Commission meeting. Statistically, the noise violations for January and February 2002 have dropped even though jet operations have risen 60% over last year. It will probably take several months to evaluate the impact of this revision.

East Side Blast Wall

To mitigate the effects of the noise and exhaust on Eastside Neighbors, a blast wall has been built at eastern terminus of the SM Airport runway. Unfortunately, an informal survey of Eastside Neighbors reveals that the wall has no beneficial effect. Some residents have even commented that they felt it worsened the problems by diverting the fumes in other directions.

Proposed Landing Fees

Based on a study by Pavement Consultant, Inc., the Airport Staff proposed at the February 25 Airport Commission meeting, the implementation of weight based landing fees at Santa Monica Airport. This study verified that heavier aircraft break down the surface of the runway. In an effort to put the cost burden of maintenance on those who cause the most wear, escalating fees based on the weight of the aircraft were proposed. Light aircraft less than 10,000 lbs (i.e. single engine props) were deemed "negligible wear" and therefore no fees would be levied.

Please visit our web site Bulletin Board at friendsofsunsetpark.org to read a copy of the FAA's response to Congressman Waxman's latest letter to them on behalf of SM Airport Neighbors.

If you have questions, comments, or would like to be added to our Airport Notification list, please contact us at rbreez@lainet.com or at 310 392-1907.

JOIN FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

2002 MEMBERSHIP

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

email _____

I will help with:

- Airport Committee
- Annual Meeting Committee
- College Committee
- Crime & Safety Committee
- Historic Preservation Committee
- Planning Committee
- Traffic/Parking 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*.

How do you feel about historic preservation in Santa Monica and 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.)