

California Lutheran

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CLU Quarterly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

Dec. 1, 2014, 6:30 p.m., Lundring Events Center

CLU Staff in attendance:

Lynda Fulford, Associate Vice President for University Relations

Mark Jacobsen, Director of Facilities Management

Cindy Keitel, Community Relations Coordinator

Craig Lightfoot, Assistant Director of Campus Safety

Ryan Van Ommeren, Associate Vice President of Facilities

Thomas Visvikis, Director of Auxiliaries

Vanessa Webster-Smith, Director of Campus Services

John Linscott, Conejo-Simi Swim Club representative

16 Neighbors in attendance

Meeting Purpose: An open forum to review and resolve neighbor issues related to Cal Lutheran operations and events and to provide updates on campus construction projects. These meetings are hosted by the University and offered as a community service to neighbors who live within 500 feet of the university.

Introductions: Ryan Van Ommeren opened the meeting followed by introductions from each of the University representatives in attendance.

1. Campus Updates

- a. Ullman Commons is complete and open
- b. Old cafeteria will become the Student Union Building
- c. Mt. Clef residence hall was repainted. It is part of a 15-year plan to fix up all of the residential halls. The projects will continue in summer 2015.
 - i. A neighbor asked about the Mt. Clef walkway. Mark responded that CLU was granted \$33,000 from Cal American Water to replace turf with California native plants and provide an alternate/nature walkway. Landscape will showcase native plants. They are using decomposed granite in the walkway. They will also add ramps for more handicapped access. A neighbor commented on how nice all of the new trees look on campus.
 - ii. A neighbor asked if this new walkway had anything to do with trees causing issues on Mountclef Boulevard? Mark responded no, the tree removal was directed by the city.
- d. Enrollment is stable and is similar to the number of students who attended last year. Students still occupy houses on Faculty Street. A neighbor commented that the students living on either side of her house have been well-behaved this year and respectful of the neighbors. She said she appreciates the response from Campus Security.

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- e. CLU removed sunshades from the Pederson administration building and put in new windows.
- f. Future Projects
 - i. CLU plans to build a new science building in the heart of the academic section of campus. They have cleared out the area where chicken coops used to be. They also plan to build a studio arts building with drawing, painting studios and kilns for pottery. The building will be on Pioneer Street where A and B buildings are near Nygreen Hall.
 - ii. A neighbor asked if the building would be where all the chicken coops are, and if construction access would be from Pioneer. Ryan confirmed the location and responded that construction access would not be in and out of Faculty.
 - iii. Ryan showed a photo of the Riparian building. CLU purchased this building with an agreement from the city to keep it for 5 years. While they don't want the building on campus indefinitely, they have extended the use of the building another 5 years.
 - iv. Neighbors will receive a notice with information on a planning commission meeting to be held in April 2015.

2. Cal Lutheran and Junior Olympics

- a. The Junior Olympics swim meet is an annual event that will take place July 22-25, 2015. There are about 1,000 swimmers from 10-12 visiting clubs. Everyone comes with a car and family.
- b. CLU is working to handle the impact on parking and internal issues like access to locker rooms. There is also a Memorial Day swim meet scheduled with approximately 600 swimmers. A lot of people come to stay and eat in local hotels and restaurants.
- c. A neighbor noted that people comment on how great the campus is.
- d. John said that the biggest challenge is to track down people who are there for the swim meet and are parked in the wrong places. To enforce parking regulations, maybe they will impose a penalty to clubs or pull a swimmer from the meet. CLU is reviewing a new plan for how people can pull into the parking lot. A neighbor suggested a sticker system for assigning parking lots to visitors.

3. Last Meeting Review

- a. Ryan explained that the City does not want CLU to post "no parking" signs on the sidewalk, but neighbors complain when the signs are in the street. CLU struggles with where to place signs.

4. Audience Questions/Comments

- a. Former Preschool building
 - Q: A neighbor asked about the about the former child development center building on the hill.
 - R: Ryan said it is unlikely that it would be used for or to build a president's house. The building is still on a septic tank and for now it is used for storage.
- b. Bridge to Baseball Stadium
 - Q: A neighbor asked if there would be a bridge from the back lots to the baseball stadium.
 - R: Lynda responded that there is a bridge with a newly planted line of trees.

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S: Ryan explained that the bridge doesn't look like it does on the Master Plan. CLU wants to use the decomposed granite along the trails versus the concrete that was part of the Master Plan.

S: A neighbor said he loves the trees.

c. North Campus open land

Q: A neighbor asked about the area below the old preschool at Mountclef and Fallen Oak. She said the plants were removed and now there is a lot of dirt and neighbors can't open their windows because of all the dust.

R: Mark responded that CLU wanted to get rid of the tumbleweeds. They are talking to professors who oversee the SEED garden, brainstorming different ideas for that space. They can get seeds to plant for a cover crop to keep down the dust.

Q: The neighbor asked if CLU will make it like the landscape by the tennis courts.

R: Mark responded that CLU thought it was more important not to have tumbleweeds. The area by the tennis courts is flat and can be mowed, unlike the area below the old preschool.

d. Commencement Parking

S: A neighbor who lives on Campus Drive said every year parking is getting worse, especially during commencement.

R: Ryan responded that there was still parking available in the overflow lots. Commencement will always be a challenge if CLU is doing well as an institution.

S: A neighbor commented that there were a lot of unhappy people who received parking tickets.

S: Mark explained that during graduation, people who park on the streets usually don't want to park in the overflow parking lot because they are afraid of getting penned in. There are still spots available in the overflow parking lots.

S: Tom added some people are late and just park anywhere.

S: Ryan said commencement is May 15 and May 16, 2015.

S: A neighbor said that it is fun to see all the activities and it is great for the city – many of the people patronize local restaurants and hotels.

e. Chapel Parking

Q: A neighbor asked if people attending an event at Samuelson Chapel can park at the east end of the old football field. There is no place to park even an hour before a concert.

R: Ryan responded the CLU tries not to allow dirt parking. They want to go through the system to establish parking in correct areas. The field has issues because of a fire lane as well.

S: The neighbor said it is hard for people trying to go to concerts. There are 600 people going to the chapel. He couldn't park anywhere, even when he had to carry trumpets to the chapel.

R: Ryan said that he would look into the handicapped parking and other options.

f. Tree Removal

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S: Some trees on Mountclef have been removed. City talked about removing trees because they thought trees were dead. City finished all the root pruning and street repair.

S: The streets are still bumpy. One neighbor said she thought it would be smoother. She wants to campaign for street flattening.

R: Mark said this is a temporary fix. There will be a problem as long as the trees are there.

g. Snakes

Q: A neighbor asked where the snakes are. She sees warnings but doesn't see as many snakes.

R: Mark responded that there were more snakes during a rain a few years ago. They have had to relocate some rattlesnakes.

h. CLU Praise

S: A neighbor said that Campus Safety has been very responsive every time she calls. Also, thumbs up on Ullman Commons and Starbucks. Homecoming was well done.

S: A neighbor said that camp Helping Hands is getting very popular and was held at CLU. The participants volunteer in different capacities during their time at the camp. It fits with what CLU is all about.

Q: A neighbor asked about memorabilia and photos from the old days at CLU. With all the changes taking place on campus, the archives need to be preserved.

R: Lynda responded that there is a 50th anniversary history book. Also, CLU Magazine is maintained online. There is a University photographer, so changes are being recorded and archived. She can give the neighbor access to that.

S: A neighbor said he has a room dedicated to CLU memorabilia in his house.

i. Christmas Tree Decorations

Q: A neighbor asked what happened to the live Christmas tree on the corner of Mountclef and Olsen. All the neighbors used to decorate it.

R: Ryan said he hadn't heard about that tree before.

R: Lynda also said the tree predated her time at CLU.

S: A neighbor was grateful for CLU putting lights on the trees.

R: Ryan said they hired someone to put the lights on the trees.

j. Chimes

Q: A neighbor asked when the chimes will ring again. She heard them at the first football game, but can't understand why she can't hear the chimes anymore.

R: Ryan responded that they ring still. They are now housed in the clock tower at the football stadium rather than at Pederson administration building.

S: A neighbor said that all the students should be able to hear the chimes.

k. Dogs on Campus

S: A neighbor said it is a problem that people who walk their dogs on campus don't clean up after them. You allow neighbors to walk their dogs, but they don't clean up.

Q: Ryan asked if CLU should provide bags.

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S: A neighbor said that if there are bags, more people will walk their dogs on campus.

S: Another neighbor said supplying bags means CLU must provide trash bins.

R: Ryan said Campus Safety is trying to catch people who don't have dogs on leashes.

Q: A neighbor asked if there are "clean up after your dog" signs.

R: Mark said there are no signs.

S: A neighbor said that there are "keep dogs on leash" and "clean up" signs on the trails.

S: Another neighbor said if CLU puts up signs, it invites more people to walk their dogs.

l. Loud Baseball Games during Summer

S: A neighbor stated that during the summer he hears baseball numbers called for "The Oaks" baseball games, but not for CLU games. He hears music and players announced at bat. It lasts a few weeks. He mentioned that he signed up to hear CLU baseball, but not for what happens during the summer months.

R: Ryan said they will speak to the coaches. He also added that Mike Scioscia is involved in that baseball league.

m. Loud Football Game*

S: A neighbor said the Homeowners Board sent a letter to CLU regarding the nighttime football game on Nov. 8. It was so loud, she couldn't hear her TV.

S: Another neighbor said that it wasn't until 10:15 pm that it finally stopped. She said the microphone was too loud.

R: Ryan said curfew on Friday and Saturday is 11 p.m. That was the condition for development of Rolland Stadium.

S: Another neighbor said it is a big night for students and alumni at the games. She will defend CLU – it is a great campus and she's lived here since 1969. Neighbors choose to live near a university.

S: Other neighbors said they lived here first before the university.

S: A neighbor explained she feared this would become a trend. They could live with it once a year. But they can't handle it if it an ongoing trend.

Q: Another neighbor asked why they had to have music.

R: Ryan responded that CLU has a lot of pressure to do night games. It is very hot to play games during the day. Division III schools only play 9-10 games a season and only half are on campus. Last year, there was one night game. Next year, there will be three night games.

S: Cindy said there may be 4 night games next year.

S: A neighbor said she wanted CLU to have common courtesy for the neighbors.

R: Ryan responded that NCAA mandates night games starting at 7 p.m. CLU petitioned for and got permission for 11 p.m. curfew because of this timing.

Q: A neighbor asked if CLU could ask the man on the microphone to modify the level of sound.

R: Ryan said he will check the volume on the microphone since it is on a certain setting.

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Q: A neighbor asked if CLU can move the speakers at the end of the stadium. Could they put the speakers in the ceiling instead of field?

R: Ryan responded that the position of speakers is mandated by the city.

Q: A neighbor asked if University Village complains.

S: Another neighbor said no.

S: A neighbor said atmospheric conditions affect everything and that the direction of sound is not always controllable.

S: Another neighbor said that everyone heard the game.

Ryan asked for any other comments or questions before adjourning the meeting at 7:30 pm.

*Correction to the Discussions: Following the meeting, Ryan VanOmmeren went back and checked the City-approved conditions of Rolland Stadium. Please note that the conditions do allow usage of the stadium until 11:00 PM on Friday and Saturday nights, but do not allow for public address systems to be played past 10:00 PM. Cal Lutheran is currently researching the conditions of November 08 to determine the circumstances surrounding noise complaints that evening.