

Neighborhood Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 29th, 2023

The Neighborhood Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 9am.

Committee Members

Captain Adam Jevac

Sandy Quinn

Elizabeth Holloman

Brian Lochrie

Aaron Schulze, *for Susan Galvan*

Laura Thomas

Alexis Reekie

Mayor Pro Tem Arianna Barrios, *for Mayor Dan Slater*

Paul Guzman Sr.

Rob Boice

Absent

Dan Jensen

Tim Virus

Michelle Duman

Administration and Staff

Alisa Driscoll, *Chair*

James Gerrard, *Recording Secretary*

Dean Jerry Price

Collette Creppell

Chief Rick Gonzalez

Call to Order

Alisa Driscoll called the meeting to order at 9:10am.

All members introduced themselves to new members and guests Captain Jevac (OPD), Mr. Guzman Sr. (Orange Barrio Historical Society), Mr. Boice (Old Towne Preservation Association), Mayor Pro Tem Barrios, filling in for Mayor Slater, and Economic Development Manager Mr. Schulze, filling in for Susan Galvan (City of Orange).

City of Orange

Mr. Schulze announced that the City of Orange has a new mayor and council members, and with that comes some new policy directives and priorities. New committees have been formed, including:

- Homelessness: The city continues to work with OPD and the H.E.A.R.T. team, and The Hub Resource Center to provide services and support for people experiencing homelessness. The city needs beds and shelters to provide additional services, so the city is currently looking for a site to host a shelter.
- Santiago Creek Trail: Preserve the Santiago Creek Trail as open space.
- Sweet Orange Committee: Beautification and code enforcement committee. There is also a new code enforcement supervisor, Raphael Perez.

Mayor Pro Tem Barrios added that the new Sweet Orange Committee is designed to have a carrot and stick approach:

- There will be awards for good efforts around beautification and code enforcement.
- There will be administrative citations for code violations and noise issues. Party houses would be noise or criminal citations, with new administrative citations they can be fined and receive escalating citations.
- The committee is also planning on working with the University to address furniture and other bulky items left behind after the students move out.
- Well 28, the well near Dodge College, will become a pocket park. Working with OBHS to name the history of the area and name the park.

Ms. Holloman asked if there are any service projects that the current participants in the Orange Chamber's Leadership Orange program can do to help the city.

Mr. Schultze responded that they can work together to see if there are some projects to partner on.

OPD Disturbance Calls and Updates

Captain Jevic reported on disturbance calls related to Chapman from the last couple years and how they compare to current numbers.

- In 2021 there were 1370 party disturbance calls in the City of Orange, 275 were Chapman related, or 20%.
- In 2022 there were 1145 party disturbance calls in the City of Orange, 196 were related to Chapman, or 17% (decrease).
- In 2023 to date, there were 272 disturbance calls in the City of Orange, 38 were related to Chapman, or 14% (decrease).

He reported that most of these calls are regarding noise from the number of people living in the house and not necessarily actual parties. Some houses just have a large number of students living in them, and when they are outside and have different lifestyles, they create noise. OPD

will be having new briefing training next month to cover and reinforce policies related to noise and party calls.

Mr. Guzman asked if there seem to be more calls now than before the pandemic started.

Captain Jevic responded that overall, the numbers are up for the city, but declining in the percentage for Chapman related calls.

Mr. Guzman noted that he has seen an increase of high school students walking through the neighborhoods and asked if OPD has seen an uptick in petty crimes in the area.

Captain Jevic responded that they have not.

Mr. Quinn asked if the parties tend to be more in Old Towne, or in other parts of the city.

Captain Jevic responded that except for a few houses that tend to be regular issues, most party calls are not in Old Towne.

Mayor Pro Tem Barrios asked if there was a formal agreement between OPD and Chapman Public Safety.

Captain Jevic responded that there is an MOU in place, but they are working on a more formalized agreement. OPD and Chapman Public Safety have a very good relationship and communicate frequently with the Liaison Team.

Ms. Driscoll explained what the liaison team is and does. This is a collaborative team is made up of Chapman Community Relations Manager, James Gerrard, Chapman Public Safety Sgt. Passino, and OPD Sgt. Costa. They follow up with party and noise calls reported to OPD and the University. The team visits the students directly at their homes and discusses good neighbor expectations and city codes and ordinances.

Chief Gonzalez added that Chapman Public Safety responds when requested by OPD to collect student information and completes an internal report about the call.

Dean Price said that the reports are encouraging for two reasons: strong responses from OPD and the liaison team visits following up and communicating expectations to the students. He added that students are aware of the fines that can come from the City, and they tend to split the costs among the group. A more escalating or criminal response may be needed for houses that continue to have issues. There are some houses that are rented by fraternity members, and they would be willing to forgo their membership in a fraternity in order to keep the specific house. In that case, suspending the fraternity or other sanctions don't always have the same impacts and an option to scale up punishments from the City would help address them.

Chapman Updates

Student Affairs

Dean Price informed the group that Chapman admitted 14% fewer students than last year. There is no motivation for Chapman to be over the student cap, as it also causes problems for the University. With the reduction in admitted students, more housing will be available. This will continue to help in 2024 because there will be two years of smaller admitted classes and two larger classes will have graduated. Additionally, we will have Chapman Court open for 2024, which will provide around 900 beds.

Mr. Boice asked how many students are enrolled at the Orange campus.

Dean Price responded that while he doesn't have the hard numbers with him, there are around 7700 undergraduate students.

Mr. Boice asked if there is a way Chapman could take the student rental market out of Old Towne.

Dean Price responded that students will always look to rent closer to campus and would pick renting a house over an apartment or other housing. The only way Chapman could do this would be to require all students live in Chapman housing, which the University cannot do.

Mayor Pro Tem Barrios added that the state ADU laws took away a lot of local control, which has led to the issue of so many students living in one house or on one property. However, the City can enforce its boarding house rules and they are working with the city manager on how best to do that.

Dean Price added that small houses with 3-5 students don't have many issues, it's the bigger houses with too many people living in one place that tend to have ongoing issues.

Mayor Pro Tem Barrios noted that code enforcement is looking into some of these larger houses as well. Some of them are not built to code and the City will be looking to hold the landlords accountable.

Mr. Quinn asked how many students are currently living in Chapman provided housing.

Dean Price responded between 3600-3700 students, just under 50% of the undergraduate student population.

Dean Price commented that Chapman has relaxed its COVID protocols and as a result will help with housing. During the pandemic and to start the year, Chapman had to set aside a larger number of beds for isolation. With the reduction in cases and change in protocols, this opens additional beds next year.

Public Safety

Chief Gonzalez shared that Commencement is coming up and plans are in place for traffic mitigation. Chapman Public Safety is working with OPD and a third-party traffic company to control traffic. Last year they were able to clear the parking garages in around 40 minutes after the large events and under 20 minutes for the smaller events, so they will be looking to do that again this year.

Ms. Driscoll added that commencement will have our traditional fireworks display and the postcards to notify neighbors will be sent out as usual.

He shared that the Undie Run will be happening in May and they will be looking to run it as smoothly as the one in December. The last one was over and done fairly quickly and had only 1 medical transport.

Mayor Pro Tem Barrios noted that the Plaza will be under construction with fountain renovations and repairs and will be difficult for students to run through. This could be the time to prevent it from happening.

Dean Price commented that the team will need to find an appropriate mechanism to create a turnaround location for people to turn around, since the Plaza is a natural place to do that.

Captain Jevic added that the issue would be the bottle neck of people trying to turn around while others are still running. Shortening the route would cause people to run into each other and spread out into the neighborhoods, which is what we want to prevent. Some evaluation will be needed on the footprint of the fountain renovations and additional barricades. It may cost more or be more difficult, but it will maintain people's safety.

Mr. Guzman added that we need to let younger people get the energy out in a controlled and safe way. Letting them have a little freedom helps prevent larger issues.

Dean Price shared that other universities have similar events and when they try to prevent it from happening, it gets a lot worse. He thanked OPD for the patrols and work they do before, during, and after the run to reduce issues and parties. OPD's strong presence has helped create a decrease in after parties.

Campus Planning and Design

Ms. Creppell shared that the Sandi Simon Dance Center is complete and fully open for spring classes. The new dance center won the Preservation Design Award for Rehabilitation from the California Preservation Foundation.

She also said that the Hilbert Museum is currently under renovation and has a temporary site at 216 E. Chapman Avenue.

Ms. Creppell shared that Killefer school is in the design stages and was recently reviewed by the Design Review Committee on Feb 15th. They are currently working to complete the plans and updates from the feedback received from the DRC. They are hoping to have those updates completed and back for the second review by the DRC at the May 16th meeting.

Finally, she provided an update on Chapman Court, which is planning to open for students in Fall of 2024. This new residence hall will have 250 units and will provide around 900 beds.

Mr. Boice asked if the Killefer School project is on the calendar for the May 16th DRC meeting.

Ms. Creppell responded that is not officially on the calendar currently; our goal is to be presenting at that meeting.

Mr. Boice commented that OTPA and the community is very happy and appreciative with Chapman's work in the preservation and adaptive reuse of buildings in Orange.

Community Relations

Ms. Driscoll commented that in the last meeting, there was a request for a map of all the Chapman residence halls and the number of beds each has. A map was provided to each member of the Committee, including the number of beds each residence hall is entitled for, which can vary slightly in practice.

She shared the University continues to make progress on its Specific Plan and the EIR portion significantly underway. The University will be looking to hold a public information meeting before the release of the EIR. Barring any setbacks or changes, the EIR is scheduled to be released in August.

Mr. Gerrard spoke about Chapman's plans for communicating to off campus students about move out best practices. This year's outreach plan includes:

- Canvassing 200 addresses with bulk items trash pickup information
- Social media campaign the week before move out
- Information in Dean Price's weekly newsletter to students
- Distribute move out best practices information in Greek presidents meeting
- Work with athletics to distribute move out best practices information

Community Check In

Ms. Driscoll asked if there was any additional information or comments anyone would like to share.

Ms. Holloman thanked the Hilbert Museum for their support with the Art Walk over the weekend. It was a huge success and Plaza businesses reported that they saw a large increase in business during the event.

Mr. Guzman asked to be kept in the loop about anything happening with the Killefer School.

Ms. Driscoll said she will ensure that OBHS and the community will be informed of any progress on the Killefer School project.

Adjournment

Ms. Driscoll adjourned the meeting at 10:15am.