

Neighbor Advisory Committee Minutes
Jan. 6, 2016 Meeting

The Neighborhood Advisory Committee met on Jan. 6, 2016, in Argyros Forum 209C.

PARTICIPANTS

COMMITTEE:

Robert Baca
Pat Buttress
William Crouch
Jeff Frankel
Robert Hitchcock
Dan Jensen
Brian Lochrie
Sandy Quinn
Judy Schroeder
Teresa Smith
Tim Virus

Absent:

Teri Lepe
Dennis McCuiston

ADMINISTRATION & STAFF:

Dawn Bonker, Recording Secretary
Alisa Driscoll
Jack Raubolt
Daniele Struppa

Absent:

Harold Hewitt, Jr.

GUESTS:

Randy Burba
Robert Gustafson
Kris Olsen
Rick Otto
Jerry Price

CALL TO ORDER

Chancellor Daniele Struppa called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

DISCUSSIONS

New Vice President for Community Relations

Daniele Struppa opened the meeting by introducing Jack Raubolt, Chapman University's new vice president of community relations. Daniele Struppa explained that Jack Raubolt, who has worked with Chapman in a variety of administrative positions in recent years, fulfills the role of a single point of contact for community members and city officials who have concerns and questions about the University. The need for such a point person was identified at earlier neighbor meetings with President Jim Doti. Jack Raubolt will also respond to telephone inquiries and questions submitted through the new [Neighbors of Chapman website](#).

In addition, Daniele Struppa said Jack Raubolt's appointment represents the University's long-term commitment to enhancing the partnership between the City and the University. Among Jack Raubolt's tasks will be to strategize long-term solutions. Daniele Struppa also noted that Jack Raubolt will reside in one of the University's residential homes within Old Towne.

Jack Raubolt addressed the committee, sharing highlights from his 43-year career in higher education administration. Jack Raubolt said he was looking forward to his new post at Chapman and was closing his consulting business so that he could dedicate his time fully to it.

Overview Summaries

Daniele Struppa distributed to the committee a sample one-page document whose outline he hoped could be adopted to briefly recap the committee's work as it tackles various topics. The sample document included a brief overview followed by bullet lists of identified opportunities and committee feedback. Each summary document would be reviewed by the committee. The concept for the template was generally well received by the committee. The distributed sample – regarding student housing – is presently being reviewed by committee members.

Presentation by and Q&A with City of Orange Chief of Police Robert H. Gustafson

Daniele Struppa invited Mayor Theresa Smith to introduce City of Orange Chief of Police Robert H. Gustafson, who joined the department in 1979 and has risen steadily through the ranks to become the city's 33rd chief of police.

Robert Gustafson gave a brief overview of the police department's response work in the community, noting that his department responds to 72,000 calls per year. Follow up and detective work is not included in those numbers. Officers write approximately 1,100 reports per month, not including traffic accident and incident reports.

Specific to loud and disruptive parties, Robert Gustafson said officers usually get cooperation when they ask party hosts to break up the party. Repeated calls to a party will incur the arrival of more officers and a firmer effort to disperse the gathering, Robert Gustafson said. City-wide, Robert Gustafson said there was a downward trend in the number of calls to break up disruptive parties. Robert Gustafson credited stricter city laws and codes dealing with party disturbances for part of that decline, along with the city attorney's prosecution of repeat offenders of the City of Orange party ordinance.

Robert Gustafson took several questions from the committee members.

Sandy Quinn asked if the police forward to the University the names of students involved in disruptive parties. Robert Gustafson said that the department does forward those names to the University.

Quinn asked how many of the parties were known to be related to Chapman students.

Specific to parties involving Chapman students, Robert Gustafson said that from July 1, 2015, through Dec. 31, 2015, there were 314 calls, out of which 58 (approximately 18%) could be attributed to Chapman Students and received a First Response Notice (in essence, a warning). None of those 58 notices resulted in a second response. During this period there were 19 citations issued for OMC 9.39.050(a), Loud and Unruly Parties. These 19 citations resulted from 11 parties. This is because some of the parties involved more than one person receiving a citation.

Historically, the number of party calls that the city receives declined from 826 (five years ago) to just above 700 (last year). At a question from Daniele Struppa, it was clarified that the percentage of calls due to Chapman parties remained stable at 18% (or so) during this period.

Robert Gustafson explained that calls about disruptive student parties largely correspond to the hours and days when they also receive their most urgent calls involving violent crime and immediate threats to life and property in other parts of the community. Such calls receive top priority.

Daniele Struppa asked what steps the University could take to continue the downward trend in party complaints.

Robert Gustafson responded that what wasn't reflected in the statistics was the size and frequency of the student parties, which he said sometimes involve large numbers of partygoers who spill out into the street. Robert Gustafson said some students are affluent enough to be undaunted by city fines which they pay on their own. But when similar fines were recently levied by the University and appeared on billing statements received by parents, a chilling affect went throughout the student community.

Sandy Quinn asked Robert Gustafson's opinion of the Undie Run.

Robert Gustafson said it costs his department resources and time and that department dispatchers are flooded with calls from residents. The most recent run cost the department \$2,600 in resources, not refunded by the University because Undie Run is not a University-sanctioned event. The University does pay to fence off the historic foundation at the center of Plaza Park and dispatches its Public Safety team to assist City officers in crowd control.

Jerry Price, vice chancellor for student affairs and dean of students, also underscored his distaste for the non-sanctioned event, saying he discourages students from participating, and worries about the risk of sexual assault to students participating.

Robert Gustafson noted that many of the problems related to Undie Run are sparked by non-Chapman students drawn to the event from outside the community.

Judy Schroeder asked a follow up question regarding Chapman parties and how police determine if Chapman students are involved.

Robert Gustafson said it's not always clear cut. There are almost certainly more Chapman-related parties than are reported because students devise various strategies to go undetected, like asking friends from nearby college communities to host parties to avoid detection by University officials.

Judy Schroeder asked what citizens could do to help.

Robert Gustafson said education was key. Robert Gustafson encouraged the University to require all students to attend education and information sessions where they meet neighbors and hear explicitly how parties and related behaviors affect residents, children, retirees and families. Greater sanctions imposed by the University are also needed, Robert Gustafson said, adding that universities often struggle with such actions, concerned that it will alienate students.

Daniele Struppa responded that the University did not share that concern. Daniele Struppa said he was a strong supporter of sanctions and that the University had no need to appease any problematic students. Additionally, Daniele Struppa said that while the University may have a reputation for attracting affluent students, in fact 80 percent receive financial assistance and would feel the impact of fines. Daniele Struppa said the momentary challenge of a heftier fine system is the creation of due process procedures, which is in the works.

Robert Gustafson suggested that in addition to fines, students who violate code of conduct standards risk losing access to major classes they need to graduate or be assigned the tasks of repairing residential damage caused by parties.

Tim Virus asked about the role of Chapman Public Safety in responding to party complaints.

Randy Burba, chief of Public Safety, explained that his officers can only respond to a party complaint if they are asked by Orange Police to assist. Public Safety officers cannot respond without the authority of the Orange Police, Randy Burba said.

Tim Virus asked if that policy could be modified within the Old Towne area for parties that likely involve Chapman students.

Robert Gustafson said he would be opposed to that for numerous safety and practical reasons that could arise when officers without enforcement authority are on scene without city police officers.

Pat Buttress asked if the University and the OPD used Social Media to track on-line invitations to parties in city of Orange – it appeared nothing of a formal nature – Pat Buttress urged the city and university (if legally possible) to use social media as a means to get a heads up on where parties are expected to draw large crowds and in the OPD case could use this information as an effort to defuse the events before they develop.

Brian Lochrie asked if the city could open a substation at or near Chapman and deputize the University's public safety officers. Brian Lochrie described an incident in which his wife encountered an intoxicated student lying in the street. Brian Lochrie said police officers did not detain or cite the student, but roused him and instructed him to walk home. Brian Lochrie asked if there weren't a drunk tank in the city in which people under the influence of drugs or alcohol could be contained. Such a consequence, along with academic repercussions, could deter such behavior.

Robert Gustafson said the cost of a substation was prohibitive and that the amount of time relative to impact would be impractical.

Brian Lochrie asked if development fees the University pays wouldn't offset that.

City of Orange City Manager Rick Otto explained that the fees the University pays as it brings new buildings on line do support a variety of municipal and community infrastructure needs, from public safety to parks, but are not directly solely to police services.

Brian Lochrie restated his support for greater consequences to be instituted that would deter student parties and related disruptions. Specifically he suggested that the University should consider suspending repeat offender students for one semester without reimbursement of tuition fees.

When a member of the committee suggested that the university might be afraid of taking disciplinary actions because of financial implications, Dr. Struppa noted that the University will not coddle students to protect tuition fees or because of donations. He said that there are enough quality students who apply to Chapman that the University does not need to retain students who consistently create trouble in the community. Dr. Struppa further pointed out that the main challenge is not financial but rather the ability of exercise due process when assessing penalties.

Robert Gustafson said he is opposed to deputizing University Public Safety officers. The education, training, continuing instruction and ongoing practice of city protocols required of city officers does not match the training of Public Safety officers.

Regarding a drunk tank, Robert Gustafson said the city has a small one. However, for a variety of reasons, many city police departments now prefer to deliver non-driving intoxicated people home or to family members.

CLOSING REMARKS

Daniele Struppa thanked Robert Gustafson and all the city officials for attending and expressed gratitude for their time and frank discussion.

For the next meeting, Daniele Struppa said Jerry Price will return to give an update on student housing plans. In addition, he said Jack Raubolt will present a report about the University staff and faculty who live in Chapman's residential homes and how they are becoming part of the community.

ADJOURNMENT

The committee was adjourned until its next meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 20 from 9 to 10:30 a.m.