

PLHS MASTER PLANNING MEETING, SEPTEMBER 18TH

Although the purpose of the meeting (as stated by the SDUSD communications manager) was to discuss the long-term plan for the PLHS school site, well over 75% of the packed auditorium was filled with neighbors concerned about the Stadium Expansion Project, and this naturally drove the agenda of the meeting. There were nearly three hours of heated questions - and some answers - with School Board Member Scott Barnett, Facilities Planning Director Lee Dulgeroff, and representatives of the architectural firm that has been retained to design the Master Plan. Though there was little new information provided, there were some important clarifications at the meeting that are of importance to the neighborhood:

- **Constant nighttime use of field**

School representatives at the meeting made it clear that if lights are installed the field will be in use EVERY NIGHT. It was made clear that the SDUSD can rent the field to virtually any group with the school having virtually no veto power if the field is not in use for school games or practices. When the field is not rented to outside groups or used for special events then it will be utilized for marching band practice and assorted sports practices. The SDUSD declined to discuss the possibility of coordinating its plans for Correia with the plans for the high school stadium. Rather than develop adequate fields nearby for student teams to use for practice after school, it seems that the plan is to have student groups & their coaches wait around in line to use the field at night after 'priority' groups have used it in the afternoon.

- **Unclear origin of Stadium Expansion Project**

There are very few details available on how the stadium expansion project came about, and why it was not publicized to the community until just recently even though there is evidence of plans having been determined as early as March of 2012. Lee Dulgeroff (head of Facilities Planning) stated that the School Board had instructed his team to pursue the installation of lights at all football stadiums in the district, but there was no detail provided on why the press box, jumbotron screen, and visitor bleachers/concession/restroom complex were added to the scope of that project.

- **Existing traffic and parking impacts**

Many comments focused on the magnitude of the current impact of school use on the neighborhood, and the failure of the School District to adequately mitigate those impacts. It was clear that Scott Barnett did not previously understand the full nature and extent of the current impact of school site activities or the level of neighborhood frustration with School District interactions to date. He commented more than once that he now realized the SDUSD has ignored the neighborhood realities and problems for "decades". Many neighborhood audience members were themselves not aware of how far away from PLHS the traffic, noise, and nuisance impacts currently extend.

- **Security concerns**

Proponents of nighttime stadium events continued to cast it as an issue of elite neighbors opposing the 'have nots' coming in to their neighborhood. Just to be clear, this is not Pro Point Loma's position, nor is it (to our knowledge) a sentiment shared by the neighborhood. Rather, one of the stated objections at the meeting about night

events is that members of *our own young adult community* have been observed to behave differently when there is cover of darkness, drug/alcohol use potential, and a party atmosphere. That behavior, combined with a quiet residential neighborhood that cannot accommodate the necessary level of security for such events, creates unacceptable safety risks to residents, pedestrians, and students.

- **Limitations on types of organizations who can rent the stadium**

There was discussion on the part of the School District on the possibility of limiting the type of events that could be held at the Stadium. Neighbors voiced concerns about the ability to enforce such limits, given the failure of the School District to enforce limitations on the number of night events at the Hoover High School stadium. The discussion also focused on limiting the type of organizations who could use the stadium, not on limiting the number of events. Several neighbors made reference to the likelihood of use by the growing Rock Church.

- **Safety and traffic flow**

Student attendees voiced concerns on safety and traffic flow. Scott Barnett suggested the possibility of a parking structure somewhere on campus, either in the location of the existing parking lot or somewhere else where an opportunity existed on campus. There was strong audience support for re-aligning campus traffic and pedestrian flow to enter from Chatsworth rather than Voltaire or Clove Street. However, even with that alteration, concerns still existed about the traffic and parking impacts of expanding the scale and number of events held at the stadium. There were also safety concerns about holding night events in a neighborhood that cannot provide adequate security when a 'party' atmosphere exists on the streets and among trespassers in neighborhood yards.

There will be 3-4 additional master planning meetings held. So far there are three meetings scheduled on October 9th, October 30th, and November 20th – all at 6:30 PM. Residents should take note that these meetings on the overall plan for the PLHS campus are scheduled to occur *before* the release date of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Stadium Expansion Project.