

Good Neighbor Program Spring 2019 Meeting Notes

Submitted by: Colleen Arrigo

April 2, 2019
4:00-5:00 p.m.

Staff Members Present: Fr. John McGarry, SJ (President), Michael Wood (Principal), Ian Farr (Assistant Principal for Academics), Fadia Desmond (Assistant Principal for Instruction and Student Life), Rod Theodule (Assistant Principal and Dean of Students), Gerry Lane (Director of Campus Safety), Maureen Longyear (Vice President for Advancement and Communications), Anne Long (CFO), Willy Park (Plant Manager), Colleen Arrigo (Executive Assistant to the President), Elizabeth Sands (Director of Marketing and Communications), Dave Higgins (Facilities Committee Chair, Board of Trustees), Annie Crew-Renzo (Good Neighbors Program Coordinator)

Neighbors Present: Kelly Hughes, Steve DeRoss, Valorie Scott, Rose Wong, Patrick Sullivan, Janet Delevan

John McGarry, S.J., began with prayer and asked everyone to introduce themselves. He then asked Mr. Higgins to give an update to the neighbors on the upcoming County Planning Commission Meeting on April 8, which addresses an oversight in the administrative process regarding the Stadium scoreboard. Mr. Higgins indicated that Jesuit anticipates the County approving the permit; once that is granted, the school can take the steps needed to relocate the speakers, which should greatly reduce the noise problem that the neighbors, especially on Piccadilly Circle, have experienced.

Following is a summary of the primary points of the meeting:

1. Mr. DeRoss asked whether moving the speakers would mean that the sound would now be redirected into a different part of the neighborhood, relieving the Piccadilly neighbors of the speaker noise by causing issues for others. Mr. Higgins and Fr. McGarry both indicated that the speakers would be pointed downward into the stands, and the acoustical consultant's report stated that noise leaving the stadium is anticipated to be reduced by 10 to 20 decibels.
2. Mr. Sullivan commented on the number of students who park on Oak Vista, leaving trash there and driving unsafely through the neighborhood (students are not permitted to park off campus). In light of the recent deaths of two women in the neighborhood who were hit by a teenage driver, he is very concerned for the safety of those who walk in the neighborhood. Students who park on Oak Vista are often arriving late and are driving recklessly. Mr. Lane responded that he is aware of the problem and asked Mr. Sullivan and all neighbors on Oak Vista to contact the school if they spot a JHS student parking on Oak Vista.
3. Mr. Hughes commented that he appreciated the steps the school has gone to in attempting to alleviate neighbor concerns about the noise. He wanted to mention an ongoing issue on behalf his neighbors who were unable to attend. On Sunday, a large track meet was held at Jesuit and the starter pistols were very loud and jarring. Mr. Hughes wanted to know if there was another option for the school to use or if the races could be started from another point on the track, which might direct the sound of the pistols in a different direction. Mr.

Lane responded, indicating there is little flexibility on where many of the races are started due to the track markings. The school has looked into systems other than a starter pistol, but many of them are prohibitively expensive and do not meet the standards set for high school students by the CIF. Mr. Lane also indicated that the weekend track events already use a pistol that has a smaller powder load. Mr. Higgins stated that the school will continue to seek out other options.

4. Mrs. Wong mentioned that she hears students talking in the fire lane behind the Harris Center on school days around 1:00 p.m., and believed that, per the Use Permit, students were prohibited from being in that area. Fr. McGarry replied, stating that it seemed that students were using that area as a shortcut from the Harris Center to their next class. He will review the terms of the Permit pertaining to this area.
5. Mrs. Delevan wanted to know if it was permissible to attach a new fence to Jesuit's fence pole. She is among the neighbors who were notified recently that, according to County surveys, their fences and other structures are encroaching on Jesuit's property. Fr. McGarry will contact her to follow up.
6. Mr. Higgins alerted the neighbors to the upcoming Gym renovation. He told them that cranes will be visible, probably in July, as the air handlers are installed.
7. Mrs. Delevan asked if Jesuit will be installing lights in the stadium. Fr. McGarry stated that it is an aspiration, but there are other projects that have priority. In any case, if the school were to begin such a process, it would be in consultation with the neighbors.
8. Mr. Sullivan asked if Jesuit had ever asked the County to install a crosswalk at the corner of Jacob Lane and Oak Vista. The crosswalk is currently situated mid-block and is underused; it would be much more useful at the 3-way controlled intersection. Ms. Crew-Renzo stated that the County's priority for crosswalks is near elementary schools. Mr. Sullivan indicated that he will write a letter to the County, perhaps getting other neighbors to sign it to hopefully get the process moving.

With no further questions or concerns, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.