

Joint MHS/Homestead Valley Meeting Notes—Nov. 18, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Present were: Co-chairs,
Luis Ottley, head of Marin Horizon School, Christina Oldenburg,
co-chair representing the Homestead Valley Community Association, Merrill Hunn, Andrea Elkort, Scott Greenstone, Johanna Cleppe, Charlie Denby, Marsha Dugan, Alan Saltzman, Susan Saltzman, Mari Tamburo, Kris Cann, Jim Derich.

Dogs on Campus

Luis Ottley reported that new signs have been placed on gates to the playground requesting that dogs tell their owners not to allow dogs in to the playground. There are serious concerns about dog excrement on the artificial turf. Previous attempts at signage on the dog/playground issue have not been effective. It is hoped that humor will encourage dog owners to respect the need for cleanliness of the artificial turf.

Facilities Update

Andrea Elkort announced that consultants hired to assess the school facility and make recommendations regarding the replacement of aging portable classrooms on campus have made their preliminary report. The Marin Horizon Board is considering the initial information with the priorities of the school and long-term sustainability in mind, and has not yet made any decisions. The community will be notified regarding next steps perhaps through the joint committee which could meet in a special session to hear the report and participate in notification to the Homestead Community.

Traffic in the Neighborhood

Traffic issues discussed include speed limits on Evergreen, parking on Evergreen in areas where the roadway is narrow, stop sign compliance, possible construction of a rain garden on Evergreen which would encourage safe parking as well as improve runoff from the street to the creek, installation of speed indicators on Evergreen, presence of Highway Patrol officers, parking in the drop-off chute, drop off and pick up of children from the wrong side of Melrose, and need for encouragement of behavior of parents so that they model safe behavior for their children.

Neighborhood Committee Report

Marsha Dugan and Charlie Denby reported on activities of students, teachers and families helping with conservation activities in the neighborhood in conjunction with activities of the Land Trust and HVCA.

One activity, which was to be an after school writing activity with emphasis on community, was not a success probably because students were busy with other after school activities and did not sign up in sufficient numbers.

Suggestions were solicited about programs and individuals who could lead such programs which would enhance student recognition of their relationship with the Homestead community and its natural environment.

Security on Marin Horizon Campus

Concern was expressed that the school may not be well prepared for unwelcome individuals. The school indicated that they have procedures for sign in. Discussion is ongoing at the school for continuing updating of security procedures.

April meeting date to be set

The joint committee members will be polled through Doodle to determine an appropriate date in April, 2015 for the second meeting of the year.

Meeting adjourned.

Christina Oldenburg, co-chair