

Monthly Newsletter – February 07
Board of Directors - Manager - Committees
Published by the Court Council Committee

Notes from the Board

*Approved Board Meeting Minutes are posted on the board by the Clubhouse door.
Board Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Clubhouse.*

A special thanks to our outgoing directors, Barbara Washington, Cynthia Singleton, Nathaniel Hutton and Deborah Harris. And we welcome incoming new directors, Drew Furedi, Edmarine Edwards, Daniel Millner, Ronald Williams and returning Director, Thomas Brown.

Notes from the Manager

As reported by Robert Bonfiglio, Property Manager – Exterior Paint Proj. for 2007 (16 bldgs.) will start as soon as BOD approves bid. We will go out to bid on serpentine wall repairs scheduled for this year. Tree pruning should be complete by first week in March. BOD approved Craft Masters Roofing's bid and they started roof cleaning Feb. 26.

Platt Security Services Incident Reports

On 1/18 resident in Ct. 9 reported receiving threatening phone calls. Resident was advised to call LAPD. On 1/18 VG Maintenance reported a black male on a bike had taken a power drill from the back of his truck. LAPD was called. On 1/20 Security observed Garage Sale in Ct. 2 and advised the resident to move the sale to their patio. On 1/20 a complaint about a kid's jumper in Ct. 13. Resident said she had permission from office but did not know who she talked to. On 1/20 Security saw new graffiti in Ct. 1 and called Maintenance. On 1/25 resident in Ct. 3 reported mail box missing and mail was on the ground. No suspects found in the area. On 1/27 resident in Ct. 11 reported smoke detectors going off in neighbors' resident. No one answered the door and smoke was seen coming from the unit. LAFD was called. On 2/4 resident in Ct. 12 reported a fire in the trash bin. Security put the fire out. On 2/7 resident in Ct. 9 reported her laptop computer was taken when it was left briefly by her patio gate, It was advised to call LAPD.

Committee News and Reports

Budget and Finance Committee (Chair: Marie Fouche, 2nd Thursday, 6:30 p.m.) – Elections were held and Marie Fouche is the new Chair. Meeting was opened to guests who attended as a result of flyer invitation made at annual meeting. The matter of VG loan to cover deferred maintenance was discussed. At the next meeting the Committee will look at project priorities and explore possible alternatives to obtaining a loan.

Court Council (Chair: Douglas Ware, 1st Wednesday 7:00 p.m.) – The Chair introduced Ray Watson, new Rep. for Ct. 5 replacing Daniel Millner who was elected to BOD. Amy Noble, guest, gave a presentation on Neighborhood Watch and distributed flyers, "Help Make Your Neighborhood Safe". She said NW Captains are needed in Cts. 1, 2, 4, 6, 6, 9, 10, 15, 17. Court Rep Reports and Concerns – Jim Walton, Ct. 7 Rep, reported on a problem with fumes in his unit when neighbors built a fire. The question of installing dampers and at whose expense will be pursued. Ray Watson, Ct. 5 Rep, said handicapped parking lines in his Ct. are very faint and this is causing problems. He was instructed to place a Work Order. Daniel Millner reported that updating the VG Directory depends on securing the data. He is willing to work on the project. Reba Glover, temporary liaison presided over election of officers. Elected: Douglas Ware, Chair; Nat Hutton, Co-Chair, Jean Gaignard, Secretary.

Cultural Affairs Committee (Chair: Molly O'Brien, 1st Wednesday 5:00 p.m.) – The clubhouse was filled to capacity for Black History Month program featuring Bobby "Mack" McDonald, historian and sports marketing expert. The Bahai' Choir, with VG residents and CAC members Joe and Allison Grover Khoury, opened and closed the program. Guests were treated to a soul food meal prepared by Joe Khoury, Tom Brown and Gerald and Melissa Briley. Thank you Gale Harris, event coordinator and CAC members Gerald Briley, Alva Harper and Jean Wilson. Because of the small number of active CAC

members, parent volunteers are needed for this year's Easter Egg Hunt. Please call 323-293-4781 to volunteer. The annual VG residents' Art Show is planned for May. A "Call to Artists" flyer will be coming out soon.

Cultural Landscape Report Committee (Co-Chairs: Ted Lumpkin, Sara Loe 4th Monday 7:00 p.m.) – Robert Nicolais, BOD Liaison reported that motion to remove roses in Ct. 10 was not passed by BOD. Also, Motion to merge CLR and Landscape Committees was not passed. More cooperation between committees was recommended. Fred Wilson reported that Garage Ct. 14 was still being inventoried. Mini CLRS: Progress Report – Cts.8-9 and 9-10: Gordon Brooks exhibited area maps of existing trees and charts of Barlow, Winans and Mahoney. The charts show few Barlow and slightly more Winans trees still standing. Also, he will produce a tree report based upon the Clubhouse CLR including history, Winans and Barlow designs, etc. and present it to Landscape Committee for their input.

Design Review Committee (Chair: Christian Daniels 1st Monday 7:30 p.m.) – One modification request was processed. Old Business: Painting – 16 buildings are scheduled to be painted this year; Benches – VG budget for benches was cut due to higher priorities; Storage – VG Maintenance Yard is being cleared out, for efficiency and safety. This will also provide some space for storage for historically important items.

Landscape Committee (Chair: Lorraine Secor, 2nd Monday 7:30 p.m.) – New Business: CLR Mini Proj. – Ct. 8, 9 and 10 - Committee needs to decide what philosophy they want to embrace. Restore, rehabilitate or redesign. Money is important factor. Irrigation system – what issues need to be considered by the committee in thinking about refurbishing the irrigation system. Tru Green – watering issues, when it rains, when does Tru Green turn on the water again. What does water cost here at VG? Sawdust – the Rodale's book of compost lists sawdust as an appropriate ground cover. Soil Conditioners – Laurie Liles has two products which are supposed to work on clay soil and improve the hydration. She will choose areas in the planting beds around her unit to try these products.

National Landmark Report (Chair: Robert Nicolais, 2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m.) – Mural Room Proj. – Vote report from annual meeting was 150 votes for committing to both the mural restoration and the room rehabilitation. This was a majority of the quorum for the meeting and 58% of votes cast on the issue. This represents a commitment by the Association to the combined project provided it can be funded from external sources. Carob Trees – Robert Nicolais reported that the Urban Forestry Bureau will consider a request from VGOA to plant carrotwood trees to replace carobs.

Safety Committee (Chair: Drew Furedi, 2nd Wednesday 6:30 p.m.) - New BOD Liaison is Ronald Williams. Neighborhood Watch – planning NW Captain potluck and introduce NW packets. Lighting survey update – this will become board ad hoc committee, no longer Safety Committee task. New Business: Platt Security – residents asking how they would report incidents regarding Platt; does Platt report lights that are burnt out (they do) and should residents also report them (they should).

Tree Committee (Chair: Gordon Brooks, 3rd Monday 7:30 p.m.) – Robert Nicolais, BOD Liaison conducted elections: Gordon Brooks was elected chair. It was also reported that Steve Keylon will share liaison duties. Replanting Goals – it was noted from 2004 committee minutes that Jan Scow, arborist urged to replace removed trees to preserve the age/maturity character of the Green. The Liaison will investigate the status of past four approved tree replacements. Bird Walk – Committee endorsed interest, support for scheduling a bird watching walk with Audubon Society member Richard Barth. Memorial Trees – unfulfilled requests were discussed and the decision to offer donors two or three choices from the list of missing Barlow trees was reaffirmed. Rodeo parkway and perimeter Carob tree replacement Resolution – the City has refused to replace the Carobs with Carobs. A resolution was approved to recommend the BOD request the Los Angeles Urban Forestry Bureau replace Carobs with Carrotwood trees.