

ACONA Meeting Notes

November 28, 2017

After introductions, the following topics were covered:

Starting a Neighborhood Watch/A map of current Watch groups in Altadena

Speakers:

Jeff Sedlik

Captain Vicki Stuckey

Comprehensive information is in the slides (in the PowerPoint agenda).

AltadenAlert.com is Jeff Sedlik's website. There is also a link on the ACONAOnline Links page. Jeff encourages new groups to contact the Sheriff's Station (626-798-1131) so that their contact information is in their database, then contact Jeff via his website to be added to the map. Jeff updates the information in his database and the map annually.

Parking/traffic issues at Altadena schools due to child pick-up

Speakers:

Officers Bejar & Ulloa, CHP

Captain Vicki Stuckey, Altadena Sheriff's Station

Anne Lee, Alma Fuerte

Lauren O'Neill, Odyssey Charter School

Benita Scheckel, Altadena Elementary School

Douglas Garrett, Pasadena Waldorf School

CHP has a grant to work on school bus safety — education and enforcement. Will speak to parents at school meetings about traffic safety.

Three CHP officers are responsible for traffic control in their patrol area. Officer Ulloa is responsible for Altadena.

The CHP is working on having crosswalks with flashing lights installed (like the one on Los Robles that serves children walking to Madison Elementary School).

Children don't walk to school these days, even if they live only a block or two away. Their parents drive them to school, which increases congestion. In addition, charter schools such as Alma Fuerte and Odyssey and private schools such as Waldorf pull attendance from a wider geographic area, so those children must be transported to school, either by private car or bus. There isn't much emphasis being placed on carpooling at most schools, although Alma Fuerte does encourage it.

Lauren O'Neill, Odyssey (laureno@ocsmail.org):

Has spoken with her parents about the parking issue. She has explained the drop-off pattern to them. If a parent wants to accompany a child on campus, they must park in the parking lot. Robocalls about traffic issues have been showing results. Looking at

staggering drop-off and pick-up times. The area in front of the school becomes a no parking zone after 7a.m., and the school has asked to have cars towed if they are not moved by 8a.m.

Anne Lee, Alma Fuerte (anne.lee@almafuerteps.org):

School is on the Edison campus, transitional Kindergarten – 2nd grade. Also looking at staggering drop-off and pick-up times. Looking at marking a bus loading zone in front of the school. Plan to have a staff person helping with traffic control.

Benita Scheckel, Altadena Elementary (scheckel.benita@pusd.us):

When she got to the school there was no drop-off/pick up procedure, but she has made progress putting one in place. Parents are encouraged to drop off their children along a stretch of Calaveras farther away from the school. A Walk To School Day encouraged parents to drop off their children at the Pizza Hut on the corner of Calaveras and Lake. The entire school staff was there to walk the children to school. There was good participation.

Douglas Garrett, Pasadena Waldorf School (dgarrett@pasadenawaldorf.org):

In the morning, 85% of drop-off is during a 15-minute period. There are staggered dismissal times for pick-up. Four staff members in the morning and the afternoon are assigned for traffic control. Biggest issue is parents blocking driveways.

Q&A

Suggestion: Use parent volunteers or staff in the morning to help the students move into the school. A: Parents aren't always available or consistent.

Comment: People are ignoring the no parking signs on Calaveras (Jackson Elementary). Pedestrians have come close to being run over because of poor visibility or because they are jaywalking. A: The three CHP officers responsible for parking enforcement will be focusing on Altadena next week, as part of their normal rotation through their areas of responsibility.

Billy Malone: The last 2-3 minutes of drop-off are the real problem. What can be done to encourage parents to drop off their children earlier? Rewards to kids for being early? A: We are increasing efforts to educate parents about drop-offs. It's often the same parents who are consistently late.

Dorothy Wong: We should all work together to take a holistic approach to traffic control around the schools — law enforcement, Town Council, community groups. Maybe have a bus service that serves all the Altadena schools. Have safe bike routes.

Arron Tschida: Problem area: Lincoln Avenue just north of Altadena Drive, where there is so much congestion and traffic that it isn't safe for children to walk to school. There is no possibility of sidewalks there because private property extends all the way to the

street. There is no county easement where a sidewalk could be built. He has tried to get a crosswalk with flashing lights put in but hasn't been successful yet.