

# NIVA MEETING RECORD

June 15, 2005

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. LOWER PETERS CANYON COMMITTEE [Dave Melvold] - The Planning Commission [PC] unanimously approved The Irvine Company [TIC] application to construct 68 homes in Northpark Square on 10 acres at its June 2 hearing. This was the site originally offered as an option to the TUSD for an elementary school which they abandoned last Sept. The site had a residential overlay zoning. Per Doug Smith, a boardmember of the Northpark Square Master HOA, TIC originally proposed 148 units but reduced the number to acquired concurrence of the local residents. The homes will be built by California Pacific.
2. PA-10 JAMBOREE MEDICAL/SCIENCE CENTER COMMITTEE [Nancy LaPorte] - A May 9 letter was received from Tina Christiansen, City Dir. of Com. Dev., in response to NIVA's Apr 14 letter. Copies were distributed. No success was reported by LaPorte in setting up a meeting to discuss the plans with Kia Motors personnel.
3. NORTHERN SPHERE (PA-3, 5B, 6, 8A, & 9) ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) - PA-6 has been officially named **Portola Springs**.

At its May 18 meeting, the Community Services Commission approved [4/0] the design modifications for Blue Gum Park.

NIVA has been invited to a meeting to discuss a development project for the Lambert Ranch (an area within PA-6 owned by other than TIC). The invite was extended by Pam Sapetto of Government Solutions. They would prefer to hold the meeting this week. The meeting would be held at their office on the 7th floor in Jamboree Business Center (Main & Jamboree). No interest was indicated by attendees in attending such a meeting partly because the meeting would be during the day and partly because it is thought to be simply a residential project with little possibility of impact on our community. Melvold will meet and report back at the next meeting.

## OLD BUSINESS

1. EL TORO MCAS REUSE - Escrow for the sale to Lennar Corp. is to close on July 12. Per OC Register May 22 article, L.A. city attorneys are expected to decide within a couple of months whether to sue the Defense Dept. in an effort to persuade the federal government to reverse its decision to sell the base to Lennar. The L.A. City Council has asked the L.A. airport commission to look into any and all means to secure the El Toro as a commercial airport to relieve congestion at LAX. The commission is to met with their lawyers on June 6 on possible litigation to try to force the feds to lease the El Toro site to LA for a commercial airport but did not reach a decision. They will revisit the question on June 20.

At the May 26 Orange County Great Park (OCGP) Corp. Board meeting an \$8.8 Million budget was approved for fiscal year 2005-2006 including \$2.9 Million for the design competition, \$1.8 Million for consulting services, and \$739 Thousand for public outreach program. The Board's 6-judge panel was expected to reduce the number of entrants from 24 firms to 6 who will each receive \$50,000 to refine their plans by Sept. The Board is then expected to make a final selection this Fall. The Board met on June 9 to discuss the procedures for awarding of contracts, complications with 6 existing awarded contracts, and the disparity of the time line between the OCGP Corp.'s activities and those of Lennar Corp. At the meeting, the Board approved [5/2, Shea & Choi dissenting] extending 5 contracts for communications, engineering & environmental studies rather than opening them for bidding simply to save a few months entailed in the bidding process. It appears Lennar is setting the time line and that to keep pace the OCGP Corp. Board is sacrificing some required and previously-promised administrative policy safeguards.

The OCGP Corp Board CEO announced at the June 14 Council meeting that 7 entrants had been selected. These were (1) Abalos & Herreros from Madrid, Spain, (2) Miralles/Tagliabue (EMBT) from Barcelino, Spain, (3) Hargreaves & Associates from San Francisco, (4) Ken Smith Landscape Architect of New York, (5) Olin Partnership from Pennsylvania, (6) Richard Hoag Associates from Seattle, and (7) Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abeyof Mill Valley, California. Those seeking more detail or to express their opinion on what should be contained in the park were advised to go to the Corp.'s website at ocgp.org or call on (949) 724-OCGP. The Corp. is planning a brainstorming session June 18 at Chapman University for a large number of invited groups to develop design principles and themes for the park.

2. NORTH IRVINE LIBRARY [Dave Melvold] - At a meeting with Councilmember Choi on June 14, Melvold was informed that Choi wants the City to establish a library committee/task force to look into funding library construction, building a major library in the Great Park, and the possibility of the City separating from the County system.

3. COMPLETION OF PETERS CANYON WASH AND WALNUT TRAIL "GAPS" - Per Loving, Ken Louie is investigating what is needed for railing on Irvine Blvd. while Pat Fierro is proposing a revision on naming the trails, therefore, delaying a decision on signage. Next meeting of the committee is mid-July.

4. PROPOSED NORTHWOOD U.S. POST OFFICE - Per Martin Petrey, the colored rendering of the post office was not available and is being prepared. It is expected to be completed before the end of this month and a copy will be forwarded to NIVA. Regarding the expected service boundary drawing, Petrey had requested a copy from the responsible department. He will followup to get it expedited for a copy for NIVA.

5. NB CULVER I-5 UNDERCROSSING - The proposed project was originally scheduled to be addressed by the Council at its May 24 meeting under Consent Calendar -- meaning no discussion whatsoever. At the request of Melvold, the item was pulled and addressed separately by the Council. Melvold gave a presentation objecting to the omission of the Scottsdale/Culver intersection from the traffic study, the need to start the new NB Culver lane south of Scottsdale, and the need for expanded lanes on Culver at the I-5 underpass to more easily and safely accommodate the proposed 3 left-turn lanes from the I-5 SB off-ramp. After questioning and to some extent chastizing staff for excluding the Scottsdale/Culver intersection from the study, the Council approved [5/0] the project with the requirement to do additional studies on lane widths under the overpass, looking at the Scottsdale/Culver intersection, and the need to extend the new 4th NB lane. Zelinko gave a presentation on these same needs and further consideration of matters concerning the Northwood Village Monument Sign location, maximizing the width of Culver in the NB underpass of the I-5. Staff stated that these modifications were not a part of the NITM Program and would be another project with separate funding which would mean another source of funding would have to be found before proceeding. This would be unreasonable as these are critical to the performance of the proposed project. Otherwise, a separate funding source may not be found in time to incorporate these within the proposed project.

NIVA received a May 25 letter from Irvine's Public Works Jon Toolson suggesting a meeting with NIVA reps to discuss NIVA's concerns. Copies of the letter were distributed. A meeting was scheduled for June 16. Melvold and Zelinko will be attending. No others indicated a desire to attend the meeting.

6. LOWER PETERS CANYON COMMUNITY PARK/BECKMAN HS JOINT-USE AGREEMENT [Terry Kiser] - Because of objections presented by Kiser regarding City staff's failing to provide copies of the draft agreement prior to the hearing, staff recommended, and Council concurred to table the item until the June 14 meeting so as to give interested members of the public an opportunity to review the draft. At the June 14 meeting, the Council approved [5/0] the agreement with no changes. There was no presentations by members of the public at the meeting. At the request of Shea, staff was directed, however, to respond to all the points in an e-mail sent June 14 by Kiser at first by letter but subsequently

changed by the Council to simply a phone call. Kiser had expressed concerns about possible extended hours of park operation, exclusion of the swimming pool use from the agreement, use of the park by the school on weekends, extended operation of the park ballfields to permit completion of extended games at night, and the need to resolve existing concerns about the lighting impact to the neighbors before committing to any joint-use agreement.

7. ORCHARD HILLS VILLAGE [PA-1]LAND-USE PLANNING - On May 23, the OCTA approved the elimination of the Culver Drive extension between Portola Parkway and the SR-243 from the Master Plan of Arterial Highways.

After considerable public and councilmember discussion at the May 24 hearing, the Council continued the hearing on the GPA/ZC and Draft EIR until the meeting of June 14. Melvoid gave a presentation on the library issue at the May 24 meeting. A copy of the presentation was distributed. Following his presentation, Councilmember Agran took the lead of requesting staff to report back on how they can implement funding for library(ies) within the City and if there is a way to assist in the short-fall funding for the Wheeler Library. Other discussion amongst the Council evolved around the public viewing access and trail around Rattlesnake Reservoir, the need and benefit for a conference center, sufficient parking at the trailhead, and comments on the positives of the project's design. Agran suggested converting 3 to 5 acres of the proposed agricultural preserve (i.e., avocado orchards) to the conference center.

The Council approved [5/0] the GPA/ZC at the public hearing on June 14 with only the addition of a special development requirement adding to the zoning that the applicant shall submit a Rattlesnake Reservoir loop trail study in conjunction with submission of the first subdivision map of the area adjacent to the Reservoir. NIVA and the County had both indicated in their response to the EIR that a trail or viewing access of the Reservoir for the general public should be incorporated in the plans. Since the May 24 Council meeting, TIC, the City and the IRWD have been working on development of a plan for such a trail loop. NIVA has still expressed concern that the viewing via the currently planned trail may not provide access for all members of the public, i.e., handicapped, elderly, and very young, who do not have the agility and stamina for the climbs and distances involved in going from proposed parking areas.

In response to NIVA's expressed concerns about the library situation -- both the delayed construction and inadequate funding resulting in downsizing of the Wheeler Library, staff was also directed to schedule a study session for the Council in the near future on the subject of libraries -- library construction funding and feasibility of the City having its own system. Councilmembers Choi and Agran expressed major concern with the situation whereas Shea felt that libraries may be a thing of the past due to home computers.

8. FUTURE NORTHWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL - Though no final decision has come from the State, the IUSD has been making all sorts of pronouncements at various times as if the transfer is a done deal and as such can be fairly certain.

9. NORTH IRVINE TRANSPORTATION MITIGATION PROGRAM - Per Ms. Lyons of the City, the City is planning to put out for a traffic study and environmental assessment for the NiTM listed job to improve the Culver/Walnut intersection. Tentatively the improvement consists of the addition of a NB lane on Culver and a EB lane on Walnut. A preliminary review would seem to indicate that both would require ROW acquisition. More details will be forthcoming from the study.

10. "SMART" PEDESTRIAN CROSSING OF YALE & GRADE-SEPARATED CROSSING OF JEFFREY FOR VENTA SPUR TRAIL - Per Zelinko, there has been no followup activity by Shea of which he is aware. There also has been no response from the City on the requested supporting data on the Yale speed recordings at Venta Spur crossing which was requested of City traffic engineer Jim Lizzi last Apr 5. A followup email has been sent to Lizzi reminding him of the outstanding request.

11. **NORTH IRVINE SENIOR CENTER** - There is a need to get the matter agendaized and have a followup presentation to the City's Senior Citizen Advisory Group. Melvold and Kiser will attend the next meeting of the Group to give another presentation requesting their agendaizing of the issue for discussion and hopefully supportive decision.
12. **WB BRYAN BUS-STOP AT YALE** - NIVA has received a May 26 response from OCTA to NIVA's letter expressing concern about the buses parking on Bryan west of Yale. OCTA's letter indicated little consideration and understanding of the situation. As a result, another letter was sent June 6 by NIVA but this time to the OCTA general manager rather than to customer relations. Copies of NIVA's letter were distributed at the meeting.
13. **REFURBISHMENT OF NORTHWOOD SHOPPING CENTER** - NIVA received a copy of the City's May 12 response to Northwood Park Homes HOA complaining of the deteriorating condition of the Center. Copies were made available at the meeting. Melvold contacted Jan Helf of the City to discuss the situation and the extent of the City's enforcement. Details of the conversation were provided at the meeting. Basically, the City's responsibility is for assuring safety standards compliance. Aesthetics enforcement by the City is almost non-existent. Johnson reported that she contacted many of the store owners/managers and most were concerned that if improvements were to be made by the owner, they would translate into increased rents. Consequently, they are not in favor of forcing improvements but rather keeping the status quo. No action was proposed by any attendee. The matter will continue only as related to safety improvements.
14. **FUTURE NORTH IRVINE POLICE SUBSTATION** - The City is considering a northern area police substation. No particular location has been mentioned. However, with the Great Park and future possible expansion of the Musick Jail, the location of such a substation would have benefit and maybe ought to be towards the eastern area.
15. **COMMUNITY CONFERENCE CENTER** - During the discussion of the consideration of the PA-1, etc. GPA/ZC by the City Council, the idea of this center was introduced by Councilmember Agran as needed for the City. Originally it was proposed for inclusion in PA-1 but after consideration by staff and TIC, a site in the Gateway Park replaced it as a possibility. It is not clear as to its intended purpose, whether there is a real need or market, and whether it should be privately or publicly built or operated. In any case, a major concern is also whether limited park land should be used. The Council has requested staff to schedule a study session sometime in the future to discuss this issue. Besides the issue of the use of limited park land, there is concern about the interplay of this facility with the normal park activities and the additional traffic which may be the result. It was decided to be mindful of this proposal when the time comes for reviewing the Gateway Park plan but not to carry this concern as an item on our agenda.
16. **FIRE SAFETY** - Kirchgessner informed the attendees that the State has a requirement that limit the ability of fireman to enter a burning facility to rescue trapped persons. Per State code, fireman can not enter until there are at least 4 fireman on site - 2 to enter with 2 to stand by outside. However, the OCFD has 3 stations in Irvine with only 3-man fire crews (Stations 26, 43 and 55). Station 55 is the new station located on Portola Pkwy just east of Yale. Since it has currently only a 3-man crew, arrival of the unit on site of a fire would not be sufficient for fire rescue. The unit would have to wait until arrival of another unit of paramedics before entering a building to make a rescue. As time is of the essence, the delay could be fatal. It is noted that performance and adequacy of fire services is rated in "time-of-arrival of the first unit". However, if the first unit is "understaffed", the arrival time should be that expected for the second unit. Kirchgessner will investigate further and report at the next meeting before suggesting any action be taken by NIVA.

**NEXT MEETING** - Next regular monthly meeting would be scheduled for Wed., July 13, 2005. However, it has been cancelled. Therefore next meeting is Wed., August 10, 2005.