

NIVA MEETING RECORD

Oct 12, 2005

In the absence of the President, the meeting was chaired by the Vice-President LaPorte.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Sept 28, the City's Zoning Administrator approved the administrative relief on the Condition Use Permit for the Mormon Church development at the NW corner of Jeffrey and Bryan. The administrative relief was necessary to permit the construction of a 7'-6" perimeter block wall separating the parking lot on the church property from the adjacent residential. This increased wall height was sought by residents and agreed to by the church leadership.

Melvoid was appointed to the City's newly formed Ad Hoc Library Task Force by Councilmember Choi (See Item 2 below).

The OCTA is holding a series of community meetings on the four proposed alternatives for improving the travel between Riverside and Orange Counties. The Oct 17 meeting is scheduled for 5:30PM at the Canyon View Elementary School in Irvine. This is the opportunity for the public to give feedback on the proposed alternatives. Again as a reminder, NIVA's concern has been with the 2 alternatives (Strategic Alternative II and III) which propose freeway/tollway through the Santa Ana Mts. from Riverside to the intersection of the SR-241 and SR-133. Specifically, the concern is that should travelers be able to exit at or near this juncture, this could result in a significant amount to this traffic traveling through northern Irvine.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PA-10 JAMBOREE MEDICAL/SCIENCE CENTER COMMITTEE [Nancy LaPorte] - LaPorte attended the Planning Commission [PC] Oct 6 hearing regarding the General Plan Amendment and Zone Change [GPA/ZC]. City lead planner on the project is Herman DeSantos. The PC voted unanimously to recommend Council approval of the GPA/ZC increasing the maximum intensity standards and to change the Community Commercial Zoning district to Medical and Science and to increase the building intensity. Aric Gless (Harvard Square resident) addressed the PC and requested they not approve the action primarily due to concern regarding traffic. Diane Jakubowski, a traffic engineer consultant to the City, was queried by the Commission regarding traffic. She admitted that the Jamboree/Michelle intersection was found to be already deficient and the City was looking at the possibility of adding both a north- and south-bound lane on Jamboree. As this would involve the I-5 underpass, it would be difficult, require multiple agency approval, and take some time with no known funding. The GPA/ZC is now tentatively scheduled to be heard by the City Council on Dec 13.

Elliott, Gless and LaPorte attended a meeting on Oct 7 at City Hall to review the Kia Motors soon-to-be built North American Office and Design Center. Kia was represented by the architect and three Kia employees. They were requesting a change to the approved color schemes defined by the Master Plan. They wanted sand-blasted cement finish that was grey in color. As local homeowners, we did not concur with this request. They will come back to us with samples of concrete made a "warmer" color by adding aggregates. (They must have anticipated some resistance as they had samples of the grey and came up with a sample of a "warmed-up" alternative.) The alternative still needs to be closer in color to the palette described in the Master Plan. They also requested black mullions around the windows, which were thought to be OK. Kia was not pleased, as they are anxious for their foundation permit. According to Steve Weiss, the process needs OKs from the homeowners, TIC and the City (Director of Community Development). The rest of the project was reviewed in detail and appears to meet requirements.

OLD BUSINESS

1. EL TORO MCAS REUSE - The O.C. Great Park Board selected 3 of the 7 proposals for the Great Park design and was expected to reduce that number at its Oct 10 meeting. The 3 were by EMBT

Architects, Ken Smith Landscape Architects, and Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey. It appears that the Board is leaning favorably towards the design by Ken Smith which emphasizes a great canyon and wetlands along with a sort of museum display of historical military aircraft.

Though there may be various reasons for selection of a design, NIVA's concerns have boiled down to the following regardless of the eventual selection: (1) access of site which minimizes traffic flow through North Irvine arterials (e.g., maximize the access via rail and the ITC, (2) easy adequate (stealth) parking, (3) inclusion of activities that would not routinely burden the neighborhood with traffic or noise, (4) not create extensive light contamination on the horizon readily visible to North Irvine, and (5) provides access to the Park from the adjacent communities via safe and easy pedestrian/bicycle trails. No. 1 can be significantly changed by where the parking lots are located within the park. The listing was discussed with no additional items but the conclusion to eliminate No. 4 as an unlikely problem for North Irvine. A letter was approved to be sent to the Great Park Corp. with a copy to the CEO, Wally Kreutzen.

2. NORTH IRVINE LIBRARY [Dave Melvold] - At the Sept 27 meeting, the City Council approved [5/0] the establishment of an Ad Hoc Library Task Force whose purpose is to investigate the status and quality of the library service received in Irvine, the funding sources currently and possibly available in the future, the future needs and location of any new library including that at the Great Park, etc. Currently, Irvine is a "doner" member of the County Library System paying more than receiving in services. Last year, for example, Irvine residents paid \$5 Million in property taxes for library services (operation and maintenance) yet received only \$2 Million in services. Obviously, Irvine is underserved. The Task force will be made up of 2 councilmembers and 5 at-large members appointed by the Council. The 2 Councilmembers are Choi and Shea. Choi will chair the Task Force.

3. COMPLETION OF PETERS CANYON WASH AND WALNUT TRAIL "GAPS" - [Awaiting a response to NIVA's letter of Sept. 26, 2005 regarding the supposed difficulty in placement of benches along the trails.] LaPorte reported that the removal of vegetation in Peters Canyon Wash has begun. She spoke with a man who said his company provided the heavy equipment being used for the project. They were running into problems as the silt was thick and muddy and the equipment was so heavy. Expect more delays. Also, the City notified the Harvard Square HOA Board that many of the trees along the trail between the I-5 and Peters Canyon Road (adjacent to Harvard Square) were being removed and would be replaced tree-for-tree or better. Many had not been maintained and were dying.

4. PROPOSED NORTHWOOD U.S. POST OFFICE - LaPorte indicated she had not received anything from the Post Office as of the meeting even though a rendering had been promised to be sent by Martin Petrey in sufficient time for the meeting.

5. HEAVY VEHICLE ROADWAY RESTRICTIONS [Jerry Kirchgessner] - Received a Sept 26 response from Acting City Mgr. Sean Joyce. Rather than replying to NIVA's specific statements regarding the sudden and unannounced curtailment of the previous effort in this area, Joyce has suggested a meeting between NIVA reps and City staff to discuss this matter further. Ciulik volunteered to attend the suggested meeting with Joyce along with Kirchgessner to try to get something firm from the City in writing. However, since Kirchgessner was not able to make this meeting, it was decided to table the matter until Kirchgessner can be contacted.

6. HICKS CANYON COMMUNITY PARK COMMUNITY BUILDING - [Awaiting receipt of proposed 2006 Strategic Plan.] As the result of an inquiry of the City concerning the City's plans and funding of the newly planned Wilderness Center at the Quail Hill Community Park in PA-17 in the southern part of the City, an e-mail was received from Pat Fiero of the Com. Services Dept. indicating the scheduling and funding to date. The reason for the inquiry was to determine the emphasis on this new project in relation to the long delayed installation of the community center at Hicks Canyon Community Park.

7. LOWER PETERS CANYON COMMUNITY PARK/BECKMAN HS JOINT-USE AGREEMENT [Terry Kiser] - Per suggestion of Kiser, the item will be closed until something else develops. Kiser and

Zelinko requested a letter be sent from NIVA to the Carolyn Evans (concerned Racquet Club resident) thanking her for her time and effort and acknowledging her for her involvement.

8. ORCHARD HILLS VILLAGE [PA-1]LAND-USE PLANNING - At the Sept 21 CSC hearing, the Commission approved [4/0, Cheng absent] the recommendation for approval to the PC of the proposed Tentative Tract Map #16529, Park Plan and Master Trails Plan for PA-1, Neighborhoods 1 & 2. Neighborhoods 1 & 2 are essentially the western two thirds of PA-1. Included was the 1.76-acre Trailhead, the 11-foot off-street Class 1 trail along Portola Pkwy, and the 8-offstreet trail along the entry loop road. Several trails behind gates were also included but these will be accessible by the general public as no locked pedestrian gates are permitted. A total of 31.31 acres of community park land is required to be conveyed for PA-1 but is being proposed to be transferred to Gateway Park. Construction of Gateway Park (Phase 1) is to commence upon issuance of the 1,000th residential unit building permit in PAs 1, 2, 5B and 9B. 22.1 acres of neighborhood parks (most of which are private) will be supplied with the PA-1 residential development. It should be noted that the current value used for land appraisal is now \$2,610,000 per acre! This is a figure far in excess of that used in calculations of the Jeffrey Open Space Spine acreage trading for improvements.

9. NORTH IRVINE SENIOR CENTER - [Melvold and Kiser are to give a followup presentation to the Irvine Senior Citizens Council at one of their upcoming meetings requesting that they agendized the siting of the center.] As agreed at the last meeting, Melvold gave a presentation to the City Council on Sept. 27 on the defects in the most recent Irvine Senior Citizens Council election -- lack of minimally sufficient public notice and the lack of a polling location in North Irvine. Mayor Krom appreciated the presentation, concurred essentially with the assessment of the last election, and directed the staff to make appropriate improvements in the process for the next election.

10. WB BRYAN BUS-STOP AT YALE - Melvold received an Sept 22 e-mail from the City's Public Works Deputy Dir. Manuel Gomez which presented on the progress on resolving the situation. Per the e-mail, City staff had been meeting with OCTA operations staff and made visits to the site. They are continuing to look for solutions. Rick Sandzimier's group in City staff is performing this effort. They are investigating the costs and feasibility of installing a bus turnout and are waiting for a response from Community Services about the use of the Yale parking lot by the bus. The later is problematic in that the parking lot would not be available 100% of the time. Another option being looked into is the relocation of the bus idling point to somewhere else in the City other than at this location. They hope to weed out unworkable solutions within a couple of weeks. Any further progress on this matter will be presented at the meeting.

11. REFURBISHMENT OF NORTHWOOD SHOPPING CENTER - After much discussion, it was decided that the issue will be continued until the next meeting. A question came up as to whether the center was meeting all City standards.

12. CITY BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE - The Bike Committee report is scheduled to go to the PC on Nov. 3. NIVA is promised (Beth, X6457) a copy of the report about 2 weeks in advance.

13. TRABUCO GROVE CENTER WIRELESS COM. FACILITY - ALCOE has submitted an application for a wireless communication facility in behalf of Nextel Communications to be located at the Trabuco Grove Center (Trabuco & Jeffrey). It would be of stealth-design as it would be located within an existing architectural tower, i.e., the antenna panels would not be visible to the public. As a Class 1 facility under the new City Wireless Communication Facility Ordinance, approval would be simply by the Dir. of Com. Dev. As a stealth design, NIVA should have no concern with the proposal. The City will notify NIVA of the final disposition on the application.

NEXT MEETING - Next meeting is scheduled for Wed., Nov. 9, 2005.