

NIVA MEETING RECORD

April 12, 2006

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Buorke, Irvine's Landscape Superintendant, contacted NIVA early March to inform them that the City, after consulting with the City's Traffic Engineering regarding adequacy of motorists visibility, has agreed and is planning to install many new Eucalyptus trees in the Irvine Blvd. median west of Culver to the SR-261 Corridor. NIVA had previously contacted the City to complain about the sparcity of trees in the median in this section. Since Bourke indicated that the planting is tentatively expected to commence within 30 days, the planting should be underway anytime now.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PA-40 R & D DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (_____) - City Engineer Rick Sandzimier informed NIVA that the City will be submitting for inclusion in the OCTA's South County Major Investment Study the proposal for the I-5 overpass as suggested by NIVA in conjunction with the PA-40 development project. The City is interested in proceeding with this possibility. Note, TIC gave an offer for 5 years to hold the ROW for the overpass and the clock is apparently ticking. The City is aware of this time deadline on the option.

2. NORTHERN SPHERE (PA-3, 5B, 6, 8A, 9, & 9C) COMMITTEE (_____) - TIC gave a presentation on Mar 17 to the City's Northern Sphere Community Task Force on the proposed Stonegate Village residential project to be located in the 400-acre area bound by Irvine Blvd. on the south, Portola Pkwy. on the north, the Jeffrey Spine on the west, and Sand Canyon on the east. Elliott attended as the NIVA rep. The project is approved for 3,000 DUs. A community park will be located in the center adjacent to the grammar school. Access to the site will be via four roadways -- each connected to Irvine Blvd., Portola, Sand Canyon and Jeffrey. Because the roadway to Jeffrey will cross the Jeffrey Spine, an underpass is proposed for the Spine Trail. Also to be installed with this project is the overpass of the Trail over Irvine Blvd. and a grade-separated Trail crossing of Portola Pkwy.

TIC is processing an application through the City to revise PA-9C by replacing a number of apartments with 145 attached and detached condominiums and townhouses. As a result, the total number of DUs in PA-9C would be reduced from 1,030 to 761 units with corresponding changes in the park dedication. The CSC heard the Park Plan modification application at its Mar 15 meeting and recommended approval w/o change to the PC. The City's Subdivision Committee held a hearing early today on the Vesting Tentative Tract Map for PAs 9B and 9C-2 covering the area south of Portola, north of Irvine Blvd., between Jeffrey and the SR-133.

OLD BUSINESS

1. EL TORO MCAS REUSE - At the Mar 9 O.C. Great Park Corp. Board meeting, the first part of the contract for \$372,000 with architect Ken Smith was approved. This first part will include the coordination of boundaries with that of the Lennar Corp development. At the Mar 23 meeting, the Board unanimously approved the hiring of Boris Lend Lease Inc. to serve as program manager for the building of the Great Park. The firm will be paid \$3.5 Million for the next 1-1/2 years to coordinate the design and construction of the park as designed by Ken Smith.

2. NORTH IRVINE LIBRARY - At the Mar 7 meeting, the City's Library Task Force [TF] approved the final version of the Needs Assessment and approved the circulation of the document seeking proposals from prospective consultants. An interview group consisting of City staff and Jim Arn from the TF will interview the bidders and reduce the number down to 3 for consideration by the TF at the next meeting. Due to need for more time to interview the bidders, the TF meeting previously scheduled for April 4 was cancelled. The next meeting is May 2.

3. HICKS CANYON COMMUNITY PARK COMMUNITY BUILDING - A letter was received from

Councilmember Kang dated Mar 28, 2006 which states that "staff is preparing a review and will provide the opportunity for public input on the entire plan. I have been told that the plan being developed will include a review of existing facility conditions, needs for modernization and rehabilitation, as well as new parks proposed in the Northern Sphere." (Copies of the letter were distributed at the meeting.) He suggests that NIVA reps meet with John McAllister, Dir. of Com. Services, to get an update on the status of this effort. It was agreed at the meeting that NIVA should wait, at least now, for a call from McAllister. In the meanwhile, Melvold was going to contact Tom Glenn -- a resident of Northpark and member of the HOA -- about the issue since the Hicks Canyon Com. Park is actually within Northpark Village.

4. BOWERMAN LANDFILL EXPANSION - NIVA received a copy of the City's Mar 7 response to the OCIWMD to the Draft EIR for the Landfill Expansion [copies distributed at the meeting]. It is noteworthy that the majority of the concerns expressed in the City's letter are identical to those expressed in NIVA's response of Mar 3. Included with the response was a copy of The Great Park Corp. Mar 7 response which simply piggy-backs on the City's letter. It is noted that the City emphasizes the need to amend the existing Settlement Agreement between the County and the City to cover additional impacts and issues and mentions the need for mitigation due to the 31 additional years of noise and for compensation due to the loss of the use of the parkland for 31 years.

North Irvine will be impacted the most by the proposed expansion which will be for the benefit of all of the County. It was agreed that NIVA should suggest to the City that in their negotiations with the County over the expansion (required for revision of the original County/City agreement) that the City seek compensation for the impacts -- compensation which benefits North Irvine as the impacted area of the City. It was also agreed that NIVA should suggest as possible compensation the cost for the 3rd City senior center which would be located in North Irvine, maybe the community center for Hicks Canyon Community Park, or at minimum the funds to complete the Wheeler (North Irvine) Library. Also, as a mitigation expense, the District should be required to pay for a grade-separated crossing of the Venta Spur Trail over Sand Canyon since landfill truck traffic on Sand Canyon is expected to be higher and for a longer period of time thus impacting pedestrian crossings. With the 31-year delayed conversion of the dump into parkland from that originally proposed, the City should also request additional compensation of some sort for "delayed realization" of this previously-committed mitigation compensation. An e-mail is to be sent to City Mgr. Sean Joyce.

5. NORTH IRVINE TRANSPORTATION MITIGATION PROGRAM - The Irvine Company has taken it upon themselves to send out a *Planning Ahead Update* mailer to the residents of Irvine giving details on the NITM Program and praising the benefits to be derived from the Program. As stated in the introduction, the purpose of NITM is "to ensure circulation improvements occur on a timely and coordinated basis ahead of new community development... and will provide enhancements that will effectively handle traffic in the city...from planned future growth." Though the flyer mentions that road improvements are proposed beyond the new communities, it obviously makes no mention of the fact that the improvements can only be implemented with the sacrifice of landscaped roadway setbacks in the neighboring communities as the developments such as the Northern Sphere, The Great Park, and Orchard Hills were not anticipated when the existing roadways were planned and built. To some extent, this flyer is a propaganda piece and may indicate TIC's awareness of concerns from residents of existing communities.

Per Lisa Thai of the City, the City is still developing the responses to the comments received on the Draft EIR Neg. Declaration for the I-5/Sand Canyon Improvement Project. Responses to the Comments should be completed by mid to end of May with the expectation of Council hearing by maybe the end of June.

6. "SMART" PEDESTRIAN CROSSING OF YALE & GRADE-SEPARATED CROSSING FOR VENTA SPUR TRAILS - [Awaiting response from NIVA letter of Nov 10, 2005 to Gomez, Deputy Dir. of PW, on the Yale Ave. crossing] A reminder e-mail was sent today to Gomez about the lack of response whatsoever to this letter.

Regarding the Venta Trail grade-separated crossing of Jeffrey Road , NIVA received a letter from Councilmember Kang dated Feb 27, 2006 in response to NIVA's Nov 18, 2005 letter requesting assignment of 2004-05 Carryover funds to the bridge study. (Copies of Kang's letter were distributed at the meeting.) It should be noted that although NIVA's letter was addressed to both Councilmembers Kang and Shea, the response was only from Kang. In fact, in checking with Shea, she was unaware of the response or any unilateral action being taken by Kang! The content of Kang's letter was discussed at the meeting.

As input into the discussion, it was mentioned that, subsequent to the letter, the City Council considered an expenditure for the study from the 2004-05 Carryover Funds during its April 11 meeting following presentations by Zelinko and Melvold. After an initial discussion by the Council, both Shea and Kang expressed favor for approving the study. However, Councilmember Agran spoke against approving the funding referring to a previous decision on the bridge in which the issue was supposedly thoroughly investigated, disapproved by the various commissions, and objected to by The Irvine Company [TIC] -- all statements contrary to fact!!! First, there was no detailed study done and that is why this study funding is being sought. Second, the grade-separated bridge over Jeffrey was included in the Community's Jeffrey Open-Space Spine Plan and was ranked high in the list of bridges. Third, only the Planning Commission acted against the bridge after a discussion on it by simply not including it in its final design approval. As for TIC, the Company never objected to a bridge but simply expressed major concern about any underpass of Jeffrey due to underground utilities and a large drain pipe they had to install.

City Mgr. Joyce estimated the cost of the study to be in the \$100,000 range which was supported by PW Assist. Mgr. Gomez (\$80k for consultant & \$20k for staff time). The study scope, however, was expanded to include a community outreach program, which was not in the original plan. The original plan was simply to get an understanding of what, if anything, is possible to build as a bridge; what mitigation measures (if found necessary or desirable) could be incorporated; and what the total cost would be. With this information in hand, NIVA could meet again with The Groves Board with the information in hand for further discussions on the bridge proposal. And only after that step would a decision be made by NIVA as to whether it should continue to support a bridge. Staff's scope seems to include additional information for staff to approach the Council for a decision on the bridge. Agran suggested as an alternative that staff prepare a review of the history and present it to the Council at a future meeting at which time the Council could consider study funding. As a result of Agran's injection, the Council postponed any decision on the study funding from the Carryover Funds. The date for the followup Council meeting was suggested for the second meeting in May. It was agreed that in the meanwhile contact be made to City Mgr. Sean Joyce about maybe doing more bridges in the study so as to spread the study costs and make more efficient use of the study funding.

7. NORTH IRVINE SENIOR CENTER - (Awaiting a response to NIVA's Jan 16 letter to the secretary of the Senior Citizens Council, Robbie Kribell, requesting the agendizing of the siting of the center at an upcoming meeting of the Council.) An e-mail reminder was sent today to Kribell about the lack of any response to the letter and requesting an acknowledgement of the receipt of the letter.

8. WB BRYAN BUS-STOP AT YALE - Per City Traffic Engineer Rick Sandzlmier, the City electronically received a copy of the bus-turnout design drawing from the consultant and is in the process of getting hardcopies made up. Rick was informed of the efforts underway with Community Services Dept. of the City on the Northwood Community Park Memorial Plaza which could change the design at the same corner within the park.

9. REFURBISHMENT OF NORTHWOOD SHOPPING CENTER - The old Coco's restaurant building remains vacant and is deteriorating rapidly. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the center's management company expressing concern about the general deterioration of the center and its impact as a blight on the community.

10. CITY BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE - Per Apr 6 e-mail from Katie Berg of the City, the Draft of the updated *Bicycle Transportation Plan* is supposedly available for review on the City' web-site <www.cityofirvine.org>. She seeks comments to be sent to her either at <kberg@ci.irvine.ca.us> or by mail by Apr 17. As stated in the Executive Summary, "the plan sets forth a program for future development of new components of the bicycle system, including the identification of funding sources, the formation of prioritization criteria, and the establishment of design guidelines for all aspects of the network." As such, it is critical that this Draft be reviewed and comments submitted prior to its consideration for approval by the Council which is expected sometime in May. The objectives of the Plan as listed are: (1) Assess the existing bicycle network; (2) Benefit from the local knowledge of residents and other bikeway users and incorporate public input into the Bicycle Plan; (3) Develop new bikeways; (4) Improve bicycle safety; (5) Promote bicycling as a positive alternative for commuting and recreation; and (6) Increase funding for bicycle facilities. A list of significant trail changes affecting North Irvine and key points of concern were provided for discussion at the meeting. It was agreed that NIVA should respond to the City with the listed concern items. *[The response was sent by e-mail to the city on Apr 13.]*

11. NOISE IMPACT OF TRAIN HORN BLOWING AT HARVARD CROSSING [Richard Price] - Per City Traffic Engineer Rick Sandzimier, the City has received a copy of Tustin's RFP used to solicit consulting services associated with their effort to get a "quiet zone" for Redhill crossing. The City will gain from Tustin's experience to date. Tustin started the process in 2004 and Irvine is hoping to shortcut the time by using Tustin's experience. Price informed NIVA that he will be unable to continue in this effort as he will be moving due to work relocation. A new replacement is needed from Windwood HOA to lead this NIVA effort.

12. YEAR-END FINANCIALS - After some discussion on homeowner membership and payments, the Year 2005 financials were approved as submitted. The income and expenses for 2005 were \$2451.68 and \$2419.40, respectively. The membership dues for 2006 will remain the same as 2005.

13. PUBLIC STORAGE FACILITY EXPANSION - NIVA received a Mar 14 e-mail from EN.TL (Site Entitlement Services) regarding the proposed project and requesting a meeting with NIVA reps. Melvold has been in communications with Dave Robertson, a resident neighboring the project, stating his objections and concerns with the project and some details on historical experience with Public Storage on the facility.

Per City Planner Mairka Modugno, the applicant has yet to submit a revision in response to the City's initial comments of last Dec. The City is scheduled to meet with the applicant on Friday, Apr 14, to discuss the process and details of the zone change request and accompanying environmental documentation requirements. She stated that the applicant has not indicated any urgency with the project, i.e., has not pressed the City to expedite the process. She anticipates that the hearings would not be scheduled before July at the soonest. She also mentioned that the applicant was required to notify all residents within 500 feet of the site property line. Whether this requirement was complied with is unknown. A meeting is suggested between Public Storage and NIVA reps to permit a presentation on the project and to discuss concerns with the project. Though the immediately adjacent residential community has no formal association nor is a member of NIVA, an invite to the meeting would be extended to the adjacent residents. The NIVA letter approved at the March meeting to be sent to the City expressing concerns on the project would be delayed until after this meeting so as to incorporate any changes, concessions, etc., resulting from the meeting.

NEXT MEETING - Next meeting is scheduled for Wed., May 10, 2006.