

NIVA MEETING RECORD

July 12, 2006

ANNOUNCEMENTS The commenced work on June 23 on improving the median landscaping on Irvine Blvd. west of Culver Drive. Included in the work is replacement of a major portion of the ground cover and the installation of more shrubbery and additional trees. Per Steve Buorke, the City's Landscape Superintendent, this work was undertaken by the City in response to NIVA's expressed objections over the last year to the inadequate landscaping in this median. The City has added several trees and has replaced the ground cover and added shrubs -- a significant improvement. It was agreed at the meeting that a letter of appreciation be sent to the City, specifically Steve Buorke.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **NORTHERN SPHERE (PA-3, 5B, 8A, 9, 9C) COMMITTEE** - A fax was sent June 19 to the Com. Services Commission on the proposed modifications to the approved Park Plan for Orchard Hills. The message consisted of merely expressing to the CSC that timeliness of parks for new development is paramount while established communities in North Irvine are still awaiting their park needs and urges the completion of the long-overdue Public Master Facilities Plan.

On July 6, the PC held a hearing on the General Plan Amendment, Zone Change, Vesting Tentative Tract Map, Park Plan and Conceptual Master Plan for the Lambert Ranch Residential Development Project. A letter was faxed July 6 to the PC expressing concern on 2 subjects -- Library Services and Community Park Credits. Basically, the PC was requested to direct staff to immediately commence on a library impact fee ordinance as proposed as mitigation measure in the Draft EIR and to reject the limitation on the use of the derived community parkland credits to use within only the Northern Sphere but rather within North Irvine based on highest need. Unfortunately, the PC recommended approval with no comment on either of NIVA's concerns.

The City began seeking bids for the contract for rehabilitation of Blue Gum Park with a closing on July 13. (The City Mgr. had been contacted last May by NIVA as to the reason for the delay in proceeding with this long overdue project.) The contractor will have 80 working days to complete the project once given the go-ahead by the City. The improvements are part of a conditional settlement for the PA-8A residential project on the west side of Jeffrey Road between Trabuco and Bryan. The work includes removing and replacing trees, replacement of the playground equipment, constructing a new sand volleyball court, modifications to the irrigation and drainage systems, new concrete walkways, walkway lighting, new picnic tables, barbecues, and benches, new park identification sign, new steel fencing, and repairing/replacing ground cover for an estimated cost of between \$500 and \$600 thousand.

At the June 27 meeting, the City Council approved a Quitclaim Agreement involving the vacating of portions of Edison and Lewis streets in Northwood. These two roads were originally planned in 1981 to continue easterly when PA-8A was developed. However, the extension plans were abandoned with the PA-8A development when it was processed and TIC agreed to convert these two streets into paseos to provide pedestrian connections within the village at TIC's expense.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **EL TORO MCAS REUSE** - On June 22, the Great Park Board adopted a set of 12 environmental goals or objectives of which one is of specific interest to adjacent communities, i.e., that the Park will be "transit-oriented". By this, the Board means that the park design will "support transit-oriented development in the surrounding community with less-polluting choices and connections within and beyond the Great Park". It would seem that this ought to mean that the Board could be expected to support NIVA's effort to get the Venta Spur Trail connected to the Park via grade-separated roadway crossings so as to induce use of bikes to access the Park with a shorter and safe alternative. It was agreed

at the meeting that NIVA should test the Board's commitment to this goal and seek the Board's active support in acquiring this route and support for the various trail bridges. A letter will be sent to the Board.

On July 5, 6, and 7, the Great Park design team held a series of public workshops seeking input to a variety of master plan subjects. The opinions expressed on the subjects were to be taken into account as the designers form the master plan draft which is to be presented to the Irvine City Council in mid-August. The designers plan to meet again with the public in the first week of August. Melvold attended the session on accessibility and expressed the need to not only look at circulation (and parking) within the park, but also access to and from the Park. He expressed the need to provide ease of access via other than the auto, e.g., optimizing bike/pedestrian accesses from local communities and even buses utilizing underused park & ride locations throughout the County for those peaking activities at the Park on weekends. He stressed the need to minimize the vehicle impacts on surrounding communities (especially Northwood and Woodbury) by those accessing and leaving the Park.

2. NORTH IRVINE LIBRARY - The Irvine Library Task Force lost a member July 6 week -- Jim Arn -- a very valuable asset to the Task Force. As a volunteer with the OC Library System at Heritage Park Library and Irvine resident, his perspective and input will be missed. The next meeting of the City's Library Task Force is scheduled for July 19.

As mentioned last month that during the CSC hearing of June 7 on the Lambert Ranch Draft EIR & Master Plan and Park Plan, the City Staff included the UCI and IVC in square-footage calculations for library services available to the general public which normally only includes that furnished by OC Library System libraires and further informed CSC that library services is not in its area of responsibility. Melvold subsequently brought this matter first to the attention of Planning Commission Mavity since the PC was scheduled to hear the same Plans on July 6 and than to the attention of Councilmembers Shea and Choi via a June 19 e-mail to their joint aide Carl Berman. Per phone discussion with Berman, he stated that both councilmembers were perplexed by the disclosure and have requested an explanation from John McAllister, Dir. of Community Services Dept.

3. PROPOSED NORTHWOOD U.S. POST OFFICE - Since the only matter left is the grand opening and any ceremony to be held, it was agreed to close this item. [ITEM CLOSED]

4. HEAVY VEHICLE ROADWAY RESTRICTIONS [Jerry Kirchgessner] - An email was received June 22 from M. Gomez of the City's PWs informing NIVA that the Truck Route Study funding (\$45,000) was included in the 2006-07 Budget. He anticipated beginning the work effort this Summer and would have a scope by the end of July. He looks forward to NIVA's participation in the study.

A July 11 e-mail was received from Jim Lizzi, Sr. Transportation Engr. for the City, stating that the City had a kick-off meeting with the consultant, RBF, who will be performing a survey of designated truck routes and weight-restricted streets. Bob Matson is the lead with RBF and Armando Rutledge with the City.

4. BOWERMAN LANDFILL EXPANSION - A July 5 meeting was held between City staff (Dir. of PWs Marty Bryant, Mike Byrne, & Marcia Beckett) and NIVA reps (Elliot, LaPorte & Melvold) to discuss the upcoming City negotiations with the County on the RELOC Project. There was essentially a consensus reached on the desired compensation, needed commitments of both County and Council, and the strategy and steps needed to arrive at the objective. A followup meeting will be scheduled to continue the discussion. The County is tentatively scheduling the RELOC Project and associated EIR for the Aug. 1 Board of Supervisors meeting. However, it is unlikely this item will be considered at that time unless and until the negotiations with the City on the Agreement is completed.

5. NORTH IRVINE TRANSPORTATION MITIGATION PROGRAM - At the June 27 meeting, the City Council approved without comment the I-5/Sand Canyon Interchange Improvement Project and

associated certification of the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project. It now becomes incumbent on NIVA to monitor the development of the Transportation Control Plan [TCP] for the construction project to assure the concern over diversion of the Bowerman Landfill truck traffic to Jeffrey will not occur during construction. An e-mail was sent to PW Dir. Marty Bryant on June 28 requesting extending involvement of NIVA in the development of the TCP at least to the extent of review and comment on areas associated with the arrangements for truck traffic for the Landfill including signage, routing, etc.

6. NORTHWOOD MILITARY MEMORIAL MONUMENT [Zelinko] - Zelinko reported that the group is still working with the City's John McAllister about a new memorial sign. A meeting is expected to be called this month.

7. "SMART" PEDESTRIAN CROSSING OF YALE & GRADE-SEPARATED CROSSING FOR VENTA SPUR TRAILS - The City scheduled an open house on the Venta Spur Trail/Jeffrey Road Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study for this evening from 6 to 8 PM. When questioned about the extent of the notice the City sent out, Sun-Sun T. Murillo, Sr. Transportation Analyst for the City, stated that notices were sent out inviting local residents and area stakeholders within 1000 ft of the bridge site! However, upon further questioning, it was disclosed that this noticing was extremely limited, i.e., The Groves, and a few homes in Woodbury and in Northwood. In the case of The Groves, the City sent a notice only to the main office with 35 copies of the flyer enclosed as the City has no listing of the individual residents by space number within the community. The boundary of the noticing should, however, have been all of Northwood from Culver to Jeffrey, from Irvine Blvd. to Trabuco as this trail would provide benefits to all Northwood residents within this area. Another disturbing element of the open house is that once again a City-sponsored open house or community meeting -- a public forum supposedly for input -- was scheduled at City Hall and not in North Irvine. Murillo stated that she was unable to secure a location in North Irvine though she was instructed by Dir. of PWs, Marty Bryant, to try. She did try but to a very limited extent. She inquired into the availability of the center at Northwood Com. Park and the auditorium at El Camino Elementary School in Woodbury. If nothing else, it once again substantiates the fact that North Irvine is deficient in forums for meetings such as this.

The meeting's attendance was in excess of a dozen residents of which 8 were from The Groves. Overall the comments and questions were favorable to the bridge or at least the study of the bridge. No one expressed any outright objection to the bridge; in fact, the closest resident at The Groves was favorable to the bridge but did want other ramp approaches investigated. Kevin Chudy, the property mgr. for Woodbury with Professional Community Management of Lake Forest, stated that the Woodbury Community Assn. has no objection to the bridge connection but he himself has received calls from 2 Woodbury residents expressing concerns about the aesthetics from a bridge. At the meeting, Staff had posted the controversial and demensionless bridge concept drawing developed by Community Services staff in 2003 though Staff did indicate it was only one concept as many will be investigated. City staff (Murillo & Jon Toolson) were unprepared and lacked knowledge on the Venta Spur Trail extension though Northwood and the future plans of same over the SR-133 Corridor and on to the Great Park. Attendees were introduced to Don Currie of the IBI Group of Irvine -- the City-contracted consultant firm. The meeting ended early since staff had little to present looking instead for input. Councilmember Kang attended the meeting briefly and assured that the next meeting will be in North Irvine while Murillo agreed to expand the meeting notice for the next meeting to include all residents within 1000 ft of the Venta Spur Trail in Northwood and not just those within 1000 feet of the proposed bridge site.

8. NORTH IRVINE SENIOR CENTER - Another email was sent to the secretary of the Senior Citizen Council on June 19 about NIVA's agendaing request for consideration of siting of the 3rd City Center.

9. WB BRYAN BUS-STOP AT YALE - As agreed at the June NIVA meeting, Melvold sent an e-mail on June 25 to Ali Taghavi of the City informing him of NIVA's selection of Alternative 1 of the design plans for the bus turn out.

10. REFURBISHMENT OF NORTHWOOD SHOPPING CENTER - The draft response letter to the owner of the Center, L. C. Smull, was reviewed and comments and suggestions made. It was agreed that a copy of his property manager's letter should be included. The letter will be revised and sent. [Letter sent July 17, 2006.]

11. COMMUNITY CONFERENCE CENTER - This proposal by Councilmember Agran has apparently been abandoned as no such facility is proposed in PA-1. It was therefore agreed to close this item. [ITEM CLOSED]

12. CITY BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE - At the June 27 meeting, the City Council approved the Plan without comment. [ITEM CLOSED]

13. CULVER DRIVE/WALNUT AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - NIVA received a copy of the *Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Culver Drive-Walnut Avenue Street Improvements* on June 21. The Draft was prepared by Michael Brandman Associates of Irvine for the City. The accompanying letter from Farideh Lyons requested comments to her by July 10. The major change was the deletion of the additional Culver Drive SB lane. Melvold had informed Lyons that NIVA could not respond before July 17 at the earliest since NIVA's next meeting isn't until July 12. Melvold received the OK for the extension to July 17 from Lyons. There are many concerns, questions, and objectionable features of the proposed improvements -- more than could be realistically discussed at the meeting. After reviewing and considering a listing of comments developed by Melvold and Elliott, it was agreed to have a letter sent with the comments to Lyons. The major concerns were the lack of coordination with the adjacent Culver/Trabuco/I-5 Improvement Project, the loss of 13,900 sq ft of landscaping on Culver fronting the Heritage Plaza and impact on "community identity", failure to provide adequate and complete analysis of alternatives or piecemeal assessment of modifications, failure to investigate previously suggested changes, and lack of sensitivity to residents along Culver & Walnut. Because of the complexity and number of comments, the attendees were given the next day to forward any further comments on the listing to Melvold prior to his finalizing and sending the letter. [No additional comments were received and letter faxed to Farideh Lyons of the City on July 17.]

14. PUBLIC STORAGE FACILITY EXPANSION - Melvold discussed with the City's Mike Haack on June 19 the possibility of the City taking up Public Storage's offer of a trail connection between Pinewood Park/Cape Code cul-de-sac and the Venta Spur Trail going across Public Storage's property. The offer was made by Timothy Reeves of Public Storage at the neighborhood meeting on June 12. The phone conversation was followed up with an e-mail on June 20. Haack responded immediately expressing thanks for the "productive thinking" and stating that the City will follow up on the idea.

15. NIVA MEETING RECORD DISTRIBUTION: INTERNET vs. MAIL - It was reported that as of the meeting, only a 9% return has been obtained on the survey. Since a no response is considered a negative, the proposed change would not be approved. It was agreed that the survey period would be extended until the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING - Next meeting is scheduled for Wed., Aug. 9, 2006.