

NIVA MEETING RECORD

Sept. 13, 2006

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 3rd "Transportation Matters 2030" town hall meeting is scheduled for Sept. 20 at the Irvine Chamber of Commerce office from 5 to 7 PM. It will include consideration of future transportation to the Great Park and simply getting around or commuting in the City. Contact is Nija Eddington on 949-680-9699.

A dedication ceremony is planned for the opening of Woodbury Community Park on Wed., Sept 27 @ from 4 to 5 PM in the Garden Room of the community center. NIVA has received an invite. RSVP is required by Sept 21. Ravenscroft volunteered to attend as NIVA's rep.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PA-10 JAMBOREE MEDICAL/SCIENCE CENTER COMMITTEE [Nancy LaPorte] - Ability First has finally started construction on the site at Harvard & Walnut having apparently resolved their financing.
2. NORTHERN SPHERE (PA-3, 5B, 8A, 9, 9C) COMMITTEE - At the City Council meeting last night, the Lambert Ranch (in Planning Area 6) General Plan Amendment and Zone Change was approved [5/0] for a 169-unit residential project.

OLD BUSINESS

1. EL TORO MCAS REUSE - A meeting was held Aug 24 at Heritage Fields office on the closed El Toro MCAS Base at the request of NIVA between several involved parties on bike trails to accommodate residents of North Irvine in accessing the Great Park by bicycle directly, easily & safely. In attendance from NIVA were Melvold, Ravenscroft, and Zelinko. Others were:

from Lennar; Bob Santos, President of Heritage Fields Div. of Lennar
Carol Schroeder Wold, VP Community Affairs
from EDAW; Don Smith, Sr. VP (design consultant for Heritage Fields re. trails)
from Ken Smith's Great Park Architect Group;
Lance Vallery, responsible for Great Park trails
Richard Ramsey, responsible for Great Park design elements

Discussion centered around primarily the Venta Spur Trail extension and the bike trail paralleling the railroad tracks to the Great Park. All indicated a high degree of support for both trails and a cooperative and synergetic effort to make them both realities. Problematic aspects of each were identified, addressed, and suggested solutions proposed along with identifying the critical parties to each solution effort. Smith was assigned by Santos to lead the effort in investigating the identified problems with the railroad trail while Santos would communicate with the TCA and County on the Venta Spur Trail "obstacles". It is hoped to have all major obstacles with the two trails resolved in time for the public presentation of the Great Park Plan scheduled for Oct 14. The group agreed to meet again in about 2 weeks to discuss progress and findings. It was suggest by Melvold that the City be invited to attend also. On Sept 8, Schroeder informed Melvold that Lennar would like to portpone the followup meeting until sometime in Oct. due to other more pressing issues it is confronting at the moment.

The public proposals for consideration for inclusion in the sports park portion of the Great Park were due Aug 31. These will be scrutinized by the Great Park Corp. staff and presented to its Board soon after.

The City Council reviewed and discussed the staff-prepared City-response to the Grand Jury Report at last night's Council meeting. The draft was approved as drafted [3/2, Choi and Shea dissenting] after some amendments were made.

The City Council's held a hearing on the Amendment to the Development Agreement for the Orange County Great Park by and among the City of Irvine and Heritage Field, LLC at last night's Council meeting. Basically, the proposal would reduce the commercial/industrial by 30% (from 5.3 million square feet to 3.7

million) and increase the number of residential units by 162 % (from 3,625 to 9,500 -- not counting the affordable housing units). However, if the proposed 1,425 affordable units are added to the total number of residential units, the total additional becomes 7300 and the increase is over 200%! Supposedly this proposal would increase the projected total funding for the Great Park development by 116 % (from \$872 Million to \$1.451 Billion). No details were provided on the financial projection. The publicly owned land would increase by 402 acres with 342 acres for the Park and Golf course and 60 acres for affordable housing. No decision has been made as who would ultimately own or even build the affordable housing. After a presentation by Lennar, testimony by 33 speakers, and 3 1/2 hours of elapsed time, the Council approved [5/0] approved the following 4 actions:

- (1) Approve the Principles of Agreement in concept;
- (2) Directed the City Mgr. to initiate a General Plan Amendment and Zone Change;
- (3) Directed the City Mgr. to provide an environmental analysis of the proposal and a fiscal analysis of the proposal; and
- (4) Provide the Council with quarterly updates on the progress associated with these activities.

2. NORTH IRVINE LIBRARY - At the Sept. 5 meeting of the Irvine Library Task Force, the City's consultant previewed its findings and recommendations. The draft of the study report is expected to be available for review by Task Force members the week of Sept 11 with a final review expected at the next meeting scheduled for Oct 3. Assuming all OK, the consultant is expected to present the report, i.e., its findings and recommendations to the City Council at a meeting tentatively scheduled for Oct 24. The TF is expected to give a supporting presentation. There was discussion on some of the preliminary findings and posturing of the TF presented by Melvold who is a member of the TF.

3. HEAVY VEHICLE ROADWAY RESTRICTIONS [Jerry Kirchgessner] - Bob Matson of RBF Consulting was informed by e-mail on Aug 15 that NIVA would be unable and unwilling to meet with RBF until such time as it has received and has had time to review the contracted work scope for the study from the City. After some confusing communications from the City regarding a so-called protocol for requesting a copy of the scope of work, NIVA received a copy, not of the City's scoped Request For Proposal, but rather RBF's bid proposal dated May 26, 2006 on Aug 23. Copies of the bid proposal were distributed at the meeting. (It was noted that even though the bid proposal is dated May 26, 2006, the contract approval date by the City is May 9, 2006!!)

The general conclusion of the group was that the bid proposal gave insufficient information to clearly understand the scope and intent of the study. Major emphasis seems to be placed on the HOA workshops at which the consultant would query residents and stakeholders regarding truck route designations. It was noted that the study would specifically exclude any assessment of the environmental aspects of truck traffic such as noise, vibration, and air quality -- issues of concern regarding truck traffic through residential neighborhoods. Because of the detailed nature of the subject, it was generally agreed that even if residents attended, the majority of the time would be spent simply explaining to the residents what this is all about. It is unlikely that they would grasp the subject in sufficient detail to submit indepth comments realizing that the City had organized a committee of reps from throughout the City several years back to address the issue. That committee held several meetings on the subject exploring the problems and possible fixes. All of that previous effort seems to have been forgotten and/or cast aside by City staff.

It was agreed that NIVA would not invite RBF to a regular monthly meeting as this would usurp a major portion of valuable meeting time needed for the many issues on the agenda. It also would cost the City \$1750 for RBF to attend the meeting. It was agreed that NIVA could input just as well if member-reps attended one or more of the 10 HOA workshops the consultant indicated it would hold rather than have its own separate meeting. Melvold was to so inform RBF and seek also information on the proposed proposed workshops, i.e., where and when will the workshops be held? Will there be any meeting record

or feedback (e.g., a draft of proposed truck route report) available to attendees, including NIVA, prior to any start of presentations to the Planning Commission and Council?

4. **BOWERMAN LANDFILL EXPANSION** - The Board of Supervisors approved the County-City Cooperative Agreement on the Bowerman Landfill at their Aug 10 meeting. A copy of the proposed survey to go to the NIVA membership on seeking suggestions for use of the money expected from the County was reviewed and approved. It will be distributed with the regular monthly meeting notice.

5. **MASTER COMMUNITY PARK PLAN REVISION** - No complete City-wide revision has been done since the 1988 version though piecemeal approvals of master plans (addendums) have occurred on an individual development project basis. Consequently, established North Irvine continues to be left out of City planning and shortfalls continue with no future plan to correct.

6. **NORTH IRVINE TRANSPORTATION MITIGATION PROGRAM** - On Aug 2, NIVA received a letter dated July 20, 2006 from the City transmitting an abridged Response to Comments for the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration on the proposed Jeffrey Road/Walnut Ave. Intersection Improvement Project. It is abridged since it only contains responses to NIVA's comments. The item is scheduled to go to the Council on Sept 26. NIVA's major concern dealt with the specific loss of landscaped setback along the southern side of Walnut in front of The Arbor Village Shopping Center but also, the general loss of landscaped setbacks along major arterials in the established North Irvine to accommodate traffic improvements associated with new "outside" traffic-generating development. At least 4 known traffic improvements in North Irvine involve the removal and decreasing in the existing and usually already below City-standard landscaped setbacks in North Irvine -- along Culver, Walnut, Trabuco, and Yale.

It was agreed that NIVA should send a letter to the City Council objecting to what is seen as an extensive community-wide loss of landscaped setbacks along arterials as a result of a major roadway modifications due to traffic generated primarily outside the area. City staff's analysis lacks consideration of the effect that will have on the aesthetics of the community. It was understood that there is a trade-off between traffic congestion and retention of setbacks, but it the lack of consideration of the tradeoff that is objectionable. City staff has made light of or simply ignores the loss of landscaped setback as a meaningful impact in its analysis of the various projects. Kiser agreed to give a presentation to the Council. Kirchgessner and Zelinko also indicated they would try.

7. **AFFORDABLE HOUSING** - A Sept 10, 2006 article in the O. C. Register titled "No Rent District" provided a Low-income Housing Scoreboard for cities in Orange County during the period of 1998 to 2005. Irvine had the 2nd highest State-requirement for providing new low-cost housing in the County, second only to Anaheim. Of the very-low income housing (household incomes less than 50% of the County's median income, i.e., \$28,400 for single and \$40,550 for a family of 4), the City has provided 393 housing units of the 1,942 goal: for the low income housing (household incomes less than 80% of the County's median income, i.e., \$45,450 for single and \$64,900 for a family of 4), the City has provided only 15 of the goal of 1,186 units. However, there is concern that most, if not all, of these units are located in North Irvine. Currently, the City is proposing to build 1,425 affordable units in the Great Park area, also in North Irvine.

8. **NORTHWOOD MILITARY MEMORIAL MONUMENT [Zelinko]** - A fitting and sensitive ceremony was held at the temporary memorial at Northwood Community Park on Sept 11 for the 2,996 who perished on 9/11. In attendance were several City officials. Unfortunately, following the ceremony that evening, the memorial was once again vandalized. The attendees were shocked to hear that news that once again this memorial in our community is desecrated and most likely by community members.

9. **NORTH IRVINE SENIOR CENTER** - NIVA received a letter dated Aug 3 from the City's Senior

Citizen Council [SCC] Chair Al Brandt in response to NIVA's repeated request to have the issue of the siting of the 3rd or North Irvine Senior Center agendized at one of their upcoming meetings -- an effort fruitlessly underway for well over a year!! (Copies were distributed at the meeting.) Brandt stated that the SCC acknowledges that "...the current plan is to provide a senior program element at each of the northern facilities" and that the SCC approved a list of detailed equipments/facilities presented by staff at its Dec 9, 2006 study session (actually, the study session was Dec 9, 2004) for use "in the design process for the Northern Sphere Parks". He does not specifically mention NIVA's request for the SCC to agendize the siting or need for a senior center but implies it is unnecessary in light of the strategic change in direction by staff. Melvold drafted a response with assistance of Kiser which was sent to Brandt on Sept 4 (Copies distributed at the meeting) which primarily expressed disappointment with the SCC's lack of interest in our expressed concern and unwillingness to even consider the matter. As a result of the meeting described in the next paragraph, a blind copy was sent to Councilmember Shea.

Having all but abandoned an approach of soliciting the support of the City's Senior Citizen Council to have the City Council entertain the subject of the 3rd or North Irvine Senior Center, a meeting was scheduled with Councilmember Shea. NIVA reps (Kiser, Ravenscroft, Melvold, Zelinko) met with Councilmember Shea on Aug 31 to encourage her to place the need and siting of the 3rd or North Irvine senior center on a future City Council meeting. Shea agreed to do so for the Oct 24 meeting. In the meanwhile, she agreed to send out post cards to the identified senior residents living in North Irvine north of the I-5 encouraging them to attend the Council meeting. Shea and her staff will work with NIVA to prepare the wording on the post card. She also indicated during the discussion her understanding of the need and her own support for construction of the center in the near future.

On Aug 15, Melvold had a phone conversation with Senior Citizen Councilmember Sam Castello who indicated he favored the SCC's consideration of the matter and would discuss it with the Chair and other members of the Council and would attempt to have it agendized at the Sept. meeting. No feedback on the matter has been received or whether the matter has been agendized.

10. REFURBISHMENT OF NORTHWOOD SHOPPING CENTER - There has been no response to date from Business Properties Dev. Co. to NIVA's July 17 letter. There was discussion on recent comment by Von's clerk regarding the possible closing of Von's Market after the 1st of the year. Unfortunately, there was no apparent action that anyone could suggest that NIVA could or should undertake. If the members of the community wish to see VON's stay, it is simply up to them to patronize Von's. Obviously, VON's has seen a loss of customers to other new competing grocery stores in the area. For years, VON's had little to no competition in North Irvine.

11. CULVER DRIVE/WALNUT AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - Per Aug 6 e-mail from Farideh Lyons of the City, NIVA was supposed to receive a response to NIVA's July 17 letter the week of Aug 14. To date no City response has been received. NIVA is also awaiting receipt of a revision to the Draft EIR with the corrections to the errors and omissions noted by NIVA.

12. It was agreed that NIVA should attempt to secure a copy of an updated map of North Irvine from the City on a regular basis -- maybe every 6 months -- due to the rapid development occurring in North Irvine. Melvold agreed to contact the City to see if NIVA could secure such at no cost from the City.

NEXT MEETING - Next meeting is scheduled for Wed., Oct. 11, 2006.