

NIVA MEETING RECORD

January 10, 2007

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The City of Irvine has issued the solicitation for bids for construction of the Jeffrey underpass of the railroad south of Walnut. Two separate bridges are involved -- one for the railroad tracks and another for the parallel pedestrian/bike trail -- similar to that over Culver Drive. Bids are due Feb. 21. The estimated \$33.5 Million project is expected to take about 18 to 20 months to complete.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **PA-10 JAMBOREE MEDICAL/SCIENCE CENTER COMMITTEE** [Nancy LaPorte] - The Sign Program with the revision agreed to by the KIA representatives at the Nov 17 site meeting is scheduled to go to the Zoning Administrator on Jan 24. The KIA Hdqtrs. is still not actually completed even though a few employees are now working at the site.

2. **PA-40 R & D DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** - It was decided at last month's meeting to postpone consideration of action on TIC's proposal to delete the Oak Canyon crossover of the I-5 until this meeting. However, the matter was continued again until the next meeting for consideration.

In the meanwhile, further efforts will be made to schedule a meeting with City staff for discussion of (1) City commitment to seek NO TOLL BOOTHS on SR-133 for collections for use of tollway between I-5 and Trabuco; (2) Expediting City efforts for a timely decision on the Jeffrey Spine Trail overcrossing of Trabuco; and (3) Investigating the connection of the Walnut Extension/Oak Canyon Road via a gated grade-crossing of the railroad tracks. The office of the Dir. of PWs was contacted about a meeting on #1 & 3, but no word back as yet on a scheduled date. Regarding #2, refer to Agenda Item No. 23 below.

3. **NORTHERN SPHERE (PA-3, 5B, 8A, 9, 9C) COMMITTEE** - Baab & Associates has submitted another Sign Program for PA-9B, Stonegate, requesting approval for 4 permanent apartment rental signs -- 3 to be installed along Irvine Blvd. and 1 along Sand Canyon. These are in addition to the apartment complex signs which are approved to be installed at the entrance driveways to the various apartment complexes. Similar signs have been approved on the south side of Irvine Blvd for apartment complexes in Woodbury. This practice of apartment rental signs in arterial roadway landscaped setbacks is a relatively recent addition to this area of landscape and consequently primarily in North Irvine. Between these numerous apartment rental signs -- which are essentially commercial in nature -- and the numerous and increasing number of control boxes (for irrigation, street signals, lighting, etc.), the landscaped setbacks are becoming more and more cluttered and as such loosing or seriously compromising their intended purpose. The Sign Program is scheduled for a ZA hearing on Jan 24. It was agreed that, even though previous experience indicates the proposed Sign Program will most likely be approved as submitted by Baab, NIVA should express its objection to the continued and increasing cluttering up of the arterial roadway landscaped setbacks with the unnecessary commercial signage (favoring a single entity -- TIC). A letter expressing this objection is to be sent to the City.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **EL TORO MCAS REUSE** - Demolition of structures on the site has been underway for a while. The current schedule indicates the following:

Early 2007	Lennar expects to start grading.
January 2007	Preview of master Great Park construction schedule
February 2007	Great Park construction cost estimates due.
March 2007	Great Park Board expected to approve extended contract for Ken Smith
April 2007	Irvine Planning Commission hearing on revised El Toro Reuse plan
May 2007	Great Park Board and City Council hearings on 2006-07 Budget
	Second public meeting on Great Park/Spectrum mass-transit system
June 2007	Great Park Board review and adoption of park master and phasing plans

Mid-2007	Orange balloon expected to be launched
Mid-2008	First homes expected to be open and on sale by Lennar
2009	First phase of Great Park expected to be open

OC hearing is scheduled for Jan. 18 on the modifications to the existing OC Great Park Master Landscape Design Guidelines to accommodate the proposed street design associated with the proposed Vesting Tentative Tract Map 17008 for PA-30 & 51. The lead City planner is Diane Nguyen. Most of the proposed changes are existing deviations from City standards. For example, the only change adjacent to North Irvine involves a reduction in the lane closes to the median on Trabuco east of Sand Canyon. It would be reduced 1 foot in width to be consistent with Caltrans standards in anticipation of the future Trabuco/SR-133 interchange. The City's Subdivision Committee recommended approval of the deviations/changes at its Dec 20 meeting.

MUSICK JAIL EXPANSION - Last Dec 21, Gov. Schwarzenegger proposed a \$11 Billion state prison building program to be financed by bonds – bonds requiring only legislative approval. The program would include both state and county prisons. Counties are expected to get funding for 50,000 new beds. Therefore, if enacted, this program would probably enable Orange County to overcome the hurdle preventing the expansion of Musick Jail.

At the City Council Study Session of Jan 9, Dan Jung of City staff gave a report on the background of Musick Jail up to the present. Within the presentation were details of the County's plans which were agreed upon between the County and Lake Forest who have been working together for over 2 years on this matter. Irvine has not been a party to any discussions on Musick with the County whereas Lake Forest initiated the dialogue with the County. Significant details include the possibility of an arraignment facility at Musick. Bookings are permitted under the approved EIR. A release policy would also be within the parameters of the approved EIR should the Sheriff decide to include it. The Sheriff's substation is still being considered at the SW corner of the site.

The tentative schedule as estimated by Rick Dostal of the County Sheriff's office would be 4 months to hire the architect, a year to complete the master plan, a year to complete the detailed design, and 3 to 5 years to build. Current plans assume a phase in of 500 inmate increments with the existing facilities being used concurrently until the new jail is completed and then being removed.

In the end, the Council agreed to have the Mayor and another Councilmember begin working with staff and meeting with the County to discuss the expansion. As phrased by Councilmember Agron and agreed by the Council, the Council was unilaterally opposed to any expansion plan that changes the character of the honor farm. Expansion of the system beyond any reasonable level is opposed. There is no justification for an expansion to the level being proposed and insufficient grounds for not simply maintaining minimum-security for the jail. There were comments made that the City would review its legal position and hints of the possibility of further litigation if necessary.

NORTH IRVINE LIBRARY - The next meeting of the Irvine Library Services Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan 16. At the Jan 8 City Council meeting, \$100,000 was allocated from the Fiscal Year 2005-06 General Fund Carryover as Reserved Funds for Phase II Library Study. Specifically it is a set aside that can be used to prepare a Library Impact Fee Study and potentially a Library Master Plan. The proposed City-wide Library Impact Fee is one of the library capital funding alternatives being investigated to generate revenue to develop additional libraries in the City. The actual study would be performed by a consultant. Council consideration of the actual decision to go forward would be expected on Feb 13.

ORCHARD HILLS VILLAGE [PA-1] LAND-USE PLANNING - It has been noticed that the City has significantly changed the final grade level for the residential development adjacent to Portola

Parkway between Culver and the Corridor such the view of the open space hills beyond are blocked completely from view of motorists on Portola Parkway. This particular section of the project site was actual below grade prior to any regrading of the site. Thus even with the planned building of residential units, it was anticipated that visibility of the hills would not be prevented for the public along Portola. The documents available to the public, including the EIR, during the project approval hearings did not indicate any such change in grade or address the aesthetic impact of loss of visibility of the hills. Approval of the grade change is a separate approval process normally done without public disclosure by City staff after approval of the project. Though it is too late now to make any changes in the development, it was agreed that NIVA should present its objection to the City Council nonetheless. Melvoid agreed to contact Northpark's Tom Glenn to obtain that community's perspective on the impact of the grade level change.

5. **FUTURE NORTHWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL** - A final approval of the relocation by the IUSD Board from a Northwood to a Woodbury site has been sought and was expected shortly having already received approval by the State. However, a new proposed relocation of the middle school to the southeast corner of Trabuco and Jeffrey in PA-40 has been made by TIC with IUSD concurrence as part of the revised land-use for PA-40. If the revised land use is approved by the City, the application for relocation will have to be made once again to the State for approval, thus postponing the IUSD Board approval of a new site. Though this will delay a final decision, the IUSD is anxious to have a quick decision as they would like to open the school by Sept 2009.

6. **MASTER COMMUNITY PARK PLAN REVISION** - A draft of this document was promised to NIVA by the Dir. of Com. Services by the end of last Summer. No such document has been forthcoming as yet. It is noted, however, that City staff referenced this draft document dated 2003 in a presentation to the Community Services Commission last Dec 6 during a study session as the basis for its proposed listing of 5-7 years priority projects.

7. **JEFFREY OPEN-SPACE SPINE** - The City submitted the application to the State on Dec 1 for a grant for funds to do the feasibility study for the Jeffrey Open-Space Spine Trail overcrossing of Trabuco. The City has estimated a planning study and environmental clearance for the construction of the crossover to be \$120,000. The City has requested \$108,000 from the State's Bicycle Transportation Account Program for this project. A decision by the State is not expected for at least 6 months.

8. **NORTHWOOD MILITARY MEMORIAL MONUMENT** - A request was made for partial funding of the proposed monument, i.e., \$150,000 of the estimated cost of \$350,000 construction costs, from the Fiscal Year 2005-06 General Fund Carryover at the Jan 9 City Council meeting with the additional expected from individual and corporate donations. Actual Council consideration of the detailed plans would be expected in Feb. Zelinko and other key members of the community gave presentations to the Council. In the end, the Council unanimously approved \$150,000 as "seed money" to initiate the project. Councilmember Shea committed to drafting a letter to be sent to local elected officials to see if donations can be derived from the politicians' coffers and corporations. The next effort will be to set up a meeting to strategize including coming up with source of funds for the balance and a secure location for placement of any donations received from private parties. There is also major disagreement over the total and line-item content of the staff's estimated cost for the project which needs to be scrutinized.

9. **NORTH IRVINE SENIOR CENTER** - Melvoid had a phone conversation with Councilmember Agran on the need for a site and the opportunity for the Bryan/Jeffrey site. Agran expressed optimism about the site and requested that Melvoid followup with a letter that he can use to proceed with investigating it.

10. **NOISE IMPACT OF TRAIN HORN BLOWING AT HARVARD CROSSING** - Per Katie Berg of the City, the City is arranging to have a meeting with Caltrans/MetroLink shortly to address the funding strategy. She expects a settlement on this aspect by next month.

JEFFREY'S BUSINESS PARK - The developer, Dacor Inc., has submitted an application to the City for a Tentative Tract Map 2005-267 to divide the site into smaller pieces so that it may sell the individual buildings to different individuals rather than retain with some sort of a leasing arrangement for the site. In contrast to TIC business parks, this would mean that in event any problems develop in the future, decisions become more difficult in dealing with several landowners. The Map will be initially considered by the Subdivision Committee on Jan 24.

LOWER PETERS CANYON COMMUNITY PARK ANNUAL JOINT-USE EVALUATION - It should be noted that the soccer field in the park is receiving a high rate of wear and tear requiring replanting after only a year. Also, staff's Draft Facilities Master Plan (2003) identifies aquatic facilities as a key need.

GATEWAY PROJECT - The request by Councilmember Choi for \$180,000 to install 2 Irvine Gateway monument signs along the I-405 and I-5 freeways was considered at the Jan 9 City Council meeting for Fiscal Year 2005-06 General Fund Carryover funding requests. The Council decided not to fund the 2 monuments but to move the Gateway Program forward with a funding of \$15,000.

NON-RESPONSE FROM CITY ON CORRESPONDENCE - The outstanding issues which have been brought to the attention of City Mgr. Sean Joyce have been assigned to Assist. City Mgr. Sharon Landers to handle pertain. A meeting has been scheduled for Jan 17. Members who have volunteered to attend include Kiser, LaPorte, Melvold, Ravenscroft, and Zelinko.

END OF YEAR STATE OF NIVA SUMMARY - A copy of the 2006 Year-end State of NIVA report was reviewed at the meeting. The identified successes most likely would not have occurred and residents would not have the benefits without the active efforts of NIVA.

2006 YEAR-END FINANCIALS - As of Dec 22, 2006, NIVA had \$2226.16 in its bank checking account. Final financial report including expense statement will be available for review and approval at the next meeting along with approval of annual dues amount for 2007.

INTERSECTION SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION CABINETS - Details of the siting criteria and constraints for the cabinets at the intersections as relayed in phone conversation to Melvold from City Traffic Engineer Ken Louie in phone discussion with Melvold were described at the meeting. After considerable discussion concerning the siting and size of the cabinets and the lack of sensitivity to the community demonstrated by the City in this program, it was agreed that NIVA should present objections to the City about the cabinets and the lack of prior notification and discussion with the community. Melvold and Zelinko will present the objections with a power-point presentation to the Council at the first Council meeting in Feb.

PROPOSED POSTED SPEED LIMIT CHANGES - At the Jan 9 meeting, the City Council approved several posted speed limit changes. Those affecting North Irvine include:

<u>Roadway</u>	<u>Existing Posting</u>	<u>Revised Speed Limit</u>
Bryan - Jamboree to Culver	55 mph	50 mph
Portola - Jeffrey Sand Canyon	65	55
Portola - Sand Canyon to Portola Springs	65	50
Portola - Portola Springs to SR-241	65	55

EXT MEETING - Next meeting is scheduled for Wed., Feb 14, 2007. It was agreed that the agenda for next month's meeting would include (1) a revisiting of the suggested electronic transfer of meeting records to membership and (2) consideration of reimbursement for the OC Register advertisement about the Council hearing on the North Irvine senior center.

2006 YEAR-END SUMMARY

February 1, 2007

Dear NIVA Members and Supporters:

The following is but a partial list of some of the more significant accomplishments and notable activities of NIVA during 2006. These resulted in either improving the aesthetics of our community, assuring improved benefits/amenities for our community residents, or reducing the impacts to our community from future projects and/or development.

- [1] City/Caltrans/OCTA commitment to the future expansion of Jamboree underpass of I-5 Freeway from 6 to 8 lanes with implementation soon after 2009.
- [2] Secured continued City Council interest in addressing the library deficiency in the City by the establishment of an ongoing Library Services Advisory Committee as followup to last year's Library Task Force.
- [3] Assured that the City's updated Bicycle Transportation Plan included in the conceptual future trail network the trails and grade-separated roadway crossings in North Irvine proposed and supported by NIVA for benefit on community.
- [4] Prevailed on the City to fund \$100,000 for a feasibility study of a Venta Spur Trail overcrossing of Jeffrey Road to identify cost, potential impacts, and mitigations.
- [5] Initiated the concept, that any City/County settlement on the proposed Bowerman Landfill Expansion include consideration of compensation for several loss or delayed receipt of benefits identified by NIVA, which resulted in a settlement expecting to ultimately derive \$100 Million for the City.
- [6] Secured a reduction in the planned height of the expansion of the Public Storage facility on Jeffrey from 3-story to 2-story in negotiations with developer.
- [7] Prevailed on the City to initiate an effort to secure a "quiet zone" for Harvard Ave railroad crossing.
- [8] Prevailed on the City to improve the Irvine Blvd. median landscaping between Culver and the Corridor with installation of new ground cover and additional trees.
- [9] Prevailed on KIA Motors to reduce the sign size and increase landscape screening of parking lot along Peters Canyon for KIA Headquarters building.
- [10] Prevailed on City to delete the 4th south-bound lane on Culver Drive between Scottsdale and Walnut Avenue in its current planning for widening Culver Drive. The 4th south-bound lane would have removed what little landscaping exists on the west side in this segment of Culver Drive.

Without NIVA's active involvement, it is unlikely that these "benefits" would have been realized. Certain association representatives to NIVA have put in much time and effort in support of NIVA's efforts in behalf of the north Irvine community. I wish to again express my gratitude and that of the North Irvine community for each of their efforts.

During the year, NIVA was involved in: (1) Reviewing plans and associated environmental documents on Bowerman Landfill Expansion, Jeffrey/I-5 Business Park, Culver/Walnut and Jeffrey/Walnut and I-5/Sand Canyon Improvement Projects; (2) discussions with the City of Irvine, Lennar, and The Irvine Co. on pedestrian/bike trail connections with the future Great Park, North Irvine Senior Center, and future library needs and sites, and (3) the on-going Jeffrey Open-space Spine Trail planning & implementation.

If your association's representative has not been an active participant during the last year, hopefully he/she can and will step forward and contribute his/her association's part in supporting NIVA's efforts in behalf of the North Irvine community, including that of your association, on these issues during 2007.

David Melvold

President