

# NIVA MEETING RECORD

November 14, 2007

ANNOUNCEMENTS Paula Burrier-Lund has replaced John McAllister as Irvine's Director of Community Services Department effective last Oct 22.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **PA-10 JAMBOREE MEDICAL/SCIENCE CENTER COMMITTEE** [LaPorte] - Ability First's 24-unit housing complex is expected to be ready for move-in by the end of the year. NIVA received the letter from the City dated Oct 18 which had been indicated to be forthcoming last month on the landscaping improvements for screening the vehicles in the KIA parking lots.
2. **NORTHERN SPHERE COMMITTEE** [ ] - Last night, the City Council considered a land swap between the City and TIC for land -- a piece of land along Portola Pkwy in PA-9B (Stonegate) owned by the City for a piece of land along Sand Canyon at the railroad crossing in PA-12 (Oakcreek). The City, which acquired the land from the County when the City annexation occurred for the Northern Sphere, needs the parcel along Sand Canyon for the proposed railroad underpass. Though the City staff report seems to indicate that the City is coming up short in the deal trading 1.05 acres for 0.38 acres along Sand Canyon, the relative appraised values of the 2 parcels assures a comparative exchange in worth. The City's land is zoned residential with a existing stormdrain and requirement for Portola Pkwy setback that will utilize a major portion of the site whereas TIC's land is zoned commercial/industrial with no restrictions or conditions. TIC is required to place the stormdrain underground once it assumes ownership. Since the item was under the Consent Calendar and no known objectors, it most likely was approved.

## OLD BUSINESS

1. **EL TORO MCAS REUSE** - An e-mail was sent Oct 9 to Lennar's Carol Schroeder Wold inquiring as to any progress on the trail effort. No response received to date.

The Great Park Board recently approved the first phase plan for development of the Great Park which included the Trabuco Great Park entrance. However, there has been no progress on the Trabuco/SR-133 interchange of which the public (including NIVA) has been made aware. The first phase of the Great Park is optimistically expected to be opened within a couple of years. It was agreed that the matter should be brought to the attention of the City Council along with the Dir. of PWs.

2. **MUSICK JAIL EXPANSION** - The fallout of the indictment of Sheriff Corona may be an increase possibility of the expansion of the jail and a change from the current minimum-security only inmate population. Recall, it is only Corona's personal commitment not to change the jail that has kept the jail as is since the City of Irvine failed to reach and execute a legally-binding agreement with the County over the jail. Any replacement sheriff would not be restricted by Corona's previous commitment.
3. **NORTH IRVINE LIBRARY** - The scheduled Nov 6 meeting was unexpectedly canceled by staff and no new date scheduled as of this meeting. Apparently the next meeting will be the normal Dec. mtg.
4. **COMPLETION OF PETERS CANYON WASH AND WALNUT TRAIL "GAPS"** - [Awaiting response to NIVA's May 17 letter to the City. Per May 31 e-mail from Landers, NIVA is to receive a response from the City's PWs Dir., Manuel Gomez.] A recent field check of the sign status was made by Melvold. He found little to no change to the sign status since NIVA's May 17 letter. Consequently, a reminder letter was sent to Gomez on Oct 31. No response has been received to date.
5. **HICKS CANYON COMMUNITY PARK COMMUNITY BUILDING** - The June 28 letter from City Mgr. Joyce indicated that the primary reasons for the improvements of the University Com. Park

Community Center being given a high priority for funding was due to ADA requirements, major rehabilitation, and the inability to meet the needs of the community programs. However, per the Irvine World News article of Nov 8 entitled "Green Plans For Expanding Park Building" or OC Register Nov 13 article entitled "Expansion of Irvine Center Will Focus on Green Goals", the project is primarily an expansion of the facility. Granted ADA requirements and renovation might be incorporated but is not the focus of the funding. The project will expand the center by 6,000 sq. ft from its current size of 3,800 sq. ft. Funding for the \$5.5 Million addition is coming from \$4.4 Million from the City and \$1.1 Million from a State grant with construction expected to start late Summer 2008. Therefore, the two questions remain: (1) Why isn't the lack of any center considered of higher priority than improvement of an existing center and (2) why can't Hicks Canyon Com. Park Community Center qualify for the same State grant as applied and received for University or is it merely a matter of not submitting such a grant application for Hicks Canyon. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Councilmember S. Kang who resides in Westpark Square with copies to the City Mgr. and Dir. of Com. Services. [Letter sent Nov. 19, 2007.]

**6. NB CULVER I-5 UNDERCROSSING** - At the Aug 9 meeting of the City's Finance Commission, it recommended approval of the funding for the project by transferring funds from 2 previously approved but delayed projects. An e-mail was sent to the Deputy PWs Dir. Joyce Amerson on Oct 22 (copies distributed at the meeting) upon becoming aware of the item on the Council's agenda the next day and reviewing the staff report and draft of the proposed agreement with Caltrans on the project available on the City's website. Subsequently, Melvold received a phone call later the same day from the City's project mgr. Kal Lambaz who (1) verified that the Northwood Village Monument sign will be protected in place and retain full visibility, (2) disclosed details of the proposed Culver Drive median landscaping between Trabuco and the I-5 SB off-ramp, and (3) reconfirmed that the starting point of the new 4th NB Culver Drive lane has not changed from previous proposal (several feet north of the I-5 SB off-ramp/Culver intersection). Lambaz reconfirmed his statements and forwarded copies of the detailed drawings via Oct 23 e-mail to Melvold (Copies to be available for review at the meeting.). Melvold then sent an e-mail to Mayor Krom in support of the project but requesting that every effort be made to minimize the construction period. At the Oct 23 meeting, the City Council approved the item without comment under the Consent Calendar.

**7. AFFORDABLE HOUSING** - The City is attempting to update its housing plan by the State's June 2008 deadline. Irvine currently has 64,500 housing units built over the last 35 years. SCAG has set a target of an additional 35,660 units, i.e., a 50% increase, over the next 7 years. That increase amounts to 44% of the units mandated by SCAG for all of Orange County. Irvine has but 6% and 8% of the County's Land and population, respectively. As previous noted, Irvine has sued SCAG over this requirement as being unfair and unattainable. Most of Irvine's remaining open space is designated by previously executed agreements with TIC and Lennar. Despite the suit, the City is proceeding with its update. As part of this effort, a series of public meetings were initially scheduled with 2 in North Irvine -- Northwood Community Park on Oct 22 and Woodbury Community Park on Oct 29. However, due to the Santiago Fire, the Northwood meeting was canceled and is expected to be rescheduled later this month.

**8. JEFFREY OPEN-SPACE SPINE** - Action item was carried over from last month's meeting. Also, it was decided last month to await replacement of retired Com. Services Dir. McAllister before sending any letter to the City. Paula Burrier-Lund has replaced John McAllister as the Director. The objection to McAllister's letter was that it contained little if anything regarding the conclusions or summary of the meeting of Sept 5. The City should either agree with the content of the NIVA rep's notes on the meeting or state where there is disagreement and why. It appears that the City staff wants nothing in writing indicating either their laxity or willingness to "give away" parkland. It was agreed that a letter should go to the new Dir. of Com. Services. The letter should state what we want or expect to see in the City's letter.

**9. NORTHWOOD MILITARY MEMORIAL MONUMENT [Zelinko]** - Zelinko met with a councilmember who assured him that the Council had already approved the \$150k expenditure and that

any action taken by the Com. Services Commission was only advisory. Consequently, the group (independent of NIVA) will be going forward with development of construction drawings and submitting such to the City for permits. There was discussion on the funding and processing of the drawings within the City. Per Zelinko, there should be no permitting costs as the Council had agreed that the City would absorb all such "soft costs".

**10. "SMART" PEDESTRIAN CROSSING OF YALE & GRADE-SEPARATED CROSSING FOR VENTA SPUR TRAILS** - [Awaiting followup by City's Public Works Dept. to schedule another meeting on the bridge study with consultant IBI expected to be in attendance to answer technical questions.] Action and discussion postponed again until the next meeting.

**11. NORTH IRVINE SENIOR CENTER** - Support of a large number of individual homeowners/ residents in North Irvine is necessary to persuade Councilmembers of the need in North Irvine especially that area west of Jeffrey. This matter is expected to come before the Council possibly as early as next month. As City staff's recommendation essentially ignores the need in the area west of Jeffrey, Council's buy-in to the recommendation leaves our community without a long-overdue senior center. After considerable discussion on practical aspects of various possible NIVA actions, it was reluctantly agreed that NIVA at this time could not realistically accomplish anything significantly due to time constraints with the Council expecting to hear the matter early next month.

**12. WB BRYAN BUS-STOP AT YALE** - On Monday, Nov 5, small flags were noticed in a pattern similar to that of a bus turnout along Bryan Ave. adjacent to the Northwood Com. Park. An e-mail was sent to Cindy Krebs of the City inquiring as to the purpose of the flags. No response received to date. [Another e-mail sent to Krebs on Nov 19.]

**13. REFURBISHMENT OF NORTHWOOD SHOPPING CENTER** - NIVA received a "response" to its letter sent to Tom Keller, Vons Division President last Aug. 22nd about the closing of Vons (copies distributed). As you will notice, the response, dated Oct 20, however, was only from a Customer Service Representative. The VP couldn't take the time to respond or at least sign a letter prepared by another. Vons could not even assure a timely response before the store had actually closed. It was mentioned that the replacement market, Zion, was expected to open in 2 days.

**14. CULVER DRIVE/WALNUT AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT** - Several events have occurred and pieces of correspondence transpired between NIVA officers and members of City staff over this project, since the last NIVA meeting, dealing primarily with the Response-to-Comments [Response]document. The simplest dealt with the missing pages in copies distributed to the public. Copies of these were subsequently received from the City. The more complex issue deals with the use of summarization by staff in presenting comments in the Response. In the summarization, staff has distorted or deleted the essence of 40 out of 67 submitted NIVA comments. (Copies of correspondence between NIVA and City staff were distributed at the meeting. Included were: (1) Sept 26 e-mail to City Mgr. Sean Joyce; (2) Sept 28 e-mail from Farideh Lyons w/ attached letter from Michael Brandman Associates; (3) Oct 3 e-mail to City Mgr. Sean Joyce; (4) Oct 17 e-mail from Cindy Krebs; (5) Oct 22 e-mail from Cindy Krebs; (6) Oct 28 e-mail to City Mgr. Sean Joyce; (7) Oct 30 e-mail from Public Works Dir. Manuel Gomez; and (8) Nov 3 e-mail to PWs Dir. Manuel Gomez.

A NIVA position was expressed to the City by Melvold that NIVA will not meet with City staff until receipt of the answers to the questions/comments previously submitted to the City as any meeting without that information beforehand would most definitely be unproductive and a waste of all attendees time. (Unless of course the sole or only purpose of holding a meeting is simply for staff to be able to state that they have met with NIVA in attempts to resolve outstanding issues.) A draft of a letter to the City Council objecting to staff's "summarization" process had been prepared for consideration at the meeting. After reviewing the draft, the letter was approved for sending with cc for City Mgr. and the directors of Community Services, Com. Dev. and Public Works. (Letter was sent Nov. 15.)

A notice of a public meeting to be held on Tuesday, Nov. 27 has been issued and supposedly distributed to all residents within 500 feet of the project. Copies the notice were distributed at the meeting. Though staf had incorporated more detailed information in this notice than in the previous notice, the notice still lacked any language that would have stired the interests of the neighboring residents or apprised them of the potential negative impacts.

It was mentioned at the meeting that even though NIVA had created an opportunity and had informed the Boards of the 2 adjacent HOAs, neither had availed themselves of the opportunity to organize their respecctive residents in anticipation of derivin greater mitigation/compensation for the negative impacts expected to be associated with the project -- specifically, traffic noise from increased traffic volumes and increased light pollution from removal of mature trees.

**15. INTERSECTION SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION CABINETS** -Though Mayor Krom directed City Mgr. Joyce to look into the events associated with the installations of the cabinets on Culver at Bryan and Irvine Blvd. after a presentation was made by Melvold at the Sept. 25 Council meeting, no response has been forthcoming as of yet from the City Mgr. After discussion, it was agreed that a reminder should be sent to the City Mgr. with a copy to the Mayor and Councilmembers. *[Reminder sent Nov. 20, 2007]*

**16. I-5 FREEWAY LANDSCAPE PROJECT** - An e-mail was sent to Lukin on Oct 22 detailing the concern of the need for coordination of the project with that of 12 planned or approved projects in the immediate vicinity of this segment of the I-5 Freeway (copies distributed at the meeting).

**17. TRANSFER OF ACCOUNT AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE** - McFadden reported that the application to the State for the ID no. still has not been submitted as he is having difficulties in completing the application and had to get a copy of the application instructions. He also reported that 3 HOAs have as yet not paid their 2007 annual dues though he has made followup contacts and will continue to do such. They are Northwood Glen, Northwood Villas, and Windstream. He is still awaiting a response from the property managing company for Northwood 2 as a new NIVA member though he has been assured by one of their board members that the Board had approved membership some stime ago. A new supply of checks for NIVA's bank account have been ordered.

**19. MISSION STATEMENT** - A draft of a proposed NIVA mission statement was reviewed and approved at tthe meeting. Copies will be distributed with the next meeting announcement.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting would be Wed., Dec. 12 at The Groves.