

NIVA MEETING RECORD

March 12, 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS Al Brandt passed away last Feb 20. He was a member of the Irvine Senior Advisory Council and one of the most vocal and strongest supporters on the Council for separate senior centers. It is apropos that a Memorial Service is planned for March 15 (1 PM) at the Lakeview Senior Center.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PA-40 R & D DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - On March 1, NIVA received a copy of the Notice of Completion of the Draft EIR and Request for Comments along with a CD of the Draft EIR document itself from the City. After requesting a hard copy of the Draft EIR from the City, Melvold received a copy on March 4. The 45-day review period for the Draft EIR started Feb 29 with a deadline for comments of April 14. The City has placed the Draft EIR on a web site for convenience of the public. The web site is <www.cityofirvine.org/depts/cd/planning_area_40/default.aspx>. A couple of CD versions were available for members to borrow to review. A review and consideration of concerns will be held at the April meeting for submission of NIVA's response immediately thereafter to meet the deadline.

2. NORTHERN SPHERE COMMITTEE - At the Feb 21 hearing, the Planning Commission approved the Vesting Tentative Tract Map 17204 for 30.73-acre site in PA-9B (Stonegate). It should be noted that in approving the Map, the PC approval and increase in the number of DUs for PA-9B by 73 units. NIVA must be watchful of this slow by steady increase in the number of units. Recall the events leading to the significant increase in the development of PA-4 (Lower Peters Canyon) when in the end, TIC went to the City and got an approval in the overall development based on the lack of "sufficient" remaining approved development to make the balance or final open land financially viable to develop. TIC may try to use this tact once again.

TIC is seeking approval of a Tentative Tract Map 17220 to subdivide 6.12 acres in PA-1 on the NW corner of Portola Pkwy. and Jeffrey Road into 7 lots. One lot will be for the northerly extension of Jeffrey Road, 1 lot for a flood water catch basin, 1 lot for a SCE substation and the remaining 4 lots for landscaping. The area is zoned 2.2D, low-density residential. These uses were as identified in the Northern Sphere Master Plan. However, since that time, the City has looked at this location for a possible site of a future library. Also, there should be some mention and development responsibility of the Hicks Canyon Trail which crosses this location and the responsibility for the undercrossing of Jeffrey Road by the same Trail. In a phone call today, Steve Higa of the City stated to Melvold that development of the Hicks Canyon Trail Extension through PA-1 is tied to residential development (permits) in Planning Area 2. Regardless, it was agreed that these concerns should be brought forward for consideration at the City's Subdivision Committee scheduled for 9 AM on Wed., Mar. 26. If unsuccessful, they should be reiterated at the followup, but yet unscheduled, Planning Commission hearing on the matter.

OLD BUSINESS

1. EL TORO MCAS REUSE - Last month Michael Ellzey was hired at the new position of deputy CEO for the Great Park Corp though there is no existing CEO as yet. Ellzey is a former executive director of the Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority in San Francisco. Sharon Landers, Assistant City Manager, continues as the interim CEO.

2. MUSICK JAIL EXPANSION - It didn't take long for the County to act once Sheriff Corona resigned. NIVA had repeatedly warned of the following eminent possibility. The OC Supervisors voted yesterday to apply for a State grant of \$100 Million to increase the number of beds at Theo Lacy and John Musick County jails. In 2006, the County expand the Musick facility to 4,400 beds from its current 1,256. The only thing preventing the County was the lack of funding. But with the State's recently increased commitment to increase the overall jail capacity State-wide, the opportunity opened for the County to act.

Under the new plan by acting Sheriff Jack Anderson approved by the Supervisors, the County would apply for State funding through a State program designed to build jails and prisons with a focus on rehabilitation. The State has \$750 Million available for the first-round funding of jail construction programs. Applications are due Mar. 18 with grants to be awarded in May. To qualify, the County would introduce a program of "re-entry" at the Theo Lacy facility to help State inmates to prepare for return to society. This feature is of special concern because it (1) transfers State prisoners to County facilities, (2) may release State prisoners into local community, and (3) may be expanded in the future to include a similar facility at Musick.

After considerable discussion on the matter, it was agreed that NIVA should send another letter to the Mayor and City Council restating our position on any expansion of Musick Jail insisting that the City seek through negotiations with the County an agreement (in writing) that the nature of the jail will not change and a reasonable level of bed increase in return for any reduction in City opposition to any expansion at Musick. The key point is that, since it may appear to be inevitable that the Jail is to be expanded, the residents of the City would be better served if the City put its efforts toward "minimizing the damage" rather than trying to stop the total onslaught. Melvold will draft and send such a letter to the Mayor and City Council. [Letter sent Mar. 21, 2008.] A second letter is to be sent to Bill Campbell of the County Board of Supervisors objecting to the proposed expansion and specifically requesting attention to NIVA's previously expressed concerns:

- (1) No releases from Musick but rather from Santa Ana Central Jail;
- (2) Transportation of prisoners to and from court to be via Bake Pkwy and I-5 and not thru our community via Irvine Blvd.;
- (3) No change in the inmate designation from the current minimum-security;
- (4) Limit the increase so that Irvine does not acquire recognition of the City with the largest jail population in either the State or Country -- a distinction or reputation Irvine does not need to acquire; and
- (5) Establish a visitation program which can be expected to effectively counter jail inmate visitors from congregating within our community before and after visitation (visitors may in many cases be more threatening to the community than the actual jailed inmate).

Concern No. 5 became all the more of a concern with the plans for the adjacent Great Park.

3. BUILDING FACILITIES MASTER PLAN - An inquiry was e-mailed today to Asst. Mgr. Kreutzen about possible meeting dates. Upon receipt of a response with possible dates, Melvold will contact those who had indicated an interest in attending the meeting.

4. AFFORDABLE HOUSING - An e-mail was received Feb 25 from Mark Asturias, the City's Housing Mgr., who is leading this effort with the City. He can be contacted by phone on (949) 724- 7448. He states that there presently is no timeline for presentation of the Housing Element Update to the Planning Commission, Council or general public. He has forwarded a copy of staff's power-point presentation that was used for the 3 public meetings on the subject. Unfortunately the power-point presentation is presented with a blue background making it impractical to print out a copy of the complete presentation. A Copies of the more salient pages of the presentation were distributed for review and discussion at the meeting. Obvious is the disproportionate responsibility placed on the City of Irvine by the State and the consequently how this translates into an extremely large number of new affordable housing units (>14,000 DUs or roughly 40% of all future housing). The immediate concern of NIVA ough to be that there remains only limited remaining open land upon which to locate these units. One of those few areas is of course North Irvine.

5. NORTHWOOD MILITARY MEMORIAL MONUMENT [Zelinko] - Zelinko reported that the group sponsoring this monument are continuing to go forward regardless of the setback received by the Council and continue to make progress in securing volunteer labor and promises of materials for the monument.

6. CITY EUCALYPTUS WINDROW TREE PROGRAM - Copies of the pertinent sections of the preliminary power-point presentation prepared by City staff were available at the meeting for reps of member-HOAs which had windrow trees within their community. Unfortunately, all such member-HOAs did not have a rep in attendance at the meeting to avail themselves of this "heads-up" opportunity. A discussion followed on the materials. Interested/concerned parties were encouraged to contact Keith Byers, Irvine's Landscape Maintenance Supervisor, on (949) 724-7621 or e-mail on <kbyers@ci.irvine.ca.us> to convey any concerns/questions your association may have. All were again reminded that this was preliminary. The intent was for input to the City before the program is drafted in final for approval of City management and City Council.

7. REFURBISHMENT OF NORTHWOOD SHOPPING CENTER - Melvold received a phone call from City Planner Darrell Chin [724-6454] in which he stated that he will eventually be responding to the 8 questions/concerns expressed by NIVA "at the appropriate opportunity". He has requested some additional information from the owner. The City is also concerned about the physical state of the Center and about adherence to the original conditions of approval.

8. HARVARD RAILCROSSING QUIET ZONE - Per Feb 13 e-mail from Katie Berg-Curtis, OCTA is currently proceeding with the design of the proposed improvements at Harvard. She expects to receive a draft cooperative agreement from OCTA this month. At this point, there is no precise construction timing for the improvements as OCTA has 53 different projects county-wide to coordinate with the railroad. However, OCTA plans to have all improvements completed by the end of 2009. Regarding the questioning of the progress in Tustin which per recent newspaper article appeared to considerably advanced in comparison to that of the Harvard effort, she stated she was not aware of what is going on in Tustin. Since the paperwork to obtain Quiet Zone status cannot be filed until all necessary improvements are constructed at the crossing, she indicated that the article either expressed a misunderstanding or that Tustin is overly optimistic as to scheduling.

9. WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT THE GROVES - A Planning Commission hearing was held Feb. 21. Royal Street Communications California is the applicant. The facility at The Groves would consist of a 50-foot tall Class 10 monopine along the SE portion of The Groves and within the RV storage lot. It will be visible from the Venta Spur Trail though camouflaged as a monopine. The facility was approved but with the added conditions that the hedge be maintained at a new height of 7¹/₂-foot minimum and that 3 new trees be made available for the City to plant on the Venta Spur along side the fence to assist in screening the ground level equipment from view of trail users. It was agreed that this item can be closed. [ITEM CLOSED]

10. ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH - On Mar 4, NIVA received a copy of the Staff Report for the Planning Commission hearing on the Master Plan for the new church facility. The Master Plan for the 8.4-acre, 49,824 sq ft church complex will contain a church with a 64-foot bell tower, parish center, and youth center. Parking will be provided for 500 vehicles. At the Mar. 6 hearing, the Planning Commission approved [4/0, Neudorf absent] the Master Plan with no changes. A variance was granted for the tower height and conditions imposed for modifications to the stripping on Marketplace extending the SB left-turn pocket at Irvine Blvd., installation of a bus turn-out on Irvine Blvd., limitations on use of outdoor PA system & bell tolling times, and off-site light glare from parking standards. With approval of the master plan, it was agreed that this item can be closed. [ITEM CLOSED]

11. TRANSFER OF ACCOUNT AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE - In further discussions with the bank, it was determined that the account can not be placed in the SSN of an individual person without the account carrying the same name -- therefore not NIVA. Hence, the proposed "solution" described at last month's meeting is not viable. Therefore, this leaves no alternative but to file for a Federal Tax ID No. This filing is estimated to cost \$300 -- a one shot expense. However, it also means that NIVA will have to incur

the expense and effort of annually filing Federal and State tax returns even though NIVA has no income whatsoever. NIVA's bank account has always been a no interest-bearing account so as to avoid this necessity. This requirement is an unfortunate fallout of 911. Expenses incurred to comply will obviously have to be included in the annual budget and consequent annual dues. McFadden will proceed with the application to the Feds. Though NIVA could consequently switch to a no interest-bearing account, the expected interest earned would be minimal.

12. IRVINE BLVD. LANDSCAPE REFURBISHMENT - Melvold met with Louie Martinez, Sr. Project Manager and the City's manager for the City's pending \$700,000 Northwood Streetscape Landscape Refurbishment Project, and Dennis Chiotti, Landscape Superintendent, on Feb 14. The City is planning to refurbish the landscaping (plants and sprinklers) in 17 intersections and the noses of the medians of 5 other intersections in Northwood. The new plantings are intended to provide more "color" in the landscaping for Northwood while replacing overgrown and dying plants. This is part of an ongoing effort of the City to keep up the City streetscapes by selecting an area of the City each year to refurbish. It is now Northwood's turn. The project is expected to commence in March and take about 6 months. Melvold was provided a copy of the plans for the Northwood area for review by NIVA. The City was seeking feedback to the proposal. However, the City needed the feedback within a couple of weeks. Member HOAs in the immediate area of the affected intersections were contacted to provide an opportunity to review and express any concerns on the proposal at a meeting held on Feb 20. Those availing themselves of the opportunity were representatives from Vista Filare (Donna Westlund) and Northwood Park (Heidi Aharonian). Also in attendance were Dave Melvold, Andy Zelinko and Dave Robertson, a resident in the area east of Jeffrey which unfortunately has no formal HOAs. Comments were gathered during the review and compiled into an e-mail sent on Feb 22 to Louie Martinez, the City's manager for this project [Attachment 3]. Other unrelated items are appropriately listed as topics (Nos. 1 & 2) under New Business. The project is expected

13. BRYAN AVENUE TREE REPLACEMENT IN SETBACK - At the meeting in Item 48 that there expressed a need to have the tree situation in the landscaped setback on the north side of Bryan between Culver and Jeffrey improved as a result of the underground placement of the OH electric line. Zelinko volunteered to investigate the existing situation and report back next month with details for consideration of the necessity of any possible followup action by NIVA.

14 ROADWAY LANDSCAPE SHRUB SECURITY ISSUE - A resident of Northwood in a section without a formal HOA expressed a concern about the shrubbery along the roadways acting as a security risk as it provides a hiding place for stalkers, etc. that may prey on children, etc. There was discussion about whether: (1) there is a general concern by the membership for this situation; (2) there been any episodes or events which support this concern; and (3) the Irvine Police Dept. [IPD] shares such a concern. Following discussion, it was decided that NIVA would not get involved partly because of the already loaded NIVA plate but also since there was no one present who was willing to take the matter on.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting would be Wed., April 9 at The Groves.