

NIVA MEETING RECORD

February 11, 2009

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PA-10 JAMBOREE MEDICAL/SCIENCE CENTER COMMITTEE [LaPorte] - A meeting was scheduled with KIA and City reps on Feb 4th but was postponed a month by Eric Rubery of the Sapetto Group, consultant for KIA. Laporte reported that she had talked with TIC's VP Mike Leblanc who stated that "they (KIA) would be at risk if they go forward with this (the sign)". Subsequently, Chris Elliott was contacted by Rubery who informed her that KIA had decided to pull the application for the sign and was not going forward with the sign modification -- at least not at this time. She requested a letter confirming this revision. LaPorte would contact Rubery regarding this disclosure. *[Subsequently a letter dated Feb 12, 2009 was received by NIVA from the Sapetto Group Inc. Signed by Rubery stating that KIA has withdrawn the sign program application. As stated, "KIA has decided that the timing for the upgrades to the freeway oriented sign is no (sic) right. We intend to resubmit the sign program request in the future, likely towards the end of 2009 or early 2010."]*

2. PA-40 R & D DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE [] - Per Mike Philbrick, Irvine City planner, TIC has submitted a Tract Map #17246 and accompanying Master Plan for a residential development in the abandoned middle school site in Woodbury. The development would consist of 140 DUs -- all single family detached. Surprisingly TIC sees a market potential at this time to move forward on this project. They base the decision on marketing research that indicates a market with certain revisions in the individual home layouts. TIC is proposing some minor revisions in the Neighborhood Park Plan for Woodbury in association with this project but no change in the community park area. The matter is scheduled to go to the Community Services Commission on Feb 18, the Subdivision Committee on March 11, and the Planning Commission on April 2. With this development, Woodbury will be built out.

OLD BUSINESS

1. EL TORO MCAS REUSE - NIVA received a copy of the Jan 22 e-mail sent by Diane Vu, Sr. Planner for the City, to Outdoor Dimensions -- Lennar's sign consultant -- which included 3 attachments: (1) A Jan 22nd letter from Diane Vu to Bob Linnell of Outdoor Dimensions detailing the City's Second Screencheck Comments, (2) The Irvine Company's Jan 13th letter signed by David Baab objecting to many of the proposed signs, and (3) NIVA's correspondence objecting to various aspects of the proposed sign program. Many of the objections presented by TIC and NIVA were supported by the City. Outdoor Dimensions was asked to revise and resubmit the program by Feb 5. No word as yet as to whether a revised program has been received by the City.

2. COMPLETION OF PETERS CANYON WASH AND WALNUT TRAIL "GAPS" - The most recent discussions with Steve Haubert of the City were unsuccessful. Apparently, even though the use of the same name for 2 different trails in North Irvine would be expected to obviously create confusion, City staff, or at least Haubert, sees no confusion! He stood firm on formality rather than substance or practical aspects of the dilemma. He stated that the Community Services Commission [CSC] approved the trail name as posted and for the segments as posted and, therefore, that is as it should stand. CSC names the City trails and is accustomed to naming a trail by neighboring geographic feature -- in this case Peters Canyon Wash. He found no inherent confusion, or at least would not acknowledge such, in having another trail -- a County trail -- within Irvine having the same name adopted by the County and posted ac

through Irvine, to the sea with this name and also posted the name quite some time ago. Specifically as previously reported:

The City has named the City pedestrian/bike trail which parallels the County's Peters Canyon Trail on the west side of the Peters Canyon Wash from Bryan to north of Irvine Blvd. the West Irvine Trail. This dual naming of parallel trails seems to introduce undesirable confusion. The City side of the trail is signed the "West Irvine Trail" while that of the County is signed "Mountain to the Sea: Peters Canyon Trail".

As it is apparent that any further discussion with City staff would be pointless, it was agreed that letters seeking support be sent to the OCFA and the Irvine Police Dept. *[Letters were sent on Feb 20 to Deputy Fire Marshall Pete Bonano of the OCFA and to Chief David Maggard of the Irvine Police Dept.]*

3. BUILDING FACILITIES MASTER PLAN - Assist. City Mgr. Wally Kreutzen was questioned last Jan 23rd about the status of the preparation of the Plan. In a Jan 26 e-mail, Kreutzen responded but only in relation to one item in the Plan -- the Public Safety Facility. (See Item 32 below.) A followup e-mail was sent Feb 7 to Kreutzen seeking information on the status of the entire Plan and specifically details on the consequences to major items previously proposed for north Irvine. A response was received on Feb 9 in which Kreutzen states that the Plan is expected to go to the Finance Com. in March with a 5-year snapshot of park, street, and other improvements.

4. NORTH IRVINE SENIOR CENTER - The minutes of the Nov. 20, 2008 Senior Citizen Committee [SCC] meeting does not provide any details on the discussion or on the decision made other than that a schedule of future meetings was approved. However, per Zelinko, who attended the meeting, the staff report for the meeting indicated that the April 2009 meeting of the SCC would be held at the Northwood Community Center.

A Task Force of the SCC is planning a series of meetings with the purpose of deriving community input for development of a "Strategic Plan for Senior Citizens". The first of the meetings is scheduled for Feb 17. A copy of the flyer was provided at the meeting. Note, however, that no meetings are scheduled for north Irvine. Once again, all meetings are scheduled at only the 2 existing senior centers. Apparently, the SCC and City staff just don't get it. NIVA's complaint is following on either deaf or indifferent ears. NIVA received an e-mail from Lynne Conger, Social Services Supervisor for the City, inviting NIVA members to one of more of the meetings and inquiring if NIVA could assist in distributing the attached flyer. The Task Force will identify goals, strategies, and action steps to be considered for inclusion in the Plan. The content areas of the Plan include Housing, Physical and Mental Well-being, Transportation, Recreation and leisure, and Financial, Legal, & Advocacy. There was no decision on any action by NIVA. Members were encouraged, however, if interested in any of the subjects to get involved in the Task Force series of meetings.

5. FUTURE NORTH IRVINE POLICE SUBSTATION - The City Council approved a Program Manager at Risk for the new Public Safety Facility at its Jan 27 meeting. Phase I is the design of the building. Per Assist. City Mgr. Wally Kreutzen, in 12 months when the design is expected to be complete and construction costs can be estimated, staff will bring a funding plan to the Council for construction of the facility. Commitment to go ahead with construction is being withheld due to the economic uncertainties.

6. CULVER DRIVE/WALNUT AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - NIVA received a Jan 22nd letter from the City inviting NIVA reps to a Feb 4th meeting on the detail design phase of the project. Repre

senting NIVA were Elliott & McFadden from The Colony HOA, Kirchgessner from College Park HOA, and Melvold. Representing the City were Kirk Streets, Project Mgr., Tim Kirkham from Public Works, and City consultants Amy Amirani (Civil Source), Jeff Wilkerson (VA Consulting - design engineers), Tomas Munoz (NUVIS - landscape architect).

One of the more critical changes to the previous Plan was the elimination of the 3-foot retaining wall fronting Heritage Plaza Center [Center] along Culver in favor of simply a sloping grade. A 4-foot high hedge will be used instead to screen vehicles in the center from the west. The maintenance, however, would be the responsibility of the Center and consequently there was concern about being assured of retention of the 4-foot minimum height. Existing grass would be replaced with ground cover and additional shrubs. Tree replacements on Culver will retain the 1 to 1 commitment but be essentially in a single row but closer (on 25 foot centers) with clusters of Canary Island Pines at each entrance on Culver to the Center. The single row of trees will consist of Chinese Flame trees. Minimum 24-inch box trees will be used. Both TIC or the Heritage Plaza Center owner have received copies of the plans for their respective centers but have not as yet responded. There is concern that the owner of Heritage Plaza may consider the landscaping to be too much as to hide the Center's shops. There also may be a need for tradeoff between the landscaping and new signage for the Center. Streets agreed to inform Melvold upon receipt of responses from the two owners.

The radius curvature of the curbing at the 4 entrances to the Center on Culver will be expanded to the City's standard of 25 feet which is expected to improve vehicle access and departures.

There was discussion and concern about adequate screening of the gas fume recapture apparatus along Walnut. Staff agreed to look into this further to see if any options exist to improve the screening. A second item of contention -- objected to since time of the original project proposed plan -- was that of the busstop on NB Culver at Scottsdale. Staff has rejected any consideration of a bus turnout at this location and has acquiesced to the OCTA regarding the need for retention of the busstop regardless of the congestion its continued use creates on traffic flow. In other similar shopping centers, only a single busstop is provided along the length of the center's frontage whereas at Heritage Plaza, 2 busstops are provided on Culver. Melvold will contact the City's representative on the OCTA Board -- 3rd District Supervisor Bill Campbell -- and the OCTA staff directly regarding this issue and possibly set up a meeting to address the issue.

It is anticipated at this time that construction would commence in early 2010. In questioning about the Scottsdale to SB I-5 Off-ramp Project, Streets stated that, contrary to what NIVA was told by staff last August, the City was not processing this second project in conjunction with that of the Walnut/Culver Widening Project. The projected start of construction of this 2nd project is now mid-2011. Needless to say, there was a universal objection expressed by the NIVA reps to this change as, not only does it result in the loss of savings from combining the projects design and construction, but results in elongating the disruption on Culver and impacts on neighborhood from construction. The estimated cost of the Walnut/Culver Widening Project is approximately \$1 Million with a major portion from OCTA. It is 1000% funded at this time. The second project is neither approved nor funded but is in conceptual design at this time.

In inquiring as to the status of the window replacement noise abatement program, contrary to previous statements from City personnel, Kirkham, who is responsible for the effort, acknowledged that he had done nothing and is only now in the process of reviewing what was previously committed by the City in the Project documents. He also clarified that no meeting has been held with the homeowners as a group or even with a majority of those involved -- again contradicting previous City staff statements. He has essentially assumed that the program developed on superficial analysis mentioned in the EIR is to be taken literally and exactly, i.e., only to provide window replacements on windows facing Culver directly and only on second floors. He also stated that "in his opinion this program is a gracious offer by the City"! In contrast, NIVA has taken a position that it is a responsibility of the City -- an obligation stemming di

rectly from the City's approval of the massive Northern Sphere Development Project which has resulted in the previously unexpected traffic increase on all arterials in North Irvine.

7. MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL DUES PAYMENT - It was noted that the first-class postal rate was again going to go up by another 2 cents in May. This increase will have to be absorbed into the current budget as the annual dues level was previously set as the same as last year. McFadden reported that 2009 dues letters have gone out to half of the member-HOAs with the other half to go out next week. He also reported that he had not received any response from the 3 HOAs with outstanding 2008 dues payments even though individuals had been personally contacted at each HOA.

8. NIVA E-MAIL LISTING - There was no report on the status of compiling mailing list, the future possible uses, and the verification of individual authorizations for their use.

9. 2008 YEAR-END STATE OF NIVA REPORT - The report was presented and approved as prepared by Melvold.

10. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE GROVES - There was considerable discussion on a letter received from the property manager for The Groves and how NIVA should respond, if at all. It was agreed that a response was in order. It will be drafted by LaPorte and Melvold.

11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS - It was agreed to postpone the election of officers for a few months.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting would be Wed., Mar. 11 at The Colony Clubhouse.

2008 YEAR-END STATE OF NIVA REPORT

LIST OF THE SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS/SUCCESSSES FOR WHICH NIVA ACTIONS WERE INSTRUMENTAL OR INITIATED

- Secured relocation of the use of the bus stop on Bryan at Yale as a layover site which was unsafe to new location on Bryan at Culver Drive.
- Secured installation by the City for trail identification signs on the North Irvine off-street pedestrian/bike trails west of Culver Drive.
- Completion of the construction of the Culver Drive widening under the I-5 Freeway by an additional lane in each direction. This improvement came as a direct result of efforts initiated by and unceasingly pushed by NIVA to reduce congestion on Culver Drive in this area.
- Successful in securing a site of a dedicated stand-alone senior center in North Irvine even though not in the optimum location sought by NIVA.
- Successful in getting a height reduction of the planned Public Storage facility on Jeffrey from 2-story to 1-story plus a basement to reduce impact on neighbors.
- Succeeded in getting the proposed wireless communications facility for Peters Canyon Community Park to be installed underground to minimize impact on the park.
- Secured landscaping in the Culver Drive median between Trabuco and the Culver southbound I-5 Freeway Off-ramp which was previously only asphalt.

MAJOR UNDERTAKINGS FOR THE YEAR 2008

- Reviewed and/or provided comments on the
 - (1) Sign Program for Lennar Corp.'s Great Park Neighborhood residential development,
 - (2) Revision to the City's Master Streetscape Plan,
 - (3) Proposed office building for replacement of the Coco's restaurant in the Northwood Shopping Center [subsequently abandoned in favor of remodeled restaurant.]
 - (4) Building plans for the St. Thomas More Church on NW corner of Marketplace and Irvine Blvd.
 - (5) Plans for So. Cal. Edison's substation and the flood control basin in Planning Area-1 (Orchard Hills) on the NW corner of Jeffrey and Portola.
 - (6) Plans for the Public Storage Expansion
 - (7) Stonegate (PA-9B) detailed design plans.
 - (8) Wireless Communications Facility Proposal for Peters Canyon Community Park.
 - (9) Sign modification for the Chevron Station in Northpark Plaza.
- Participated in meetings with The Irvine Company during the early planning stage and subsequently reviewed the Draft EIR for the revised development proposal for Planning Area-40 (area between Trabuco & I-5 Freeway and between Jeffrey Road and the SR-133 Tollway Corridor),
- Monitored and participated in the City's activities associated with the Guideway Demonstration Project and reviewed and commented on the Notice Of Preparation for the Draft Environmental Impact Report. [Note: Project has recently been dropped by the City.]

CONTINUED OVERSIGHT OF ON-GOING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN 2008

Monitor the following:

- Progress in construction of the long overdue stand-alone senior center in North Irvine.

- City's & O.C. Great Park Corp. reuse plans for closed El Toro MCAS & Great Park and any changes to the original plans for the Great Park site being proposed by both Lennar and the City to assure adequacy of the original EIR to identify and mitigate impacts.
- Jeffrey Open-Space Spine design & development, and acreage credit calculations.
- Progress on the Hicks Canyon Community Center which is now included the City's Strategic Business Plan to assure no further delay in the scheduled construction in 2012/13.
- City activities in complying with state-mandated storm drain inspection/maintenance requirements and the resultant impacts on HOAs.
- Progress on the Comprehensive Public Facilities Program approved last Spring.
- Progress on the Jamboree/I-5 Interchange Project, i.e., the Jamboree widening at the I-5 Freeway undercrossing (construction previously anticipated to start May 2010 but may be delayed due to State financial situation.)
- Details and progress on the proposed Northwood Com. Park Military Mem. Monument.
- Progress on the City's "alternative routing" development for the Venta Spur Trail connection to the Jeffrey Spine Trail.
- Traffic study for Public Storage on Jeffrey regarding the need for a dedicated slowdown right-turn lane at the entrance.
- County's activities regarding expansion of Musick Jail.
- Progress in the City to secure more public neighborhood libraries.
- City's feasibility study for Jeffrey Open-Space Trail overcrossing of Trabuco.
- Construction of the relocated Northwood middle school.
- Maintenance efforts of Northwood Shopping Center and possible loss of tenants on long-term viability of center.
- City's allocation of the funds derived from the County for Bowerman Landfill Expansion Project as mitigation to the City and North Irvine community.

Pursue the following:

- Modification to the Venta Spur Trail "crossing" of Yale Ave., a City study of design, cost and issues with a Venta Spur Trail "crossing" of Jeffrey Road, an extension of Venta Spur Trail easterly through Woodbury and over the SR-133 Tollroad to the Great Park, and an extension of the trail paralleling the railroad from Jeffrey Road to the Great Park.
- Modification to the City ordinance on Heavy Vehicle Roadway Restriction so as to restrict unnecessary truck traffic thru residential neighborhoods of North Irvine.
- Earliest possible installation of the Trabuco/SR-133 Interchange.
- Encourage progress on the Railroad Quiet Zone at the Harvard crossing.
- Continued efforts to secure early commitment of funding and installation of the Trabuco/SR-133 interchange to assure coincident opening with opening of Great Park Phase I.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES in 2008

- Continue pressure on the City to finalize the long-overdue updated Building Facilities Master Plan.
- Monitored the City's Eucalyptus Windrow Tree Program and provided materials to HOA's who have such within their community.
- Participated in meetings with City on the Northwood Intersection Landscape Refurbishment Project.
- Bryan Avenue Landscape Tree Replacement
- Monitor residential construction (though now delayed) in Orchard Hills and Stonegate, and Portola Springs.
- Re-affirmed to the City NIVA's major concerns with any expansion of the Musick Jail.
- Revised NITM Comprehensive Traffic Study which is to be re-performed.
- Monitor the situation of the moratorium on the City's Wireless Communications Ordinance and any subsequent attempts to modify same.