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MINUTES

ENCINO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL PARKS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING Wednesday August 3, 2022 @ 4:30 PM

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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IN CONFORMITY WITH THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 ENACTMENT OF CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 361 (RIVAS) AND DUE TO CONCERNS OVER COVID-19, THE ENCINO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED ENTIRELY WITH A CALL-IN OPTION OR INTERNET-BASED SERVICE OPTION

Public Comment: Public calling in, please press *9 on your phone to raise your hand to speak. For those that are using the Zoom Webinar please use the raise your hand feature to speak. Public comment on agenda items will be heard only when the item is up for discussion. Public comment on agenda items is limited to 1 minutes per agenda item. Time may be adjusted at the Chair's discretion.

AB 361 Updates: Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting, only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Neighborhood Council's control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned.

Committee members:

1-*Glenn Bailey: Co-Chair, 2-*Pat Bates: Co-Chair 3-Katie Bull 4-Amy Zidell 5-Marianne Davis 6-*Daniel Glaser *All members were present other than Daniel Glaser*

The meeting was called to order and a quorum determined at 4:33 PM.

1. **Approval of Committee minutes.** Discussion and possible action to approve draft Parks and Environment Committee Minutes of the [July 6, 2022](#) Meeting. *Pat/Marianne approved 5 yes/0 no*

2. **Report/Presentation from any Agencies/Organizations present:** *Egor Chumak of It is Overdue spoke briefly of the organization's clean-up activities in the LA river near the Balboa Blvd. bridge, noting the non-profit group has removed approximately 8000 pounds of trash from the river over the past few months. The group needs help getting volunteers.*

3. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items** within the Committee's subject matter jurisdiction – Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items is limited to TWO MINUTES (2) per speaker. Time may be adjusted at the Chair's discretion. Public calling in, please press *9 on your phone to raise your hand to speak. For those that are using the Zoom Webinar please use the raise your hand feature to speak. Public comment on agenda items will be heard when the item is up for discussion. **None**

4. **Old & New Business Action Items: Votes may be taken on all action items.**
 - A. **Discussion and possible action:**
 1. **Tree well and street weed cleanup:** The Board and City have approved the Weed & Clean project. Discuss recruiting volunteers, location and date/time of first session along Ventura Boulevard. *Pat explained that the project has been approved. The August 14 initial venture will be announced and RSVPs will be collected by email. The first one will meet at 0800 in the parking lot near Petco 17919 Ventura, we will be done for that day at 10:30. We will try a variety of hand tools to see what works best, crepe myrtle shoots will be pruned and hormone sucker stopper will be used. Green waste will be bagged and taken by volunteers to deposit in green city bins.*

 2. **Tree Canopy:** Motion to take any action including Community Impact Statement (CIS) directed to Mayor, City Council and any departments to support increasing our tree canopy and sustainability practices - deferred from prior meeting. *Combined with 4A5*

 3. **Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash Dog Park:** Discuss ongoing issues regarding lack of watering, use of reclaimed water, and other maintenance issues. What can ENC do to help? *Glenn discussed issues with finding whoever at LA San should be consulted regarding running the purple pipe to the park. RAP really needs to try to help out and try to expedite. The park operator also needs to understand that NCs are advisory and we can not actually do anything.*

4. Wildlife Corridor Ordinance public comment period extended to August 22, 2022 *Pat briefly discussed, noted public comment is helpful and go to the ENC website for a link. Public comment date corrected from agenda to 8/22/2022.*

5. NCSA Trees Committee: [Council File 15-0499-S2](#): *We discussed this in some detail. It was noted the original motion was proposed in 2015, requiring reports back on a number of conservation items. A 2020 report back was classed under [CF 15-0499-S1](#); the Encino NC filed a CIS on this detailing a method of revising the permitting procedure to provide for protection of threes. **Motion: Loss of our tree canopy is making our city hotter and contributes to the climate emergency. The Encino NC Parks/Environment Committee recommends that the Encino Neighborhood council support [CF 15-0499-S2](#), urging that the requested reports and draft ordinances be prepared expeditiously. Further, that the resulting ordinance impose severe penalties for violations, and that provisions for adequate and timely enforcement of violations be made. Motion to be filed with City Council, Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, and Community Forest Advisory Commission (Pat/Amy, 5 yes/ 0 no/ 0 abstentions)***

6. **Balboa Blvd. North of Burbank Blvd. Maintenance issues:** *Discussed extreme lack of maintenance of the median (which also extends along Burbank Blvd. and Woodley Ave.) We have been informed by CD 6 that Street Services will not maintain these medians and the CD has to use their discretionary funds and LACC for the work.*
Motion: The Encino NC Parks Environment committee recommends that the ENC board approve a Motion to the Mayor, City Council and Board of Public Works asking that the Bureau of Street Services provide timely and at least annual maintenance of medians and parkways of Balboa Boulevard between Burbank Boulevard and Victory Boulevard, Burbank Boulevard Between Balboa Boulevard and Woodley Avenue, and Woodley Avenue between Burbank Boulevard and Victory Boulevard. The medians and most of the parkways are severely overgrown with invasive weeds, posing extreme fire and traffic hazards besides causing the entire area to look disturbingly unkempt. These are center medians which require street closure for safe maintenance. Street Services needs to clean this area up.

7. **Workshop on Turf Removal:** Consider organizing and presenting a Zoom or possibly live workshop detailing procedures for replacing turf with drought resistant sustainable wildlife-friendly landscaping. *Recommendation was that Pat consult with LADWP to present. This has been previously been approved.*

The following items were not discussed.

8. [Ordinance 186294](#): Consider recommendation to the board to consider a CIS recommending that City Council amend the ordinance to expand application to areas with extreme fire potential that are not in Very High Fire Severity Hazard Zones (e.g. Sepulveda Basin and west side of Hansen Dam Area), and further institute an immediate “zero tolerance” policy for any encampments or noticed trespassing in such areas,

subject to criminal trespassing sanctions and immediate removal of persons and any materials deposited in the area by appropriate outreach and sanitation personnel. Any action would reference the ordinance and CF 19-0050.

9. LA River Bridge Painting: The gentleman who paints over the graffiti and makes checkerboard patterns on the gunite riprap near the river is asking for assistance.

- B. Discussion and possible action:** [CF 20-1205-S1](#) , motion introduced 12/08/2021, notes that: “The Bureau of Engineering is developing the Master Plan for the Sepulveda Basin, called the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan Project (Project), and is slated to start work on the Feasibility/Conceptual Study Phase in early 2022 . The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has stated that the Project is eligible for a grant related to the Upper Los Angeles Rivers and Tributaries. In order to fund the Feasibility/Conceptual Phase of the Project, the Bureau of Engineering would like to apply for \$950,000 in grant funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy” That grant has been approved by the SMMC on, and was **approved by the Los Angeles City council on 2/23/2022, final 3/11/22.** The ENC filed a Community Impact Statement on [CF 20-1205](#) noting, among other things, that it supports a new master plan for the Sepulveda Basin on the condition that it includes provision for informing and consulting with community groups including the Encino and Lake Balboa Neighborhood Councils. We have refiled the same CIS under CF 20-1205-S1, but we should discuss filing a supplemental based of the fact that **the Encino Neighborhood Council has not yet as of 7/30/2022 been informed of anything regarding what is clearly going on.**
- C. Discussion and possible action:** [Council File 22-0002-S18](#), introduced 2/22/2022, waived out of committee, passed 3/4/2022. The City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its state legislative program support and/or sponsorship for legislation that would provide at least \$197 million in funding necessary to complete design and construction of the Valley LA Riverway before the 2028 Olympics; and be it also resolved, with the concurrence of the mayor, that by adoption of this resolution, the City of Los Angeles also includes in its state legislative program support and/or sponsorship for legislation that would provide at least \$15 million to complete feasibility, planning and design of ULART active transportation projects in disadvantaged communities in Los Angeles. [See also CF 21-0535.](#) **Do we have an update on what is happening with this?**
- D. Discussion and possible action:** [Council File 22-0002-S9](#): Introduced 2/2/2022, waived out of committee, adopted 2/9/2022 the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-2022 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan and the approval of a state budget request for \$3,000,000 in one-time funding for expanding open access and recreational amenities within the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan. **Is Support for this plan in the State Budget?**
- E. Discussion and possible motion regarding Proposition K:** L.A. For Kids Program projects within the boundaries of the Encino NC proposed for partial funding during Fiscal Year 2022-23:

1. Construct new aquatic facility (swimming pool); location has been reported as being just east of the Department of Recreation and Parks Valley Regional Headquarters (the overflow parking area) - \$3,000,000 available. [See also CF 19-0205-S1 report dated 3/3/2022](#)
 2. Hjelte Field: construct new athletic fields, lighting and parking - \$1,000,000
 3. Los Angeles Riverfront Park - Phase III Design (Balboa to LA River Orange Line Crossing)
 4. Sepulveda Basin Lake Balboa Park (Proposition K Project ID #R31) to include complete design and engineering of a new irrigation system for the entire 67-acre site, and complete construction to install new irrigation system for an area of up to 11 acres, based on a total Proposition K funding authority of \$2,506,534. Approved by L.A. for Kids Steering Committee on 1/27/22.
- F. Sepulveda Basin Controlled Burns - Clearly these will not happen anytime soon. They were not allowed due to potential burrowing owl presence.
- G. LA County Parks Needs Assessment 2021 Regional and Rural Edition - recommendations regarding the Sepulveda Basin and possibly other parks located with the ENC. [Website](#)
- H. LA City 2021 Draft [List of Tree Species](#) for Public Right of Way. [City Plants](#) list with planting guide. TreePeople [list](#) and ratings.

5. Informational Items/Reports/Updates

- A. Los Encinos State Historic Park update - Amy Zidell
- B. Encino Park and Encino Community Center update
- C. Sepulveda Basin update (NOTE: Those portions of the Sepulveda Basin located south of Victory Boulevard, west of the 405 Freeway and east of White Oak Avenue are located within the certified boundaries of the Encino NC.)
- D. Water: LADWP rebates, drought, water use restrictions
- E. NC Sustainability Alliance - currently meets virtually second Sundays, 6:30 pm and has four active committees. [Website](#)
- F. Cool Blocks LA leaders are now being recruited and trained. [Webpage](#)
- G. Los Angeles 100% Renewable Energy Study (LA100) issued by the U.S. Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory - [Executive Summary](#); Full report - [12 chapters](#)
- H. 2020 Biodiversity Report - Council File [15-0499](#) - report adopted by City Council on August 18, 2021

6. Committee Member Comment on Items not on this Agenda

Adjournment at: 6:07 PM Next Parks and Environment Meeting: 9/7/2022 @4PM