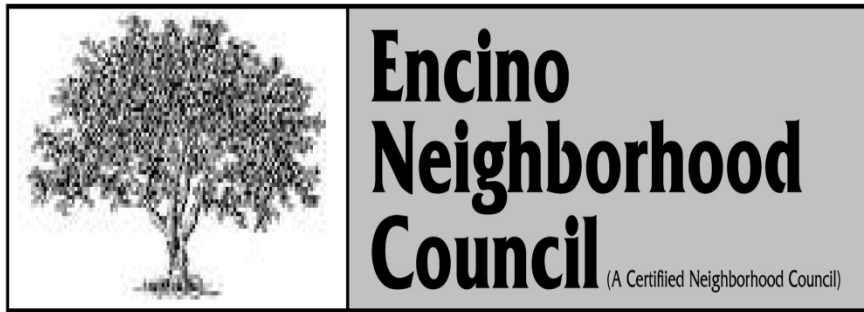


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PROPOSED MINUTES OF PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2010

- Attending members: Glenn Bailey (Chair), Kerri Barton, Sharon Brewer (Vice-Chair), Lyn Klein, Janie Thompson
- Absent Members: Elaine Glick (excused/medical, voting), Millie Hamilton (not excused, voting)
Frances Zamir (excused/medical, Secretary, voting)
- Guests: Scott Vaughan (Encino Village Neighborhood Alliance), Sue Wilschke (EVNA)
- Call to Order: 7:37 p.m. by Chair Glenn Bailey. Members and attendees introduced themselves.
- Announcements: Millie just called Glenn and told him she cannot now attend meetings on the first Thursday. Sharon arrived at 7:48 p.m. Quorum was established.
- Minutes February 4, 2010 Parks Committee meeting minutes approved as read. (Klein/Thompson)
VOTE: 4-0-1

Balboa Sports Center Walkway Extension Update: Recreation and Parks (RAP) said they would extend the walkway around the northeast side of the children's playground. This path will connect two existing walkways. Glenn spoke to Jeremy Thomas (RAP) today. RAP has all the supplies, including the edging material for the walkway. The walkway material will be decomposed granite, not asphalt. Jeremy is just waiting for dry weather and an available crew. Glenn is concerned that with more upcoming budget cuts, this project may get postponed if it is not done soon. Sue will follow-up with Jeremy, in Francie's absence. Glenn will send an e-mail to Jeremy to let him know Sue will be the temporary contact.

Balboa Sports Center Additional Benches Along Walkways Update: Jeremy Thomas said he is ready to install up to 12 benches, per Francie's request. He has a crew ready to install the pads for the benches. He is waiting to get Ramon Barajas' (RAP) approval. Jeremy would like to know where to install the benches. Glenn said that Francie did a walk-around with Peter Marinovich (RAP) and another person. Peter will retire on March 13, 2010. He has accumulated a lot of vacation time, so he may be difficult to reach. Francie or Peter may have a map of the bench locations. Glenn will ask Mary Marks (EVHA) if she knows who the third person on the walk-around was. Peter's replacement will be Monica Resendez. She will need to be informed about this project.

Trees at Balboa Sports Center: Glenn reported that someone requested that trees be planted around the playground area. Per Jeremy Thomas, RAP will plant four to five trees within the playground area (inside the

fencing), four to five immediately outside the playground, and eight to ten scattered around the baseball fields to tennis courts. He was told that some of the trees will be Holly oak and London plane species. Glenn will consult with Steve Hartman (California Native Plant Society, CNPS) about these tree species.

Valley Water Expo Update, Thursday, April 22, 2010, 6 – 9 p.m. Balboa Sports Center Gym: Janie said that Jeff Ebenstein (from Councilmember Koretz's office) was helping her get banners on the light posts. She was quoted \$15,000. Due to the expense this idea is infeasible. She contacted the Laemmle Theatre to advertise the event. They charge \$100 per week. This idea is also dropped. This committee does not have any funds to help support the event.

There are new raffle items listed on the website, www.ValleyWaterExpo.blogspot.com. Janie is waiting to hear from others to let her know if they will be able to participate. She is trying to have a representative from Department of Water and Power (DWP) or Metropolitan Water District (MWD) at the event to publicize the rebate program. The expo is on the event calendar for the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council and the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council. It is still not on the Encino Neighborhood Council website. She will contact Jesse and copy Rob. Glenn will send out e-mails to see if other neighborhood councils will put the event on their website. Janie said Councilmember Koretz will make an announcement about the expo tomorrow. She will e-mail Sue, so she can inform EVNA.

Janie said Marc Israel (RAP) told her that RAP will co-sponsor the Valley Water Expo. Glenn and Sharon suggested that she get something in writing from RAP. Janie called the Theodore Payne Foundation. She would like a contact for that organization. Glenn gave her Steve Hartman's (CNPS) telephone number for a contact. She would like to have a table of native plants. Glenn has a suggestion for a speaker; he will forward that information to her.

Janie requested suggestion for any vendors. She currently has vendors representing faucets, rain barrels, dual flush toilets, cisterns, water filtration systems, and stainless steel water bottles.

Janie has also been contacting several schools. She got in touch with 13 high schools. The Vice Principal of Crespi High School was very receptive to the expo. The school previously used 35,000 gallons of water a month. They planted Astro Turf and waterless urinals. They now use less than 1,000 gallons a month. She has also reached out to CSUN, Valley College, and Pierce College. Glenn noted that CSUN has a Greens club.

The Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) liked the idea of the Valley Water Expo. One person has already e-mailed the information to 50 people. A realtor was also interested. She was asked to speak in the East Los Angeles area to inform the residents.

She will start going to the Encino farmers market on Sundays. She will collect e-mail addresses for the expo and for the Encino and Lake Balboa Neighborhood Councils. She would like to have students pass out flyers at the farmers market. Sharon suggested that she gets the approval of the farmers market.

April 10, 2010 Community Clean-Up in the Sepulveda Basin Update: The Audubon Society is hosting a clean-up at Haskell Creek on Saturday, April 10, 2010. The Encino Neighborhood Council (ENC) will co-sponsor this event. This means the ENC will provide volunteers and publicize the event in its newsletter. Janie said she will get the flyers out to the high schools.

Sustainable Communities Presentation: Sasha Wisotsky was not in attendance but it was noted that she made a similar presentation in Mar Vista.

Sepulveda Basin Master Plan Update: The second public meeting was on February 20, 2010. Everyone present was at the meeting. Many people were thinking outside the box. Some suggested that there are too many golf courses. The leases need to be published on the website. More community gardens were requested.

The next meeting was announced to be on Thursday, April 28, 2010. However, that date is a Wednesday. When we verify the correct date, we will get the word out. The EVNA needs to be informed about it. This third meeting is very critical. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is supposed to present the draft of the master plan. This will be our last chance to make our recommendations. Janie noted there was a lack of outreach for the previous meetings. Glenn said USACE is not doing any outreach, which is why it is important that we get the word out. The new point person from USACE is Priyanka Wadhawan, who lives in Encino and is a landscaper.

Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex Project Update (former Sod Farm site; west of Balboa Blvd., north of the Los Angeles River): At the February 17, 2010 RAP Commission meeting, it was announced they received bids for the Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex Project. The low bid was \$3.1 million. They had estimated the cost to be \$5 million. With almost \$2 million in savings it is possible more components may be added. Currently, the plan is for two baseball fields and one artificial turf soccer field. They may go back to the original plan of four baseball fields and one artificial turf soccer field. Janie noted that the artificial turf can burn players on hot days. Sharon said the turf easier to maintain and it requires no water.

Janie spoke to Kathleen Bullard (Tetra Tech) at the Master Plan Meeting. Kathleen said that the community can stop any project if they are loud and active, regardless of what phase the project is in. Sharon said this project is funded by proposition K money; therefore it will be more difficult to stop.

2010 Persian New Year (Nooruz) Festival at Lake Balboa/Beilenson Park on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010 Update: The event is still scheduled for Easter Sunday. We voted at our last meeting that “to recommend to the ENC that the event coordinator of the Persian New Year (Nooruz) Festival come back to the ENC and address the traffic and parking concerns associated with this event.” It was not on the last ENC agenda. Sue stated she still has concerns about the traffic and parking issues. Glenn said, to our knowledge a permit has not been issued yet. (NOTE: It was subsequently learned that the permit was issued on February 24, 2010.) Glenn requested that if anyone has any suggestions to please contact him. Sharon noted that USACE have specific rules on dealing with large events.

Old Encino Fire Station No. 83: Transfer of Jurisdiction to Expand the Encino Community Center and Site Refurbishment Update: On January 20, 2010, the RAP Commission deferred the issue for 60 days to get public comment. A month later, we still have not heard anything. RAP wants to use the property for basically office space. During a time of extreme economic issues, it may not make sense to spend over \$100,000 to increase office space for RAP. No Action Taken.

Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Expansion for Recycled Water Treatment: The Department of Water and Power (DWP) is looking to recycle more water, which can be used for parks or to recharge the aquifer (however some wells are polluted). Many of the potential sites to use recycled water are in the San Fernando Valley; therefore DWP wants a treatment facility to be built in the San Fernando Valley. Originally there were 50 potential locations. They have reduced the choices to five with four at or adjacent to the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant in the Sepulveda Basin. One other is in Sun Valley, located at the Pacoima Spreading Grounds. The four choices near the Tillman Plant are: 1) adjacent to the entry of Tillman, including part of Woodley Park, 2) within the Tillman berm area, 3) outside of the Tillman area and within the cricket fields, 4) outside the Tillman area, which is known as “contractor’s lay down” area. A representative of the cricket field said a cricket field is located there. There were several criteria for the choice of the location, including that it not be in residential zones, take parkland, and be at least 200,000 square feet of developable area. This process has been moving very quickly and the choices may not have been scrutinized enough. An environmental report will be prepared shortly. The first option would remove the Tillman parking lot and conference room. Choosing option number two would preclude Tillman from having land immediately available for future projects. This is also the smallest site. The cricket field is on land leased to the Bureau of Sanitation.

Therefore, the cricket field does not have the right to be there permanently. Sue recommended that the cricket fields be relocated to the future Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex.

We do not want to lose any part of the Woodley Park land. The Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Steering Committee has requested more dedicated riparian land alongside Haskell Creek. The Tillman plant has a pipeline to the Spreading Grounds. DWP has offered onsite tours of Tillman. One is scheduled for March 18, 2010 and another for March 23. Glenn will e-mail this information. Lyn noted that we don't want to allow them to take park land. This may set a precedent.

Motion: That the ENC Parks Committee recommends, concerning the Recycled Water Treatment Facility proposed to be built at the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant, that the ENC (1) oppose any taking of Woodley Park acreage; (2) recommend that if one or more cricket field(s) need to be removed, that consideration be given to relocating same to the future Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex (former sod farm west of Balboa); and (3) support the protection of Haskell Creek and the buffer area to its west.

Vote: 5-0-0 CONSENT ITEM

City Parks Update; Public Safety Issues/Staff Reductions: No specific updates, except to reiterate that Peter Marinovich is retiring on March 13, 2010. His replacement will be Monica Resendez.

Regular Committee Meeting Date, Time, and Location: As noted before, Millie cannot attend meetings on the first Thursday as she is a docent at the Japanese Garden that day. The third Thursday is when the By Laws Committee meets. However, they have not always held a meeting. Also the community center is available on the third Thursday. If By Laws Committee changes their regular meeting date, or if we learn in advance that they will not be meeting, we may be able to meet on the third Thursday. For now, the Parks Committee will next meet on the first Thursday at the Coral Tree Café at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Member Comments/Announcements: None.

Public Comment: None.

Announcement of

Adjournment: 9:29 pm by Glenn Bailey, Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerri Barton