



SANTA MONICA CANYON CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Board Minutes, February 19, 2008

Recorded by: Dawn Forrester

Attending: Jennifer Barker, Elizabeth Bradshaw, Mike Deasy, Dawn Forrester, Judy Golden, Joan Graves, Babs Lebowsky, Isabelle Mizrahi, John Murphy, Lani Pagano, Steve Richards, Anne Marie Veschio, George Wolfberg,

Excused: Jill Baldauf, Lisa Bittan, Bob Bronstein, Quentin Fleming, Leslie Hope, Marilyn Wexler, Alejandro Ortiz, Sanford Panitch, Cynthia Winter, Elizabeth Zaillian,

Guests: Chris Casady

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President George Wolfberg.

Introductions:

Minutes December 18th, 2007 and January 15th, 2008

The minutes from both dates were approved as submitted-- Joan Graves moved and Lani Pagano seconded.

Treasurer's report: (01-31-08)

Savings	\$ 2,841.04
Checking	3,446.74
Certificate	<u>10,736.16</u>
Total	<u>\$17,023.94</u>

Annual meeting. The Board decided to hold the Annual meeting on Tuesday, May 6th

Issues for Annual meeting:

A. Updates on projects that may have traffic impact on the canyon:

The board agreed that the following issues should be highlighted at the annual meeting:

1. DWP- 1300 MW DC line down Entrada/West Channel Road up PCH to Sunset Blvd. George Wolfberg has contacted DWP and enlisted Councilman Rosendahl's support in expanding this project to put all the overhead utility lines into the trench, which must be dug to install the new electric line. The issue also was discussed with

Coastal Commission staff. The goal is to put all wires underground so as not to obstruct coastal views.

2. Sewage line- the City is under orders from the water board to divert all water, including from drains between the diversion structure at the Golden Bull and the beach, by the dry season, Fall, 2009. The sewer in PCH near Chautauqua is inadequate and a larger pipe must be installed. Traffic disruption is anticipated.
3. Bluffs Project (see Old Business, below).
4. California Incline Project (see Old Business, below).

Ideally we can obtain "story boards" to update the community

B. Proposed speakers for annual meeting:

1. Officer Moore (who will be up first to speak at meeting)
2. Randy Young to speak about the historic Eucalyptus Grove
3. Possibly someone from LADOT/Santa Monica/Bureau of Engineering to expand on the projects impacting PCH and the canyon.

C. Election Committee:

Judy Golden, Elizabeth Zaillian, and Lani Pagano will comprise the committee. The committee will contact all board members to determine who will be on the ballot.

Old Business:

Newsletter status:

Newsletter's were addressed and stamped by board members with the kind assistance of Mr. Casady

John Flynn Memorial Bench:

George sent an Email to the company that is constructing the bench inquiring as to status.

Prop 12 and Prop K Projects:

They are making progress on the the patio work funded by Prop. 12. It appears the structural support supporting the entry porch has been reconstructed.

Eucalyptus Forest Update:

Elizabeth Zaillian passed out a status report from Betty Lou Young that is attached.

Speed Enforcement in the Canyon:

No update.

Speed Humps on Latimer Road:

Chris Casady requested information on the new speed humps next to the park. It was explained that Latimer Road beginning at the park and heading East is a private easement owned by adjacent property owners; that the LA Department of Transportation (LADOT) had investigated and determined the roadway was not a public roadway and thus not under their jurisdiction; and that some neighbors had submitted a petition to the property-owner who had installed the humps complaining about location,

markings and height. Elizabeth Zaillian will share the emailed discussion with Mr. Casady.

Bluffs Project:

Based upon recent discussions with the Santa Monica City Engineer, the best guess is that the Bluffs Project will start work around next Labor Day. Santa Monica is assuming that CalTrans will limit work to four-hours-a-day and thus night work will be necessary in order to complete the project by the desired time before the following Summer (2009).

California Incline Project:

Based upon estimated completion of the Bluffs Project, the Incline Project could begin in the Fall of 2009.

Fireworks issues:

Quentin Fleming was unable to attend, but is still working on this issue.

Neighborhood Character Study/ SB1818:

Implementation of SB1818 as proposed by Mayor Villaraigosa will allow developers to erect apartment complexes for affordable housing that are larger than permitted under the current code. The Mayor's plan goes beyond the requirements of the State Law and has created controversy. It recently went to City Council for a vote and, lacking Councilman Rosendahl's support the ordinance received only 9 out of the 10 votes needed to adopt Villaraigosa's plan..

VA Update:

No report.

Other business:

April meeting:

There will be a briefing from the City and its traffic consultant, Psomas, regarding community impact on PCH from the upcoming sewer / storm drain diversion projects. Mike Deasy stressed that the inconvenience will be a small price to pay for this important beach / water quality improvement project.

Adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting, March 18, 2008.

February 18, 2008

The Park Advisory Board held its meeting on January 31, three days after the SMCCA-sponsored meeting with Rand Plewak and his grove committee. At that time we heard the opinions given by Rand, arborist Carl Mellinger and others in the audience and the responses of the members of the park department staff.

Taking all of this into account, the Park Advisory Board reaffirmed its determination to preserve the historical and botanical integrity of the grove and to improve the quality of its care and maintenance. Since Kevin Regan and the staff seemed to be unaware of the protection given to the grove by its state landmarking, the board reviewed the words on the historical marker in the grove. It gives the landmark number and identifies the sponsors as the state Department of Parks and Recreation in cooperation with the California Division of Forestry and the City and County of Los Angeles. Further research yields the information that each of the three lots comprising the grove appears on the zoning map and on the City Profile Report, where each lot is accorded the state landmarking number "CA-840--The Old Santa Monica Forestry Station" with the further notice that an Historic Preservation Review is required if any change in the status of any of the three lots is contemplated.

Noting the various opinions offered by the staff with regard to the integrity of the site, the Pacific Palisades Historical Society and the Rustic Canyon Park Advisory Board are submitting the required material to the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission to obtain a second level of protection for the grove as a city historic-cultural monument, so there will be no question as to whether the property could be appropriated for a parking lot or a ball court.

At the same time, the Park Advisory Board will activate a full-fledged grove committee to address the important issues of watering and replanting, as highlighted by Rand and others. We have been offered the services of Carl Mellinger, our consulting arborist, who can lay out plans for an appropriate watering system that will not damage the trees and can map out areas that need replanting. The members of the Park Advisory Board oversight committee would include such interested neighbors as Russell Minchinton and Sara Boyers, as well as Rand Plewak, who brought the issue into the public eye at this time and who made many excellent suggestions. Our recommendations would be officially forwarded from the Park Advisory Board board to the park department staff, specifically to Kevin Regan and Patrick Kennedy, with hopes that a productive dialogue might ensue.

Should the process stall, Sara Boyers has made the suggestion that a Friends of the Grove committee could be formed with a much wider base and fund-raising possibilities. All are in agreement that the grove should be saved and improved.

Currently, the two dead trees that have been of concern are scheduled to be removed before February 22. A recent tally shows that there are still 43 of the original trees as they appear on the 1916 Metcalf map, as well as many smaller trees, 10 robust seedlings, and 6 of the 20 young replanted trees. Thanks to the rains and the efforts of the gardener, they may not have thrived, but up to now they have survived.

Betty Lou Young

Grove representative for the Park Advisory Board