



SANTA MONICA CANYON CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Board Minutes

August 26, 2008

Recorded by: Dawn Forrester

Attending: Jennifer Barker, Andrew Bergman, Bob Bronstein, Dawn Forrester, Judy Golden, Joan Graves, Leslie Hope, Babs Lebowsky, Isabelle Mizrahi, John Murphy, Sanford Panitch, Steve Richards, Cynthia Winter, George Wolfberg.

Excused: Jill Baldauf, Lisa Bittan, Elizabeth Bradshaw, Quentin Fleming, Alejandro Ortiz, Lani Pagano, Marilyn Wexler, Elizabeth Zaillian.

Guests:

Norb and Cindy Hackett

Hamid Tadayon Hamid.Tadayon@lacity.org

Marcia Hanscom

Diane Moss

Matthias Bank

Irene Stern

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by President George Wolfberg.

Introductions:

Minutes June 16th 2008

Upon motion of Joan Graves, seconded by John Murphy, the minutes from June 16th were approved.

Treasurer's report:

Savings	\$ 7,841.19
Checking	\$ 2,203.91
Certificate	\$11,021.18
Total	\$21,066.28

Membership: There are currently 383 paid/voting members.

New City Council Deputy

Our new Council Deputy, Jessyca Avalos, lives in Venice and comes from Councilman Alarcón's office. She will start her new job on Sept. 18.

Cleaning up the Santa Monica Canyon Watershed

Hamid Tadayon of the Water Protection Division informed members about what the City is doing to clean the watershed and how we can help as well. He stressed that anything that is placed or flows into our streets or storm channels may end up in our ocean water. The City will prepare information for canyon residents for placement in our next newsletter. More information is at www.LAstormwater.org

Celebrate Ballona briefing

Marcia Hanscom is Co-Director of the Ballona Institute. She briefed the board on the progress of the Institute and the restoration of the historic ballona wetlands. A celebration dinner is planned for December 2 and there will be subsequent events for public participation. A coffee table book will be published and will be given to donors; Their website for the celebration of the acquisition of the final piece of the wetlands and success is: www.celebrateballona.com

Canyon LFD Upgrade/Coastal Relief Sewer

Notes from Coastal Permit hearing held on August 25: MND covers three project components: Upgrade of Palisades LFD [foot of Potrero Canyon], Upgrade / new SM Canyon diversion project; increased sewer capacity to transmit expected additional flows [Coastal Interceptor Relief Sewer, "CIRS"]. Comments are due by Sept. 12. Construction of CIRS may be simultaneous with Incline Project. Two legs of CIRS will be in PCH. All PCH work is subject to Cal Trans Permit. Work is planned to be done at night to reduce impact on PCH, subject to Cal Trans permit. LACFCD has a companion project to install a 5'X40' inflatable rubber dam to keep dry weather flows out of the ocean. The existing facility will be retained for redundancy and backup. The additional diversion structure will be located near where Parking Lot 1 meets the pedestrian subway. The bike path will be impacted by construction and bike traffic will have to be diverted via a "rent-a-bridge" over the creek bed. GW drilled down to be sure all will be done to reduce noise impacts from construction.

Old Business.

➤ No Loitering signs Chautauqua Tunnel (Jennifer Riviera)

Andrea is following up re: Ocean Way tunnel signs

➤ John Flynn Memorial Bench

The foundation has been set and installation is awaiting scheduling of a crew to epoxy the bench to the foundation. Brad Haynes of Recreation and Parks is following up.

➤ Eucalyptus Forest

PAB met last night and was briefed by Randy Young. Arborist Jan C. Scow has completed his report and we will be posting it on our website. The trees are infected / impacted by a great variety of beetles and psyllids mostly matching the variety of eucalyptus. Plan would be to remove noneucalyptus trees except for the Mexican cycads. It is possible that some other species would be planted. Rec and Parks is cooperating. Dave Williams did a watering study and it was found that four hours of rain bird watering only penetrated a few inches into the mulch. Some trees have tapped into ground water. Others have primary roots in the mulch, a bad situation. There is a "hard pan" underlying about 80% of the forest and it is impenetrable by

water. It needs to be broken up by heavy equipment to remediate the soil. The Report cost about \$2,500 and PAB is looking for contributions from eucalyptus forest supporters. Brad will seek ways for Recreation and Parks to close off the forest to vehicles from the Parking Lot. Memorial forest donation also is still possible as is an application for a "Community Beautification" grant.

➤ **California Incline Project; Bluffs Project**

It is doubtful that any construction on the first project, Bluffs Remediation, would occur prior to November.

➤ **Neighborhood Character Study**

George talked to Erick Lopez. City Planning is preparing an amendment to the Neighborhood Character Ordinance adopted in June. The amendment will incorporate all flat lots in the so-called "Hillside" areas into the existing ordinance. This will not help our canyon. Erick stated that the first of Community meetings on the new Hillside version of the ordinance will be held at the end of September

➤ **Prop. K Project.**

Neil Drucker has instructed the assigned engineer, Jaime Contreras, Jaime.contreras@lacity.org, to report back on status—our original request on this subject was made last April prior to our annual meeting. We will invite him to report at our next board meeting.

Adjourned at 8:40pm

Next meeting set for September 9th, 2008