

# NIVA MEETING RECORD

December 13, 2006

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **PA-10 JAMBOREE MEDICAL/SCIENCE CENTER COMMITTEE** [Nancy LaPorte] - NIVA reps (LaPorte, Elliott, Melvold and Gless) met on Nov 17 on the site of the KIA Headquarters construction project next to the I-5 with KIA reps. John Yoon (VP for Kia Motors America), Charles Suft of Studley (Mgmt. Dir. on the project) and Peggy Schneble of Sepetto Group (Kia's consultant) to discuss the proposed sign program. KIA is proposing to place 2 signs on the building along with 2 monument signs - one aside the I-5 Freeway and the other at the main entrance off of Peters Canyon Road with administrative relief to be sought from the City as the size of the signs exceed City code limitations. After reviewing the drawings of the signs regarding size, materials, lighting and proposed locations, the only major concern was that of the size of the sign intended for the entrance. KIA agree to downscale the sign and to look into landscape screening of parked vehicles in the parking lot fronting Peters Canyon Road. The construction is expected to be completed shortly with move-in expected right after the new year. KIA plans to have an opening celebration with open house for which the neighboring public would be invited. The City sent out a notice on Nov 22 on the proposed Sign Program mentioning that the matter is expected to go to the Zoning Administrator in early 2007.

2. **PA-40 R & D DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** - The Northern Sphere Community Task Force [TF] met with representatives of the The Irvine Company on Nov 17. At the meeting, TIC presented its proposed revised plans for PA-40 which would convert it from its currently approved plan of Medical & Science industrial development to a residential neighborhood not unlike Woodbury.

The TF members expressed their pleasure to see the change to residential and TIC's support of grade-separated Jeffrey Spine Trail crossings of Roosevelt & Trabuco and the dropping of the driveway crossing. However, TF members expressed objections/concerns over (1) the removal of the ROW for the Oak Canyon crossover of the I-5, (2) the increased number of traffic-signalized intersections on Trabuco between Jeffrey and Sand Canyon, (3) the need for an expedited decision on the Jeffrey Spine Trail overcrossing of Trabuco due to the expected opening date of the middle school, and (4) the absolute need for the installation of the Trabuco/SR-133 interchange along with the assurance of the Corridor Agency not to collect toll fees at the Trabuco SB on-ramp or NB off-ramp. TIC stated that they are now in support of the Jeffrey Spine Trail overcrossing Trabuco and will encourage the City to investigate it and, if determine feasible, to so implement. As NIVA had long been an advocate of the overcrossing, it was agreed at the meeting that NIVA would actively support this new effort.

During the meeting, TIC disclosed items beyond this project which would be of NIVA's interest: (1) The City has approved the Walnut Ave. extension beyond its current easterly extension east of Jeffrey to the Spectrum development beyond the golf course; (2) TIC extended a 15-year offer within the negotiations of the development Agreement for PA-39 to furnish \$1.5 Million towards the construction of the Venta Spur Trail overcrossing of the SR-133 at the previously approved location between Irvine Blvd. and Trabuco.

The TF requested that TIC included the Oak Canyon I-5 crossover in the traffic study and that consideration of its desirability consider not only the usual threshold justifications but additionally the need for local mobility including access to Irvine High School, etc. without necessitating travel over Jeffrey or Trabuco. After some discussion on the issue, it was decided not to take a position just yet on whether to still support the overcrossing. A review will be made of the remaining time for existing ROW option for the next meeting and the position the City is taking on the overcrossing. The matter would be reviewed and discussed again at the next meeting.

In response to TF requests, TIC would: (1) Assist the City in assuring that no toll booths are installed or toll

collections implemented on the SR-133 for use between the I-5 and Trabuco; (2) Expedite the efforts to reach a timely decision on the Trabuco Jeffrey Spine Trail overcrossing; and (3) Investigate the connection of the Walnut Extension/Oak Canyon Road to Laguna Canyon via a gated grade-crossing of the railroad tracks. (In so doing in the latter, a traffic study was to be done to determine the resultant traffic flow changes along Walnut west of Jeffrey.) Before any decision is made on whether NIVA should support any or all of the 3 requests, it was decided that a meeting be set up with City staff to discuss these 3 items in detail.

TIC submitted the application for this change to the City on Nov 20. A copy of the document *Planning Area 40: Planning Summary*, furnished by TIC, was available for review at the meeting. Though it had some details on the project, it was obvious that it was primarily intended as a PR and marketing tool.

3. **NORTHERN SPHERE COMMITTEE** - NIVA had taken a position against the large village monument signs proposed for installation adjacent to the Jeffrey Open Space Spine as excessive in size and, as such, a potential visual intrusion (negative aesthetic impact) on the Spine. The two signs with 3-1/2 ft. lettering would be placed on 12-ft high by 150 ft long walls paralleling the trail -- one on each side of the future entry roadway from Jeffrey. NIVA's position was submitted to the PC for consideration at their Nov 16 hearing along with a presentation by Melvold at the hearing. Though the PC had no discretion on the walls themselves having already approved them within the Master Trails and Landscape Plan, they did concur with NIVA's questioning of the need for 2 signs at the entry especially since one faces the traffic leaving the village. (It should be noted that this was the first time that TIC had submitted for approval the structures, intended for use as signs, in the Master Trails and Landscape Plan for a village. Most likely it went unnoticed by the PC in its approval action last May.) In the end, the PC did not reduce the size of lettering but approved only the sign on the entry side of the roadway, thereby reducing the number of unnecessary, aesthetically-imposing signs along the Spine in response to NIVA's request.

## OLD BUSINESS

1. **EL TORO MCAS REUSE** - Lennar was contacted about a followup meeting on the Great Park trail connections to neighborhood trails and informed NIVA that Lennar was running into some real problems with the proposed connection along the railroad ROW and has encountered railroad constraints. They are, therefore, looking at other alternatives to accomplish the desired trail connection. A meeting is not expected before the end of the year.

The City has noticed the public about the pending hearings on the Heritage Fields application for changing to the Master Streetscape Design Guidelines, Tentative Parcel Map, and Vesting Tentative Tract Map for the PA-30 & -51 adjacent to the Great Park. Of keen interest is any significant changes to the proposed street design associated with the arterials in PA-51. The first scheduled hearing is that of the Subdivision Committee on Dec 20 at 9 AM.

The City held the 2nd meeting of the Community Advisory Team [CAT] on the Guideway Demonstration Project on Dec 5 at the Lakeview Senior Center. A summary will be distributed in a couple of weeks. Included will be a list of 10 alternatives for implementation. From comments made at the last meeting and any comments NIVA should submit in the relatively near future, the expectation is to reduce the number to only 4 alternatives which will be subsequently submitted to the City Council for final selection. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the morning of Wednesday, Mar 7, 2007.

2. **MUSICK JAIL EXPANSION** - OC Sheriff Carona is moving ahead with plans to increase the size of the jail from its current 1256 beds to 4,400 with an ultimate possible 7,500. Though the County still does not have a source of the funds for construction, the Sheriff is proceeding to hire an architect to design the enlarged facility which should take about a year. The County will also be changing the nature of the jail from minimum-security to medium-security -- a critical change in type of inmates housed at the

facility. Assuming the construction funding can be obtained, the earliest the construction would be completed would be in 5 to 7 years. Once enlarged, this would make the jail the 2nd largest in the state and 11th largest in the nation – nothing for which Irvine would like to be known.

NIVA had years before expressed concerns to the City about a proposed expansion but, realizing it most probably could not be stopped outright, limited the request that the City reach agreement with the County on 3 issues. These were:

- (1) No maximum-security inmates whatsoever;
- (2) Releasing of inmates to occur only at the County's booking/release facility located in Santa Ana;
- (3) Use of shortest route between the I-5 and the Jail for transporting of inmates to and from Court.

The City, along with the City of Lake Forest, subsequently sued the County, to stop any enlargement. A compromise had been reached in negotiations between representatives of Irvine & Lake Forest and the County to limit the size and type of jail but only the Lake Forest City Council accepted it. Irvine bowed out of the settlement. Per Chris Mears, City Councilman at the time, the settlement agreement was unnecessary in his opinion as no expansion of the Irvine site for the Jail would ever take place. He was convinced that an acceptable alternative site would be located. Consequently, though Lake Forest and the County Board of Supervisors were prepared to accept and approve the settlement, the City rejected it. As a result, the proposed agreement fell to the wayside leaving the City with no protection or limitation on any future jail expansion at the Musick site.

In late 2001, TIC donated lands north of Irvine to the Federal NCCP land preserve. Alternative jail sites were previously being considered but with the donation, consideration of these alternative sites were essentially truncated. A contact made to Mears in Dec. 2001 resulted in his position that the matter of the jail is essentially on hold awaiting the outcome of litigation but volunteering no indication of any subsequent City action on the jail expansion in the event litigation is unfavorable to the City.

After 3 additional years of no apparent activity but with increasing uncertainty with the situation, an inquiry was sent to Mears in Sept. 2004 requesting an update on City activity to assure no enlargement as he had confidently predicted, NIVA received no response whatsoever. Mears has since left the Council. After discussion, it was agreed that NIVA should communicate its concern again about these 3 issues to assure their inclusion in any negotiations between the City and County and hopefully acceptable resolution on each. Melvold agreed to send a letter to the City Mgr.

3. **NORTH IRVINE LIBRARY** - The Library Services Advisory Committee held its first meeting on Nov 27 having been reconstituted from the previous Irvine Library Task Force. Melvold remains on the Committee. The Committee held a lengthy discussion on the various possible means of financing any capital improvements such as new libraries within the City. These include: (1) Adopt of a development impact fee; (2) Allocate of a portion of the currently charged systems development fee; (3) Adopt a community facilities district similar to that used by the IUSD; (4) Adopt a library assessment district; (5) Wait and hope for an unlikely state grant; and (6) Attempt to get a City library bond approved.

On the matter of City library service standards, the Committee unanimously approved a recommendation to the City Council that it adopt a library space standard of 0.86 sq.ft./capita. This proposed level is essentially the same as that of Newport Beach which is 0.852. Currently the standard for the City is the same as that of the Orange County Public Library [OCPL] system which is 0.2 sq.ft./capita though the average of the OCPL system is 0.534.

4. **HEAVY VEHICLE ROADWAY RESTRICTIONS** [Jerry Kirchgessner] - No response had been received to NIVA's Sept 14 e-mail to Bob Matson of RBF Consulting which was sent per agreement at NIVA meeting of Sept 13. The job had been reassigned to the City's Ken Louie. A call had been received from Cindy Krebs, a member of Louie's group, stating that work by RBF Consulting has been

held up by Asst. City Mgr. Sharon Landers. Landers wants to meet with NIVA before work is to proceed. In the meanwhile, Krebs is sending out letters to the asphalt plant and to the Bowerman Landfill operator requesting that they inform truckers not to use Jeffrey but rather Sand Canyon to reach the I-5. She will forward copies of the 2 letters to NIVA. After discussion, it was agreed that NIVA concur with the City's request for a meeting but with the stipulation that representation be requested from Woodbridge and Turtle Rock. Melvold will convey the decision to Krebs.

5. **MASTER COMMUNITY PARK PLAN REVISION** - City staff gave a presentation to the Community Services Commission at a study session on Dec 6 on the Proposed *Irvine Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan, [Plan]*. Basically it laid out a proposal for park development, modernization and rehabilitation of the City's parks and other related facilities. It is not the long-overdue revision of the City's Facilities Master Plan last revised in 1988. However, the revision of the Facilities Master Plan was referenced in the presentation as a draft dated 2003!! This is specifically the document that NIVA has been attempting to get a copy to review for some time from the Dir. of Com. Services who promised a copy to NIVA as far back as last summer but NIVA has yet to receive a copy of the draft. Nonetheless, the draft is referenced in this Plan and even dated 2003!!

Key needs identified in the 2003 Facilities Master Plan (Draft) are listed as:

- (1) Expanded Child Care Opportunities
- (2) Indoor Recreational Opportunities -- Gymnasiums
- (3) Aquatic Facilities
- (4) Additional Lighted Athletic Fields
- (5) Increase in Senior Facilities
- (6) Development of Teen Facilities
- (7) Community Meeting Areas for Non-profit Organizations and Community Groups
- (8) Classroom Space for Programs and Activities

The proposed City's Facilities 5-7 Year Priority Projects are:

- (1) Community Center Expansion and Modernization
- (2) Gymnasium
- (3) Wilderness Center
- (4) Soccer Field/Jeffrey Open-Space Spine Trail

The Plan is expected to go through a review and approval process in 2007 though no specific schedule was proposed. Staff still does not know how the Great Park facilities will interplay with those of the City.

Obviously, there is no specific listing of another senior center. Nor was there any mention in the proposed Plan for mutual benefit arrangements with schools within the City such as with Beckman HS for use of its aquatic facility or gymnasium in exchange for use of the City's soccer and tennis courts in the Peters Canyon Community Park. It was decided that NIVA would take no action at this time but wait for further development and processing of the proposed Plan within City staff.

6. **JEFFREY OPEN-SPACE SPINE** - [Awaiting a response from the City to NIVA's Nov 29, 2005 letter regarding the acreage credit calculation for Segment 2 of the Spine.] The City is preparing to request a \$120,000 grant for a study to be done in 2007-08 of a crossover of Trabuco by the Jeffrey Open Space Spine Trail.

7. **NORTHWOOD MILITARY MEMORIAL MONUMENT [Zelinko]** - The Community Services Commission [CSC] held a hearing on the "Gratitude and Honor" Monument proposal on Nov 15. Staff presented a report that among other things stated that a major park design modification is required and must be approved by the CSC. If approved by CSC the estimated project would cost \$386,100 (\$70k for design, \$320k for construction, and \$39k for staff time) and take 15 months to implement. No funding

source had been identified. Staff also indicated that the need appears unnecessary with a monument currently honoring the U.S. armed services at Col. Bill Barber Memorial Park and another extensive memorial planned for the Great Park. The CSC made a recommendation not to approve the monument project at Northwood Community Park.

Councilmember Shea had requested an allocation of \$150,000 for the monument from the City's Carryover Funds at the Council's Nov 28 hearing on consideration of various allocations from the funds. However, the Council continued the matter for consideration of allocations from the balance of the funds after the new year. Kiser and Zelinko gave presentations in support of the monument funding at the meeting. Zelinko provided a few additional details at the meeting specifically on the difference between the monument as originally proposed by the support group and the more elaborate proposal of staff which includes replacement of the Northwood Park sign. Staff's proposal has increased the monument's cost considerably and in so doing making its approval less likely.

8. **NORTH IRVINE SENIOR CENTER** - Community Services Dept. staff gave a presentation to the Community Services Commission [CSC] on the Northern Sphere Park Amenity Program. A brief history of Program's development to date through activities with TIC, Senior Citizens Council and the Sports Committee was initially provided followed by the status on existing senior facilities city-wide within the City and expected future needs based on senior population projections. Details on the multi-use center proposal was limited as this is expected to be assessed by the CSC at the future meeting. Instead, the CSC discussion was primarily focused on staff's list of recommended actions which were being proposed in response to the Council's directions at its Oct 24 meeting. To this end, staff proposed and sought CSC concurrence to hold a minimum of 2 public meetings in the northern portion of the City and to return to the CSC with a recommendation 60 days prior to presenting to the Council. The CSC approved the actions proposed by staff.

Melvold gave a presentation with a map indicating the Northern Sphere and the balance of the North Irvine being excluded from staff's currently proposed program. The emphasis of the presentation was to have staff focus on the entire North Irvine and not simply the Northern Sphere. The existing, older or established portion of North Irvine is not included in staff's current program plan, has been neglected for many years, and will continue to be unless staff is redirected accordingly. Additionally, a single centrally-located stand-alone facility maybe could suffice in satisfying the need for all of North Irvine. 2 possible sites, that are more or less centrally-located, were suggested for CSC and staff consideration. A request was made to the CSC to assure that at least 1 of the public meetings is held in the established area, i.e., the area west of Jeffrey, at possibly the Northwood Com. Park community center, and that notices for the meetings go out to all residences north of the I-5. It was also requested that the notices clearly indicate to the public the issues of location of the facilities, stand-alone vs. distributed, and that the current proposal has no facility west of Jeffrey.

Al Brendt -- the lone member of the Senior Citizens Council who voted against the staff's proposed Northern Sphere Park Amenity Program at its Sept 21 meeting -- gave a presentation in support of a stand-alone center. He stated that the staff for the senior activities must be able to control the scheduling for the center which would not be possible in a multi-use center. He currently sees inadequate rooms to schedule senior activities within the 2 centers. He concurs that the City must address the needs for the balance of North Irvine and doubts that the list of amenities needed for senior activities can be built into a community center.

It should also be mentioned that at the study session described in Item 5 above, staff stated that the 2 existing senior centers are 20 to 30 years old and in need of rehabilitation. This is recommended even though North Irvine is still awaiting its senior center and even though staff is downplaying the value of stand-alone senior centers!

9. **NOISE IMPACT OF TRAIN HORN BLOWING AT HARVARD CROSSING** - The City met with OCTA/Metro Link a couple of weeks ago about the improvements OCTA is going to make on at-grade crossings in Irvine. The City wanted to discuss the possibility of implementing the quiet zone in conjunction with those improvements. There was progress and that as a result of the meeting, the OCTA has agreed to the combined effort but the City and OCTA must come up with a funding strategy agreeable to both. The plans are expected to be completed by Feb. 2007 with earliest construction start to be mid-2008. This should be good news for those living near this crossing.

10. **PUBLIC STORAGE FACILITY EXPANSION** - A scoping session was held on the proposed project for the City Council on Nov 14 at which time they gave staff direction in terms of things they would like explored prior to this item going on to the Planning Commission next year. It is tentatively scheduled to go to the PC on Feb 16. They desired a history of why the parcel was designated Neighborhood Commercial in the General Plan and 1.1 Agriculture in the Zoning Code and if it is necessary to retain Neighborhood Commercial in this Planning Area. As currently planned, the final application will be for the General Plan Amendment to convert the site from Neighborhood Commercial to Multi-Use and a Zone Change to convert the site from 1.1 Agriculture to Multi-Use. In addition, there is the Conditional Use Permit application for the proposed 2-story storage building.

14. **NON-RESPONSE FROM CITY ON CORRESPONDENCE** - The outstanding issues have been brought to the attention of City Mgr. Sean Joyce who subsequently assigned the matter to Assist. City Mgr. Sharon Landers to handle. It was agreed that a meeting should be set up with Landers, but not until after the first of the year. Melvold will inform Landers and then proceed with arrangements for the meeting after the new year.

NEXT MEETING - Next meeting is scheduled for Wed., Jan 10, 2007.