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Elysian
Park
Committee



Notes

October 13, 2003

Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park (CCSEP)

No. 127

Memorial Tree Planting - Save the Date

The Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park will sponsor its annual tree planting and dedication on Saturday, November 15. Please note the change of time—the ceremony will start at 1PM.

Saturday, Nov 15, 2003

Place: Arboretum
Elysian Park
Time: 1:00 P.M.

This year we will be planting 15 to 20 trees in the historic arboretum area. Specimens will be chosen and planted by the City Department of Recreation and Parks. Because the arboretum is a heavily used area most of the trees will have to be 24-inch box size and will be around \$150. There may be 3 or 4 trees that are the smaller 15 gallon size at a cost of around \$50. To plant a tree for a loved one or yourself please call early. The deadline for ordering is November 3rd. Please call Mary at 323.667.0867 to place your order.



Transportation Project Threatens Elysian Park

The Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park needs you to write letters to Council Members Reyes and Garcetti telling them to reject a Los Angeles Department of Transportation proposal to install Automated Reversible Lanes in and around Elysian Park to facilitate Dodger game traffic - particular traffic leaving the games. These projects will impose severe permanent visual pollution on Elysian Park and two major entry points to the park, and should not be allowed.

CCSEP Steering Committee members along with other Echo Park community leaders met with LADOT on two occasions over the last six months to discuss these proposals. On both occasions, the community raised serious objections to these projects because of the permanent visual blight they would create. After the meetings we heard that the project was being shelved. Then, suddenly, at the beginning of September, they were alive again, with open support from the Dodgers.

A public meeting sponsored by Councilmember Ed Reyes was held at the Grace Simons Lodge on Tuesday, September 30th to discuss the proposed LADOT projects. The meeting

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was well attended with about 70 to 80 attendees. Echo Park was present in large numbers (over 50).

As presented, the project was scaled back from the original proposal presented to members of the Steering Committee in the prior meetings. However, implementation still involves the installation of multiple two foot diameter steel structures that would either span the road from side to side like giant croquet hoops or arms spanning half a roadway. From these structures would hang a combination of large lane panels over each lane plus several LCD message panels. Structures would be placed:

- On Academy Road (from the Stadium Gate) going around the bend and north on Stadium Way for a hundred yards or so
- On Elysian Park Drive from Sunset to Dodger Stadium, and
- On Riverside Drive from the 5 Freeway exit/entrance ramps onto Stadium Way to the Stadium Way exit/entrance ramps.

The overwhelming sentiment of the audience was opposition to the project because of the dramatic permanent impact the signs would have on the park. However, it appears that Reyes office is still formulating a position. The call to action at the end of the meeting was for the community to continue to weigh in by sending letters, faxes or e-mails to both Councilmembers Reyes and Garcetti.

CCSEP has sent a letter to Councilmembers Reyes and Garcetti asking for the projects to be turned down, and explaining our reasoning (see Reverse Lanes Letter page 3), but it is **VERY important that you let the politicians know how important this is to you. Even if you attended the meeting, you should send your comments in.**

Remember, a letter can be as short as:

"I am opposed to all of the planned or proposed Automated Reverse Lane Projects serving the Stadium and Elysian Gates."

Letters and faxes are more effective, but e-mail is better than nothing. Make sure you write your name and address, and with letters or faxes, a signature. Thanks in advance for doing your bit:

Councilmember Ed Reyes
200 N. Spring Street, Room 410
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilmember Eric Garcetti
200 N. Spring Street, Rm 470
Los Angeles, CA 90012

P: (213) 485-3451

P: (213)-473-7013

F: (213) 485-8907

E: garcetti@council.lacity.org

E: reyes@council.lacity.org

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Hall.

Send inquires and letters
to:

CCSEP
1403 Macbeth Street
Los Angeles, CA 90026
(213) 481-0815
(213) 250-5528 FAX
www.echopark.net
ccsep@echopark.net

President:

M. Scott Fajack

Assistant President:

Peter Lassen

Secretary:

Pamela Burgess

Treasurer:

Michael Kogan

Steering Committee:

Patricia Bauer

Susan Borden

Mary Brooks

Irene Camarena

Andrew Garsten

Mary-Austin Klein

Marie Loreda

Isa-Kae Meksin

Daniel Munoz

Sallie Neubauer

Christine Peters

Marion Siu

Ming Siu

NOTES contributors:

Scott Fajack

Andrew Garsten

Marion Siu

Sallie Neubauer

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626.303.4487

Our Letter in Opposition to the Proposed Reversible Lanes in Elysian Park

The Citizen's Committee To Save Elysian Park is opposed to the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) proposal to install permanent reversible lanes signaling equipment and signage serving the Stadium and Elysian Dodger Stadium Gates (A & C). We urge you to join us, and to tell LADOT "No." These projects are unjustified by any change in conditions, improved safety, or reduced expense or traffic. They will damage the park environment and represent a very real potential for future usage facilitating commuter traffic; a potential that CCSEP feels is intolerable.

Currently, reversible lanes are manually coned, and traffic is manually regulated at intersections to accommodate neighborhood access. These proposed projects would eliminate manual coning for the stated purposes of improved safety and reduced expense for the city, and improved traffic/travel times for Dodger game traffic.

There have been no safety incidents with manual coning, and reversible lane automation will not eliminate the need for manual traffic regulation at intersections. Dodger Stadium capacity and potential traffic volume has not changed in since the Dodgers arrived in 1962. Without the convergence of an unlikely series of local and regional road improvements, travel times will not be improved at all. Rather, the projects will simply move bottlenecks to the next place down the line – the freeway on-ramps or Dodger Stadium gates.

Dodger Stadium traffic occurs about 85 days a year. But the projects' multiple structures and signage along Stadium Way - a City of Los Angeles "Designated Scenic By-Way," will cause permanent visual pollution to Elysian Park 365 days a year.

While the projects miss their targeted goals, they could easily be used to turn these routes into more efficient commuter corridors. Any development that can facilitate further degradation to Elysian Park is unacceptable. We know that today we will get promises that this will "never" be the case. But in the future, when all the current officials and bureaucrats are long gone, someone will scream about an obvious way to mitigate downtown commuter traffic. The automated reversible lanes will be turned on, and BOOM, a new, no-cost freeway extension serving downtown through Elysian Park will be born.

If the City of Los Angeles and the Dodgers are genuinely interested in improving the traffic in and out of Dodger Stadium, they should be making it easier for people to get into the stadium without their cars utilizing bus and train transportation. This year's Union Station shuttle bus was successful, and should be replicated and expanded. Programs like this offer a real solutions to game travel times and traffic, and ones that everyone will win by.

Upcoming Elysian Park Walking Tours

The last Historic Elysian Park Walking Tour for this year will be held on Saturday, November 22nd at 10 AM. Included sites relate to the history of Elysian Park, the city's early water system, the Pasadena Freeway, Chavez Ravine, and much more. Please join us on the 2-mile hike, which takes about 2 hours to complete. For Directions and to RSVP please call (213) 482-4458

February 7 & April 3, 2004 — Set aside these dates for a 5 to 6 mile walk through Elysian Park. Meet 8:30am at the Grace Simons Lodge. Highlights: oldest L.A. Arboretum, Simons & Glass Memorial designed by sculptor Peter Shire, rock garden, Elysian Fields, Grandview Point, Elysian Reservoir, around Radio Hill to Chinatown for lunch. Bring \$\$\$. Guide: Marion Siu.

**Support the
CCSEP
Join Today!**

**Membership
Information**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

New Member \$10

Renewal \$10
(Student and Seniors, \$5)

Donation \$ _____

I'd like to help

I'm interested in the following:

The CCSEP would like to thank the following new and renewing members for their support:

Lupe Amador
Helen and Michel Amnestoy
Nancy & Peter Auerbach
Barlow Respiratory Hospital
Dianne Bougher
Mary Brooks
Alice Brown
Ruth & Alan Clark
Xenia & Fred Coleman
Agnes Dawson
Diane Edwardson
Constance Franklin
Mary & Nat Hittleman
Barbara & Melvin Horton
Howard Juhl
Rebecca Kappenhauer
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Citizens Committee
to Save Elysian Park
1403 Macbeth Street
Los Angeles, CA 90026