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*Elysian
Park
Committee* **Notes**

October 20, 2004

Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park (CCSEP)

No. 129

Memorial Tree Planting - Save the Date

The Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park will sponsor its annual tree planting and dedication on Saturday, November 20 at 1PM.

We are happy to be able to work in conjunction with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's *Trees for a Green LA* program this year which will provide funds to purchase some rare exotic specimen trees for the arboretum. Because DWP is only licensed to purchase from a handful of nurseries, not all of the trees we will plant will be covered. CCSEP has agreed to pick up the tab for those—about \$700.

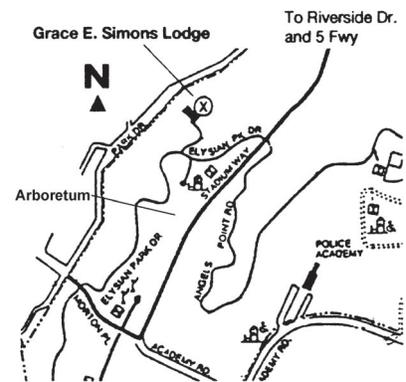
The CCSEP ask that donors planting trees this year make a donation to CCSEP for their trees—24-inch boxes, \$100-\$150; 15-gallon, \$60-\$80. Whatever we collect in excess will be held in a "Tree Fund" to replace failed rare specimens, replace and expand the education labels in the arboretum, create better arboretum maps, and other tree related projects.

There will be about 22 trees available. Call early for best selection and to ensure you obtain a tree for your loved one or yourself. The deadline for ordering is Monday, November 8. To order a tree, please call early. Call Mary at 323.667.0867.

Saturday, Nov 20, 2004

Place: Arboretum
Elysian Park

Time: 1:00 P.M.



Elysian Park Master Plan

For over three years the CCSEP has been working towards the goal of having the Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP) produce a new and expanded Master Plan for Elysian Park. With the help of Councilmember Reyes securing funding for the Master Plan at a cost of \$150,000, and the DRP hiring Withers and Sandgren Landscape Architects (Planning Consultants) to produce the Master Plan, our dream is becoming a reality. To date, there have been 4 meetings of the Elysian Park Master Plan Oversight Committee and 1 Community Workshop.

It is CCSEP's hope that the Elysian Park Master Plan becomes the guideline for the future stewardship and protection of Elysian Park by the City of Los Angeles so that future generations of Angelinos can continue to enjoy this sanctuary in the heart of the city. The last Elysian Park Master Plan, now outdated, was produced in 1971. The 2004 Master Plan will recommend a "Regular Update Schedule" to insure continuing improvement and implementation of the Master Plan.

The appointed Master Plan Oversight Committee members are as follows:

Steve Davis, City Recreation and Parks (Group Leader); Susan Wong, Council District 1; Glen Dake, Council District 13; Master Plan Consultant Withers and Sandgren Landscape Architecture: Jan Sandgren, Lacey Withers and Patty Nalle; Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park (CCSEP): Scott Fajack, Pamela Burgess and Sallie Neubauer; Christine Peters, Greater Echo Park and Elysian Neighborhood Council; Alicia Brown,

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Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council; Steve Zimmer, Elysian Valley Riverside Neighborhood Council; Thien Ho, Los Angeles Dodgers.

The purpose of the Oversight Committee is to help guide the development of the Master Plan. Members serve as official liaisons between the community organizations they represent and the DRP. The first Oversight Committee Meeting was held on March 4, 2004 and the most recent one on October 14th. From start to finish, the Master Plan is expected to take a year.

Oversight Committee Meeting topics have included: a review of Withers and Sandgren's initial "Scope of Work," restoration of native plants, park signage, Elysian Park Reservoir Options, park maintenance, budgets, neighborhood concerns regarding parking and traffic, planning the Community Workshops, community outreach, etc.

On April 15, committee members were treated to a tour of Elysian Park by Steve Davis, Bill Lopez, Peggy Kelly and Teresa Prosewicz of DRP. Stops included: Radio Hill, Bishop Canyon Landfill, the Riverside Drive Parcel (newest acquisition and addition to Elysian Park land), Grace Simons Lodge, the Arboretum, Community Garden, and Casanova Terrace. The tour enabled committee members to visualize the wide scope of Elysian Park and to better understand how various park issues would fit under the umbrella of a Master Plan strategy.

At the most recent Oversight Committee meeting on Thursday, October 14th, committee members reviewed Withers and Sandgren's outline of "Master Plan Strategies" - a consolidation of information and ideas gathered from the community at the first Community Workshop. Discussion of the consultants' outline included feedback from committee members regarding specific neighborhood and community desires and concerns.

Paul Liu from the Department of Water and Power gave a brief presentation of options for covering the Elysian Park Reservoir which will also be presented at the 2nd Community Workshop.

First Community Meeting! June 23, 2004

Held at Grace Simons Lodge, this event was a successful example of community participation and positive communication. Community hearings are the most important part of the Master Plan process. This is the time when park users and park neighbors can make their opinions heard, thereby influencing the future direction of Elysian Park. The boisterous evening workshop was arranged and moderated by Withers and Sandgren. Attendees participated in four rotating Workshop Sessions titled: "The Park Land," "Fun and Recreation," "Getting around the Park," "Taking Care of the Park." Mail-in postcards for comments and questions were provided by Withers and Sandgren for attendee postscripts and for those who were unable to attend the workshop. It was an inspiring evening. People got excited about the park! How great is that!

Second Community Meeting—SAVE THIS DATE!

The Second Master Plan Community Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2004, from 6:30pm - 9:00pm at Grace E. Simons Lodge. Please attend! The purpose of this meeting is to gather input from the community before the Master Plan is finalized.

This important community meeting will consist of a Power Point Presentation by Withers and Sandgren Landscape Architects who will explain what the park issues are and make their recommendations. The presentation is based on a distillation of all the information and ideas from the last public meeting.

You will be able to vote on what you like or don't like.

This is your chance to be heard!

Thursday, November 18. Tell your neighbors!

Pamela Burgess

Notes is published by the Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park (CCSEP).

CCSEP meets the 1st Wednesday of the month, 7:00 P.M. at Barlow Hospital-Williams Hall.

Send inquires and letters to:

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

Sallie Neubauer

Pamela Burgess

Christine Peters

Scott Fajack

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DWP Proposes Landscaped Reservoir Cover

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) is tentatively proposing to cover Elysian Reservoir with a landscaped concrete cover. State and Federal water regulations have dictated that all open reservoirs must either be covered or filtered.

After knowing this inevitability for over 10 years, DWP has begun in earnest to consider options. Since May DWP staff has been meeting with members of the Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park. In the past there had been speculation about taking Elysian Reservoir out of service. However, it was determined by June that DWP needs the 55 million gallons of storage that Elysian Reservoir currently holds.

Therefore, the most logical solution is to cover the existing reservoir. In 1989 CCSEP sued the DWP over a proposal to cover Elysian Reservoir with an aluminum roof. That lawsuit resulted in DWP's agreement to meet in mediation with the newly formed Coalition to Preserve Open Reservoirs (CPOR, to which the CCSEP belongs) to resolve the opens reservoirs' fates. Throughout the years CCSEP members have insisted that regardless of the proposal, it must be environmentally sensitive, and preferably provide park users access. The current proposal seems to be headed in the right direction.

The landscaping has yet to be fleshed out. It would not include any tall trees—only shallow root systems can be accommodated in the 3-feet of soil that will cover the reservoirs roof. Native plants requiring minimum irrigation would most likely be preferred by DWP. Although the proposal would eliminate the view of approximately 7 acres of water, DWP is open to creating a small natural water feature for wildlife as well as a small human water feature. CCSEP members are enthusiastic about both a natural water hole as well as a splash park—disappearing water jets—for children to play in.

DWP staff has created 3 computer generated photo scenario boards showing active/passive and passive recreation with different water features. They will be presented at the Elysian Park Master Plan meeting on November 18, 2004 for feedback from the community.

The final decision regarding the fate of Elysian Reservoir is still months if not years away. Elysian is the last to be addressed of the DWP's 8 open reservoirs in its Reservoir Water Quality Improvement program. Community activist across the city have been meeting with DWP for over a decade to hammer out the fates of Stone Canyon, Hollywood, Silver Lake, Rowena and other reservoirs. CCSEP has participated as a member of CPOR in these mediated talks with DWP. Although each reservoir's solution was highly individualized and therefore different they shared our common denominator: the solutions were drastically different from the original proposals. For example Stone Canyon's filtration plant is about 1/3 the size originally stated was necessary by DWP; Silver Lake, rather than being reduced in size by 1/2 with a filter plant adjacent is instead being taken out of service. A new storage/filtration system to replace Silver Lake is being built by the 5 Freeway at the foot of Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Hollywood Hills. However, because DWP does not want the responsibility of managing a non functioning Silver Lake, its fate is still undecided. In both cases extensive state Environmental Impact Reports (EIR's) had to be prepared (Silver Lake's is not yet completed). Elysian is also required to have an EIR per CPOR/DWP agreement. This will insure additional public hearings and hopefully an environmentally sensitive decision.

Sallie Neubauer

Upcoming Elysian Park Walking Tours

The last Historic Elysian Park Walking Tour for this year will be held on Saturday, December 4 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 2-1/2 hours to complete.

For Directions and to RSVP please call (213) 482-4458.

**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:

**Possible Park Ranger Consolidation into the
General Services Department**

The Mayors preferred budget proposal includes the transfer of the Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP) Rangers into the General Services Department (GSD) as of January 2005. The Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park (CCSEP) has been following this topic very closely. Many of our members have been attending and speaking at DRP Commission hearings on this very controversial issue. Among the most contentious issues has been where the rangers will be deployed, which uniform will they wear (traditional Smoky uniforms vs. LAPD blues), and if they will carry firearms.

This proposal moves the existing rank and file peace officer level rangers into the "Parks and Facilities" section of the newly proposed Office of Public Safety of the GSD. The CCSEP feels that the level of service currently experienced by the public would be compromised and diminished by such a move. We as a Committee have recommended that the proposed consolidation of the rangers only happen if the rangers can be deployed into a dedicated parks bureau and not a Parks and Facilities Bureau as proposed. We also support the continued use of the traditional Smoky style uniforms that identify the rangers as 'Ambassadors of the Park'.

As a result of our joint involvement on this issue with the Greater Echo Park/Elysian Neighborhood Council, we were able to have a public forum on this issue that has reopened the door to public comment and will hopefully bring about the changes needed to make this a beneficial change for both the public and the rangers themselves.

Councilmember Tom LaBonge is hosting an informational meeting on the consolidation of the Park Rangers to the Department of General Services on Wednesday, Oct. 27, 6:30-9.30 PM at the Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive.

Christine Peters

Los Angeles, CA 90026
1403 Macbeth Street
Citizens Committee
to Save Elysian Park