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*Elysian
Park
Committee*



Notes

October 4, 2006

Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park (CCSEP)

No. 133

Memorial Tree Planting - Save the Date

The annual Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park sponsored Memorial Tree Planting and Dedication will take place on Saturday, November 18, at 1 p.m. Please note that we will be planting in a different area of Elysian Park—near the North Broadway entrance.

A variety of both exotic and native trees is available for prices of around \$80 - \$140 to the CCSEP tree fund—the exact price will depend upon the specific species and its size. The fund will be used for such things as making new identification tags for trees that need them, creating tree walk maps and replacing dead trees.

Please call early to ensure that you reserve a tree, and for the best selection. The deadline for orders is Monday, Nov. 6. Mary will take your requests: 323.667.0867.



Historic Barlow Hospital For Sale/Development

One hundred and three year old historic Barlow Hospital, located at the Scott Avenue entrance to Elysian Park, is for sale.

On April 13th First District Councilmember Ed Reyes, in whose jurisdiction the 25-acre campus is situated, held a community meeting attended by about a hundred people, at which Barlow Chief Executive Officer, Margaret Crane, stated bids had been received and the Board of Directors were seriously considering three.

Now almost six months later, despite numerous inquiries, neither Ms. Crane nor staff from Councilmember Ed Reyes' office have provided any updated information.

This is very disturbing because there are many interested community members who would like to participate in influencing what happens there. Councilmember Reyes' meeting made clear that any future use other than the current Hospital will require a zone change and plan amendment and that these will involve public hearings over about a year's time. However, history and experience have shown that zone changes are usually made at the recommendation of Councilmember.

The community should be concerned because Ms. Crane has disclosed the following:

- a minimum of \$25M needs to be generated by the sale,
- multiple bidders for the site are developers seeking to build condos/housing, with an eye towards hillside development,

See Barlow, page 2

Barlow, continued from page 1

- only one bidder spoke of saving any of the 39 existing structures; for example, as a common area.

The sale is imminent. Barlow cannot by federal mandate operate out of its antiquated Hospital building and must either move or retrofit it (which it can't afford). Strict federal earthquake standards have mandated improvements by 2013 that Barlow has deemed too costly to implement at the old building. They have also scrapped as too costly plans for a new building on site. The threat of high density development is real.

The Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park would like to review a copy of the package the realty company representing Barlow is circulating to potential buyers but that information is Top Secret. Only a potential buyer can receive a copy by signing a non-disclosure clause that swears secrecy to all information regarding the potential sale. A major community concern is that the sale appears to push development opportunity with little or no consideration to the merits and potential of the current 25-acre campus. A 1992 State Historic Resources Study determined that Barlow, Los Angeles' first respiratory hospital established to treat Tuberculosis patients, was eligible for listing as a district in the National Register of Historic Places with 32 significant contributing structures, as well as countless contributing specimen trees – now all around a hundred years old. There are at least 19 Craftsman style cottages of around 1200 square feet as well as 7,936 square ft. two story Birge Hall, 5,290 sq. ft. two story Help Building (Guild House) that could be charmingly rehabilitated. Williams Hall, a splendid and rare specimen of Craftsman style with over 2,310 sq.ft., has served the community as a meeting room, loaned free of charge for decades. Bosworth Hall, comprised of 9,336 sq. ft. leased several years ago to the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, originally as an AIDS Hospice, is currently used for prevention and testing programs.

It is doubtful that any effort has been made by Barlow to advertise what potential exists for creative reuse/rehabilitation there. Concerned community members have launched a campaign to get the word out and help find a new tenant. If you would like to save Barlow Hospital from tear-down development, save open space, save the ambience of the entrance to Elysian Park, please sign and send the coupon below and/or call Councilmember Reyes to tell him personally at (213) 485-3451.

~Sallie Neubauer

**I want to: Save Barlow from Teardown Development
Save Open Space
Save the ambience to the entrance to Elysian Park**

Name _____
Print _____
Sign _____
Address _____
Zip _____
Optional-Phone _____
Fax _____ Email _____

Please mail to:
CCSEP, 1403 Macbeth St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90026

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:

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Arroyo Seco Parkway through Elysian Park Still Threatened

As noted in our last report on April 25, 2006, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is working on two projects in Elysian Park that directly affect parklands and the historic nature of the Figueroa Street Tunnels (specifically, the northbound lanes of the Pasadena Freeway).

Since April the CCSEP has met with Caltrans five times to voice its objections to the installation of the massive signage and to the inappropriate design of the tunnel lighting.

At our first meeting with Caltrans at Councilmember Reyes' office the two representatives from the CCSEP were met by 10 Caltrans staffers who were unable to answer the majority of our questions relating to the projects and how the projects impact Elysian Park.

At the next meeting in June, Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg met Caltrans District 7 Director Douglas Failing and the CCSEP. This get-together looked promising but in the end did not seem to make much difference (at least in terms of getting answers).

At the meeting Assemblymember Goldberg noted the Caltrans' process was flawed and the two projects needed to be revised. She also instructed Caltrans to keep her informed and get back to her office... with mixed results. Although Caltrans

Disc Golf Pilot Program in Elysian Park

On June 25th, 2006 the Chavez Ridge Disc Golf Course opened to the public with a one year pilot program in Elysian Park. The new recreational facility straddles both sides of the ridge between the Solano Canyon section and the Reservoir, an area that has been plagued with illicit adult activity for years. The Chavez Ridge course was designed and constructed by Discsports In Southern California (DISC) with input from the Citizen's Committee to Save Elysian Park, and has seen a lot of play over the summer, bringing a new, family friendly recreational activity in the park!

Disc golf is similar to traditional ball golf, but players use special Frisbees (golf discs) instead of balls and clubs, and throw them at an above-ground target instead of a hole in the ground. Unlike most ball golf courses however, a disc golf course is environmentally attractive with minimal impact on existing trees and vegetation and a small footprint. The combination of challenges to players, including distance, accuracy, wind, trees, shrubbery and terrain changes, offer plenty of action and excitement during the course of a game.

Elysian Park Master Plan

The Elysian Park Master Plan has finally been completed! Landscape Architect Steve Davis has posted the entire document of the Recreation and Parks website and you can find it here: <http://www.laparks.org/dos/parks/elysianPK/elysianMasterplan.htm>

The final step in the process will be the presentation of the Master Plan to the Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioner on November 1, 2006!

As previously noted, once the Board of Commissioners approves the Master Plan the CCSEP will use it to prioritize and guide our search for grants to fund the numerous improvements recommended for Elysian Park.

engineers set up two additional meetings with Councilmember Reyes' office they neglected to inform the Assemblymember of the second meeting.

To date, after 7 months of requests, CCSEP still does not have any answers to our original questions...questions relating to easements, right-of-ways, surveys, and maintenance, and has yet to see *any* of the alternative schemes for lighting or signage as requested by Assemblymember Goldberg.

At press we are anticipating a new meeting with Assembly Goldberg and Caltrans where hopefully we'll get the answers. ~S. Fajack

DISC is a local non-profit dedicated to promoting disc sports in our region. They first contacted CCSEP with the idea in November of 2004. After very careful consideration, the Steering Committee approved the pilot project in Oct of 2005, and CCSEP's Disc Golf Subcommittee (Peter Lassen, Andrew Garsten, and Michael O'Brien) worked closely with DISC during the design and construction of the course. With help from the community, DISC installed tees, tee signs, targets and improved accessible trails in the course area.

DISC is currently conducting disc golf clinics on Saturdays at Chavez Ridge which are open to the general public. For more information please contact Cliff Towne of DISC at clifftowne@mac.com or 323-660-4026.

You can also go to the Professional Disc Golf Association's web site www.pgga.com where you can find the Chavez Ridge Disc Golf Course in Elysian Park listed in their online Course Directory, or get more information on the sport.

Grab a golf disc and come out and play at the park!
~Cliff Towne/Andrew Garsten

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:

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