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*Elysian
Park
Committee* **Notes**

October 3, 2007

Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park (CCSEP)

No. 135

Memorial Tree Planting - Save the Date

The Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park will sponsor its annual Memorial Tree Planting in Elysian Park on Saturday, November 17, 2007 at 1p.m.

As of this newsletter's press date, the site(s) and trees have not yet been determined. However, if past years are any indication, there should be between 20 and 30 trees available for purchase ranging in price from around \$60 to \$180.

As always CCSEP members work with the Department of Recreation and Parks staff to select tree species for appropriate locations. If you would like to plant a tree for a loved one or yourself please call early both to reserve a tree and guarantee the best selection. Call Sallie at (323) 666-9651.

The deadline for orders is Monday, November 5. But order early as the trees GO FAST!

Elysian Reservoir Community Workshop Planned

January 2008 Elysian Reservoir Community Workshop Planned A community workshop is planned for January 26, 2008 to help the Department of Water and Power determine the fate of Elysian Reservoir. New stricter water regulations mandate that all drinking water supplies be either covered (enclosed) or filtered. Elysian's relatively small size does not warrant a filtration plant.

Members of the Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park, as a member of the Coalition to Preserve Open Reservoirs, continue to meet in mediation with DWP staff to discuss options. DWP is seeking input from the community as well.

DWP is standing firm on its need for at least 35 million gallons of storage (the current reservoir holds 55mg) at the present elevation and vicinity. The only other available site that fits the requirements is the Dodger parking lot, and the Dodgers will not entertain any disruption to their parking.

CCSEP/CPOR remains adamant that the beautiful 40-acre Elysian Park canyon that is the site of the Elysian Reservoir must not be transformed into an industrial wasteland. However, this is exactly what will happen if DWP is allowed to cover the reservoir with either a floating rubber cover or aluminum roof.

DWP has admitted it could replace Elysian Reservoir with one or two buried tanks on site, landscape the tank(s), and include some water feature(s). The only problem with this scenario is that it would cost \$129 million. Considering that Elysian Park is a Regional park, and that the \$129 million would provide upwards of 15 acres of newly usable park land, it does not seem too costly, especially when the alternative would ruin 40 acres of existing parkland.

Please make your voice heard by attending the workshop on Saturday January 26! DWP will be sending out notices with the pertinent time and place.

Historic Barlow Hospital Remains For Sale

Historic Barlow Hospital on the southern edge of Elysian Park has been in the news recently. The September 3, 2007 Los Angeles Times Business section reported that Barlow Respiratory Hospital, along with with partner Damon Runyon Cancer Research Center of New York, sold Grauman's Chinese Theater to big Hollywood developer CIM Group of Los Angeles.

How or if this will figure in the proposed sale of the hospital is unknown at this time. It would be fair to assume the sale of Grauman's netted Barlow in the vicinity of \$4,000,000!

In the past Barlow CEO Margaret Crane has informed CCSEP and concerned community members that the hospital must come up with \$25,000,000 in cash in order to build the new hospital it needs. Several years ago the plan was to build the new hospital on site but building costs have increased so dramatically that the current plan calls for selling all or part of the property to furnish the cash.

On January 8, 2007 CCSEP members, accompanied by members from both the Echo Park Historical Society and the Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council, conducted a resource assessment tour of the Barlow campus. The report from that tour concluded that \$10,000,000 could be made by restoring and selling off periphery assets—virtually all the bungalows and two houses west of Stadium Way. This would allow for the historic core of the campus on the east side of Stadium Way to remain either as Barlow or as adaptive reuse. The goal is to save the historic character of the first respiratory hospital in Los Angeles—established in 1902 to treat then deadly Tuberculosis. It was after all the fresh air, good climate and proximity to Elysian Park that made this location its home.

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.

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