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*Elysian
Park
Committee* **Notes**

April 26, 2004

Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park (CCSEP)

No. 128

JUNE 6 FUNDRAISER DINNER

Sunday, June 6th, 2004 one of the best parties in the neighborhood (and always a sold out event) the Citizens Committee To Save Elysian Park Fundraising Dinner will be held this year at the beautiful Grace E. Simons Lodge and garden. Located in Elysian Park, the Lodge is the perfect setting for a Sunday dinner buffet and for a stroll in the garden with friends and family.

Back by popular demand, Bar-B-Que Express will be catering the affair with a pre dinner hors d'oeuvres, nosh on the patio and no host bar. The barbeque dinner will be composed of tri-tip beef, boneless breast of chicken and vegetable kabobs. Side dishes will include Caesar salad with parmesan, corn on the cob with seasoned butter and red roast potatoes with garlic and herbs. Come early and gather on the patio to catch up on gossip with your friends!

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres begin at 5:00 pm. Live music will be played on the green adding to the celebratory atmosphere. After a brief welcome by the Citizens Committee, dinner will commence at 6:30 pm. This fun evening will conclude with dessert and coffee, and the traditional raffle with really cool prizes! Raffle tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Save up your money and take a chance at the banquet!

Reserve your tickets early! Capacity at the Grace E. Simons Lodge is only 200. This event always sells out so plan ahead! All tickets will be sold on a first come first serve basis and must be paid in advance. Dinner is \$30. Children 5-12 are \$15. Toddlers: free.

To purchase an entire table of 8, send in your check with your name and the names of your guests. Free parking is available at the Lodge.

RSVP by sending your checks to:

CCSEP c/o Michael Kogan, 1401 W. Calumet Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90026.
For more information or directions call Michael at 213/250-2378.

SEE YOU THERE Sunday, June 6th, 2004

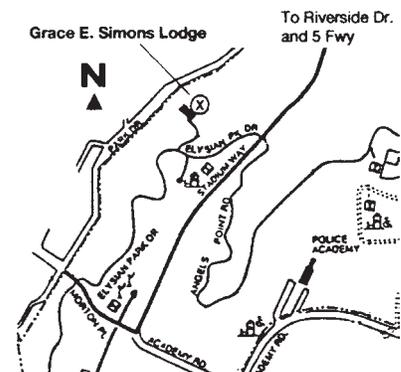
Save The Date

Sunday, June 6, 2004

Place: Grace E. Simons Lodge
1025 Elysian Park Drive
Elysian Park

Time: 5:00 P.M.
No-host bar,
Hors d'Oeuvres and
Musical entertainment

RSVP: Required



Work Begins on the Elysian Park Master Plan

Work has finally begun on the Elysian Park Master Plan! While it has been over one-year since Councilmember Ed Reyes secured funding for the new Master Plan the project is now moving along under a full head of steam.

In August 2003, with funds in place, Councilmember Reyes office authorized the Department of Recreation and Parks (LADRP) to begin the Master Plan process. At the end of August members of the CCSEP Steering Committee interviewed several landscape architectural firms currently under contract with the LADRP and selected the firm of Withers & Sandgren to produce the Master Plan. Withers & Sandgren will be assisted by the local landscape architect Lynn Dwyer who was formerly associated with North East Trees.

See Master Plan, page 2

USC to House CCSEP Archives

The University of Southern California has committed to cataloguing and storing the Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Parks' extensive historical papers.

Dace Taube, the Regional History Collections Librarian of Special Collections, is thrilled to accept our old papers which tell many stories of how the CCSEP took on City Hall over the decades since its 1965 inception. Student volunteers will inventory all the papers, which include among other things letters, petitions brochures, flyers, and photos, and inventory everything. The results will create a Microsoft *Word* or *Excel* database. Both databases and papers will be available to the public at the Doheny Library on campus. Ms. Taube's goal is to have the material ready for access by the beginning of the fall semester.

This represents fantastic good fortune for CCSEP. Since her death in 1985, founding President Grace E. Simon's papers have been shuttled from one home to another with no one ever having the time or energy to chronicle them or store them properly. The equivalent of a least two full file cabinets (8 drawers) will finally be housed for posterity in archival acid free folders kept in acid free file boxes. Any papers deemed not worthy will be returned to CCSEP so we will be assured integrity in the process.

Because USC is just minutes away from Elysian Park, we are confident that even staunch UCLA supporting CCSEP members will be pleased by USC's generous offer.

Master Plan, continued from page 1

During the slow holiday season Withers & Sandgren began conducting historic document research and preparation of an outline for the Master Plan. Concurrently LADRP had been working with Councilmember Reyes and Garcetti's offices to assemble the Elysian Park Master Plan Oversight Committee who will work with Withers & Sandgren to help guide the process along from initial scoping through the completion of the final Master Plan document.

The Oversight Committee includes:

Steve Davis, Landscape Architect, LADRP
Lacey Withers and Jan Sandgren, Landscape Architects, Withers & Sandgren
Susan Wong, Field Deputy, Councilmember Reyes
Glen Dake, Landscape Architect and Legislative Deputy, Councilmember Garcetti
Scott Fajack, Pamela Burgess and Sallie Neubauer, CCSEP
Christine Peters, Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council
Alicia Brown, Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council
Steve Zimmer, Elysian Valley Riverside Neighborhood Council
Thien Ho, Los Angeles Dodgers

The next step in the process will be 3 public hearings where the communities of park users can make their opinions heard, thereby influencing the future direction Elysian Park will take.

The LADRP has set up the following website for the Elysian Park Master Plan: www.laparks.org/dos/parks/elysianPK/elysianPark.htm. There you can find information on the upcoming public hearings, view reproductions of the 1971 Elysian Park Master Plan and the 1992 UCLA Elysian Park Report and ultimately find the new Master Plan.

Please plan on attending these important public hearings! If you would like to be notified when the meeting dates are set send an e-mail to ccsep@echopark.net or simply call 213.481.0815.

Notes is published by the Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park

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

Send inquires and letters to:
CCSEP

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Transportation Project Halted

The Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park would once again like to thank Councilmember Ed Reyes for his continued show of support for Elysian Park by stopping the wrongheaded plan by the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) to install Automated Reversible Lanes in and around Elysian Park. The CCSEP would also like to thank those that called or wrote Councilmember Reyes to express your dismay over this planned project.

With the rejection of the project by the councilmember the funds will be returned and the project will be tabled. Unfortunately as much as we would like to believe that is the case LADOT has always had grand scheme for the *improvement* of the Stadium Way thoroughfare and so when the inevitable future project is proposed the CCSEP will be prepared to scrutinize and if need be fight for the benefit of Elysian Park.

General Manager Resigns

Last December the Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park was disappointed to learn that Manuel Mollinedo had resigned his position as General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (LADRP) to become the Executive Director of the San Francisco Zoo.

The CCSEP appreciated Mr. Mollinedo for his accessibility, opening up his office on multiple occasions to engage in honest and productive meetings regarding the betterment of Elysian Park and the entire Los Angeles park system. As a result of these meetings many unresolved issues that have plagued Elysian Park for a great many years were dealt with and resolved in short order while a number of other problem issues/ locations in the park were placed on the agenda for prioritization when funds or staff are available.

With the departure Mr. Mollinedo, Mayor Hahn has appointed Mr. Jon Mukri to the position of General Manager. Prior to moving to LADRP Mr. Mukri was the General Manager the Los Angeles General Services Department. We have recently met with Mr. Mukri, introducing him to the legacy of the CCSEP, making him aware of the importance we place in supporting not just Elysian Park but all of Los Angeles' parks and that we look forward to working with him.

Federal Lawsuit Settled

In the fall of 1999 the Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park (CCSEP) and the Solano Community Association filed suit in U.S. District Court against the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) for failure to comply with the National Environmental Protection Act during the planned widening of the Pasadena Freeway through Elysian Park.

While construction of this project was completed in September 2002, the federal case slogged on. In the meantime, the CCSEP settled a separate lawsuit against CALTRANS in the state court which brought over 800 new irrigated trees to Elysian Park.

To settle the federal lawsuit CALTRANS will plant and irrigate 36 trees adjacent to the freeway in Elysian Park. These trees are in addition to trees that have already been planted as replacement for those that were removed during construction. In addition CALTRANS has agreed to pay our legal counsels costs and fees incurred during litigation.

The CCSEP would like to thank Larry Teeter, our legal counsel, for all his fine work.

Elysian Park History: The Victory Grove Memorial

A large granite boulder surrounded by a hilltop cluster of eucalyptus trees are the remains of a largely forgotten World War I memorial in Elysian Park. One of the parks many historic landmarks and monuments, the Victory Memorial Grove sits atop a hill that rises above Lilac Terrace and to the south of Barlow Hospital. The hilltop was selected in 1920 to serve as home to a five-acre memorial site after the initial location proved inaccessible, according to Los Angeles Times stories.

During a ceremony on Armistice Day (now Veterans' Day), November 1920, the hillside was sown with poppy seeds from Flanders, the French region where so many World War I battles were fought. Maj. Frank P. Doherty, who provided the seeds, said that the "grown poppies will ever be a reminder of the gallantry of the American troops abroad." Seventeen trees, the gift of Capt. Walter Brinktop, were to be planted soon after, and the city parks department planned to fly a large flag at the site. Residents were encouraged to plant trees in the grove in the memory of fallen soldiers.

In mid 1921, the Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated a monument, a bronze plaque mounted on a large granite boulder, created by local sculptor Julia Bracken Wendt. The design represents a soldier and sailor clasping hands before the image of an oak tree. The hilltop was the site of Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies and tree planting for several decades.

~Historical research provided by the Echo Park Historical Society

**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:

Los Angeles Parks Coalition Yahoo Group

Members of the CCSEP have setup a new internet discussion group with the intent of organizing a loose affiliation of concerned City of Los Angeles park groups and users with the goal of providing a forum for discussing park issues and developing strategies whereby we can affect change for the better in the city's park system.

If we take this opportunity to speak as a coalition rather than individual park representatives our parks may become a greater priority to our Mayor and Councilmembers. As a coalition let us work together and lobby for increased funding and better park management for all our parks .

Please take the time to sign up and to invite others to join this coalition. Help us to define our role in enhancing and preserving our parks for future generations of Angelenos.

To join the LA Parks Coalition:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LA-Parks_Coalition/

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