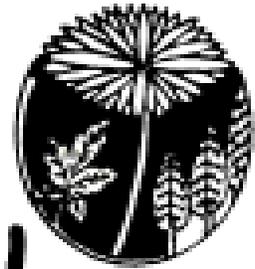

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Elysian
Park
Committee

Notes

May 5, 2010

Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park (CCSEP)

No. 140

JUNE 6 FUNDRAISER DINNER

On Sunday, June 6, 2010 please join your friends, neighbors, and fellow park advocates for the 47th Annual Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park Fundraiser Banquet in historic Elysian Park. The will take place at the beautiful Grace E Simons Lodge, the perfect setting for a Sunday dinner buffet with your family and friends.

The food will be provided by Bar-B-Que Express and the exciting new menu this year is Greek. Pre-dinner hors d'oeuvres will include tapenade bruchetta, Tyropitas/spanikopita, and dalmades. The main entrée is Gyro Lemon Chicken with Moussakka (Greek Lasagna), Greek Rice Pilaf, Pita Bread, Tzatsiki & Humus, and dessert. Dinner will be served with compostable plates, utensils, and cups. There will also be a non-host bar.

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres begin at 5:00 p.m. I See Hawks in L.A. will be playing live music on the green. After a brief welcome by the Committee, dinner will commence at 6:30 p.m. The evening will conclude with dessert and coffee, and the traditional raffle with the best prizes in town.

Reserve your tickets now!! Capacity at the Lodge is only 200 and this event always sells out. All tickets will be sold on a first come first serve basis and must be paid in advance. Dinner is only \$35.00!!! Children 5–12 are \$15.00. Toddlers: Free.

To purchase an entire table of 8 or 10, 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 Mike Kogan, Treasurer, 1401 W. Calumet Avenue, Los Angeles, CA. 90026. For more information or directions call Dan Reza at 818.613.0332. or e-mail your reservation to: designdan@yahoo.com

Elysian Reservoir Update

The community-supported option for covering Elysian Reservoir may become the latest victim of the City's budget woes. Instead of landscaped buried tanks, preferred by the community, DWP staff is now recommending an aluminum cover with solar panels. A vote to determine the Reservoir's fate was scheduled for an April 20 meeting of the Department of Water and Power Commission but was pulled from the Agenda at the last minute because Councilmember Ed Reyes, who represents Elysian Reservoir, could not be present.

Because of stricter State and Federal Water Quality Standards, DWP must either cover/enclose or build filtration plants for all its open drinking-water reservoirs. The cheapest solutions are floating, or aluminum covers; the most expensive solutions are buried tanks and filtration plants. The community has always preferred landscaped buried tanks. For Elysian, this is the only alternative that will preserve the natural beauty of the 40-acre canyon in Elysian Park. Buried tanks would also create 14 new acres of usable park!

A vote to recommend changing the community-supported option to an aluminum cover (for

See Elysian Reservoir, page 3

Birding in Elysian Park

Nestled in the middle of LA, between Dodger Stadium and the Los Angeles Police Academy, Elysian Park has a lot of great bird habitat, with a mix of manicured lawns and chaparral-covered hillsides. Its mature trees play host to a wide variety of nesting species, while its hillsides attract hikers, runners and Frisbee golfers. On April 10, the park also attracted 18 birders who got up early for Pasadena Audubon's first-ever Elysian Park Bird Walk. They weren't sorry they did: It turned out to be a very birdy morning.

We found a few winter stragglers that hadn't left for their northern nesting grounds yet. A Golden-crowned Sparrow was scratching under a bush before most birders arrived. Later we saw a Northern Flicker, a couple of American Pipits and a batch of Yellow-rumped Warblers in beautiful breeding plumage that were still hanging around.

Spring migration was also evident. We found both a Pacific-slope and an Ash-throated Flycatcher. We saw a Phainopepla, along with Bullock's and Hooded Orioles. And although the warblers weren't moving through in large numbers yet, we did see Wilson's Warblers as well as Townsend's and Nashvilles.

Breeding evidence was plentiful with many birds carrying nesting material. We also saw copulating Western Bluebirds (though we quickly averted our eyes), displaying Anna's Hummingbirds, and an active Raven's nest well hidden under the crown of a cypress tree.

Perhaps the best part of the walk wasn't the number of species we saw (though we did see 46 in all) but rather the great views we got of many different kinds of birds. At one point, we were looking across from a hillside toward a large sycamore that had, in a single binocular field, three species of woodpecker—Nuttall's, Acorn and Northern Flicker.

The most unexpected species, given that the park has no ponds or other water, was a flock of nine great egrets overhead.

If you were unable to attend, don't despair. The one thing the group's participants agreed on is that while this might have been Pasadena Audubon's first field trip to Elysian Park, it won't be the last. Sue Horton and Ron Cyger

Upper Angel's Point Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden

Last spring in Elysian Park the Department of Recreation and Parks planted a butterfly and hummingbird garden at the upper Angel's Point area. The plants were selected to not only attract butterflies and hummingbirds, but to enhance the beauty of the area for all of the park patrons who come to Elysian Park. The plant varieties selected included two species of medium sized shrubs, *Salvia greggi* and *Salvia leucantha* which hummingbirds adore. Also included were different species of lantana to provide a ground cover effect and also attract all species of butterflies. The centerpiece plants were different species of *Buddleia* (butterfly bush) a large shrub that attracts many different species of butterflies with 4 different varieties each with different flower colors.

The garden is progressing very well. The plants have grown considerably and are beginning to bloom and within a few weeks should be in full bloom.

It is the departments hope that everyone who comes to Elysian Park will take the time to get off of the beaten path and enjoy this area.

Mark Jackson, Park Maintenance Supervisor-Elysian Park

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

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Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir as well as Elysian Reservoir) was originally scheduled to be heard two weeks earlier but was postponed. After receiving several letters from Stone Canyon constituents, Commission President Alpert requested more information and a delay in the vote.

Two years ago in March 2008, when Elysian Reservoir's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was due to begin, DWP staff appeared before the DWP Commission and recommended the cheaper aluminum roof as the preferred alternative for the EIR study. To their credit, the Commissioners, understanding the value of park and open space, disagreed. They voted unanimously for landscaped buried tanks as the preferred option for both Elysian Reservoir and Stone Canyon Reservoir.

At the time, this was an especially gratifying vote for CCSEP Steering Committee members, Sallie Neubauer and Pete Lassen, who as members of the Coalition to Preserve Open Reservoirs (CPOR) had for 18 years participated in mediated meetings with DWP staff to decide the fate of all the open drinking-water reservoirs.

Now, two years after this important Commission decision, DWP staff has recommended not only renegeing on the buried tanks as the preferred alternative, it has removed them entirely from consideration! The current staff recommendation is for an aluminum cover with solar panels. A floating cover is proposed to be the only alternative studied!

That this recommendation could happen after 18 years of mediation is unthinkable. Of course, the reason is to save money, and everyone understands that, but this way of thinking is shortsighted. The current economic crisis is not going to last forever. Construction for Elysian Reservoir's tanks is not due to begin before 2013, three years from now.

The facts remain the same: PARK SPACE IS FINITE. Converting Elysian Reservoir to an aluminum roof with solar panels will create an industrial blight in what is now a beautiful 40 acre park canyon. Landscaped buried tanks will provide 14 new acres of usable park land. Where could the City find 14, much less 40 inner city acres to purchase for parkland? And if the acreage were available, at what price?

DWP staff has been working diligently for the last year to significantly reduce both cost and environmental impact of the buried tanks scenario. Unfortunately, three of the five commissioners who rendered the 2008 decision have been replaced. Their new counterparts must be convinced of the validity of the previous commissioners' decision.

Councilmember Ed Reyes stands by his 2008 position supporting buried tanks. Hopefully, he will be present to join CPOR members in arguing for the buried tanks when the item finally comes before the DWP Board of Commissioners. As part of the argument, the Board must be reminded that the initial Mediation Agreement between DWP and CPOR was sanctioned by the DWP Commission and the Los Angeles City Council, and that the purpose of the mediation was to identify options acceptable to DWP that are also "sensitive to the needs of communities including cultural, historic, recreational, open space and aesthetic values of the open reservoirs...."

Upper and Lower Hollywood Reservoirs were saved as beautiful open bodies of (emergency) water when buried tanks were built next to them. Beautiful Lower Stone Canyon Reservoir was saved as a drinking water supply when a filtration plant, approved by CPOR after many negotiations, was built next to it. Rowena Reservoir was converted to a lovely landscaped area with a water feature. Silver Lake Reservoir will be taken out of service and left as a body of water when the buried tank replacement for it (Headworks Reservoir) at the 5/134-freeway interchange is completed.

Beautiful Elysian Reservoir, the only reservoir located both in the inner city and in a regional park- Los Angeles' oldest park and part of the original Pueblo de Los Angeles- deserves nothing less than landscaped buried tanks.

Please send letters requesting this to:

Lee Kanon Alpert, President

Board of Water and Power Commissioners

Department of Water and Power of the city of Los Angeles

111 North Hope Street, Room 1555-H

**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:

May in the Arboretum

The Chavez Ravine Arboretum was founded in 1893 by the Los Angeles Horticultural Society, and many of the original trees still stand. Planting continued through the 1920s, and continues today under the auspices of CCSEP. Many rare and unusual trees can be found there. One of the best is in flower right now, the Chinese Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus retusus*), which is the small tree covered with white flowers to the northeast of the children's play area. This tree is native to China and Taiwan, and will grow to about 20 feet tall, making it a good choice for the home garden. It comes in boy and girl plants, with the flowers on the boy plants being larger than those on the girl plants. However, the plants sold in commerce are not identified as to sex. But if you have one and it produces small, dark, olive-like fruit, you have a girl plant. Most of the plants in cultivation are boy plants, to avoid the mess that birds make when they go for the fruits. It is deciduous, and in good years the leaves are bright to deep yellow. It is fairly pest and disease free. Once established, it can take some drought. For some reason, it is not widely planted, although it is a desirable tree, and is available in the trade. Excellent mature specimens can also be seen in the parking lot at the Huntington. For people from the east, it flowers like an immense white lilac.

Michael O'Brien

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Citizens Committee
to Save Elysian Park