

# AUGUST 2004

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## HRB MEETING MINUTES - TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2004

**Present:** Rachel Gamby, Brian Cummings, Wayne Sandholtz, Jeff Beckwith, Ron Reid, and Andrew Herndon.

### Old Business:

There were no major architectural reviews presented at this meeting. ICHA management has sent letters to homeowners in Phase 8 who are overdue on landscaping. The HRB discussed a gate that had been installed in a rear wall on Twain opening onto the greenbelt and a possible public paseo. HRB had asked ICHA management to determine who would be responsible for any repairs to the wall if it should fail structurally because of the breach. ICHA management said the paseo would be prohibitively expensive and the homeowner would be responsible for future repairs to the wall. This could adversely affect a future homeowner. The homeowner will therefore be required to remove the gate and restore the wall to its original condition. . New exterior lights have been installed on four (10,12,14, 16) townhouses on Blake Court. Half of the fencing has been installed on the lower Schubert greenbelt with completion of the job scheduled before the end of July.

There has been no progress on HRB's recommendation to ICHA that the ground lease be amended to more clearly define the definition of principal residence.

Aileen Anderson, Rachel Gamby, and Jeff Beckwith met with Richard Demerjian of Campus Environmental Planning and Stacey Murren of Parking and Transportation to discuss the plans for the Southern Radial and the new Palo Verde apartments parking areas. Issues of noise abatement and landscaping were discussed. A meeting will be scheduled with residents of Murasaki and Mr. Demerjian in July. The three week testing of noise levels in areas of University Hills has been completed by EH&S. The report will be summarized in the September newsletter. The chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee has been contacted regarding changes the HRB would like to see made in the way junior faculty are eligible to purchase houses. The chair of the committee has requested additional information.

### New Business:

The HRB has been considering ways to get more of the community to subscribe to the listserv. Currently, less than 25% of community households have subscribed. The listserv is a major method of distributing important information to University Hills residents. Take time now to register for the listserv so your household is informed about issues of concern to University Hills residents: <http://www.uhills.org/mailman/listinfo/uhills>

A request for a concert in the lower park for later in the summer was accepted. ICHA and HRB do have money to pay for a band. The concert would be two hours in length and residents would be invited to bring picnics. A request for moving a bus stop on Gabrielino was discussed. The corner of Gabrielino and Russell is a major pickup stop for children in the Schubert Court condos and living on Russell and Thomas. The issue will be discussed again at the next meeting. Basketball hoops left in the street after dark continue to be a major problem in the community. Residents are asked not to place the hoops in such a manner as to impede traffic flow, emergency vehicles, and not to leave them in the streets when no one is playing. Leaving hoops on community property (including the streets) is illegal. Hoops should only be set up on resident's property or easements immediately adjacent to their property and owners should be responsive to their neighbors' requests to limit use of the hoops.

To facilitate police response to calls concerning disturbances in the common areas of University Hills it has been suggested that each park or facility be named and labeled with signs. The HRB would like suggestions from residents. Please forward your suggestions to Rachel Gamby at [rgamby@cox.net](mailto:rgamby@cox.net) or drop them in the ICHA management offices.

### Meeting with Residents:

#### Garden Park

Prior to the arrival of residents at the meeting, the HRB discussed the feedback to the fence proposals that had been sent to Rachel Gamby and/or posted to the University Hills listserv. Video cameras, fake or real, were judged to be unlikely to deter intruders or survive vandalism. Security guards or patrols would be too costly. Several residents attended the meeting to discuss the ongoing problems in the Garden Park. Several suggestions were discussed. The current solution being investigated is to fence and gate the back of the park opening onto the preserve. The gate would require the use of a key from both sides and use the same key as the pools. The rationale is that a fence at the rear of the park would discourage intruders with criminal intent because the garden park would become a potential trap if the police arrive. Having a fence at the back of the park would in no way prevent residents use of the park and prevent intruders from entering the preserve. Pruning and general clean up of the landscaping would also occur to make the park more open. ICHA management will obtain cost estimates and check on any legal issues pertaining to the fence. A second sign

has been installed informing park users that it is under surveillance of the University Police. Major concerns of the residents adjoining the park were drug dealing and alcohol use, noise, litter, safety, and fire issues, but most of all the regular close proximity of a criminal element from areas outside University Hills and UCI. HRB will continue to examine other solutions to the problem. Residents adjacent to the park requested that a decision and an attempt at a solution be made as soon as possible.

---Respectfully submitted, Jeff Beckwith

## **MINUTES OF HRB SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING WITH UCI CEP AND P&T STAFF**

On June 30th 2004, Members of the University Hills HRB Subcommittee met with staff members from UCI Campus & Environmental Planning (CEP) and Parking & Transportation (P&T) regarding the new construction and its impact on University Hills. The minutes from that meeting appear below.

On July 22, there was a community meeting between HRB representatives (Rachel Gamby, Aileen Anderson, Brian Cummings), ICHA representatives (Andrew Herndon), Rich Demerjian from Campus & Environmental planning, Staci Murren from Parking & Transportation, and Murasaki residents to discuss plans and gather input on mitigations for these upcoming construction projects.

**Minutes** from the meeting of the University Hills HRB Subcommittee with people from UCI Campus & Environmental Planning (CEP) and Parking & Transportation (P&T)

**Attending:** Richard Demerjian, Stacey Murren, , Jeff Beckwith, Rachel Gamby, Frances Lee

1. Palo Verde II. The HRB inquired re: parking lots for PVII that appear in ongoing construction to be located on the UH side of Southern Radial, and possibly closer to UH than PVI. PVII plans were reviewed, and this is the case for the planned parking, however, the same approximate distance (100 feet) from PVI to UH will be maintained for PVII to UH, and planting to screen the development is planned. The HRB emphasized the desire for maximum screening possible, and the potential of negative impact from these parking lots given our experience with lot G.
2. The HRB inquired as to the height of the planned exit from PVII onto Southern Radial, which appears to be quite high in current construction. Plans for this exit were reviewed, and the exit is shown at an elevation of 8 feet lower than the closest phase 8 residence on Murasaki. CEP is confirming the height of the road under construction. Additionally, pursuant to previous conversations between the HRB subcommittee/UH residents and CEP re: keeping the height of Southern Radial as low as possible, CEP is reviewing whether there is any chance to further lower this intersection.
3. Pursuant to #2 above, the Southern Radial contractor has been asked to drop the height of the road as much as possible, and overall road height currently looks to come in ~1 foot lower than on the original plans. The final height of the road is tied to the intersections it must serve at California and Peltason based on CA law, and is unlikely to change significantly beyond this but will be minimized where possible.
4. CEP notified the HRB that UCI is revising its plans for Southern Radial and California to include additional funds to make use of rubberized paving. Rubberized paving reduces road noise from traffic by 5-7 decibels. Decibel changes of less than 3dB are detectable by the human ear, hence, this will help to minimize the impact of these roads on UH.
5. HRB asked CEP if they would review plans for the exit from PVII onto Southern Radial, assessing whether this exit might be best as a right in/right out to minimize traffic onto Southern Radial from this source. Richard Demerjian is inquiring within CEP re: this topic.
6. There was discussion on the location of street lights on Southern Radial, in particular alternating versus center lights. Consensus was that since better shielding can be put in place (as a planned mitigation to phase 8 Murasaki residents) with alternating lights to meet regulations for foot-candles on Southern Radial.
7. There was discussion of ways to solve the missing link to better convey information on the Long Range Development Plan (LDRP) for UCI to UH more proactively. Input and suggestions are encouraged.
8. The HRB was notified that the intersection of Southern Radial and California will initially be a stop sign.
9. A community meeting between CEP, P&T, the HRB, and Murasaki Phase 8 residents to answer questions and take input where possible is in planning.
10. Planned start of construction grading for Southern Radial is in August.
11. The new director of Parking and Transportation, Stacey Murren, informed the HRB that the plans for the Cal IT parking structure at Peltason/Southern radial have been changed to move the stairs on the structure to the back (campus side) of the building, to further mitigate its impact on UH.
12. P&T and the HRB are continuing to work together to establish policies for the operation of the Cal IT parking structure taking into

account its proximity to UH. In particular, mechanisms whereby roof parking could be closed (gated) at night and lights (other than safety lighting) kept off. This discussion remains in progress.

13. As for the Southern Radial, construction start on the Cal IT parking structure is anticipated for August.

---Aileen Anderson, HRB Subcommittee

## **STREET BIOGRAPHY - TWAIN (ONE IN A SERIES CONTINUING TO APPEAR ON THE NEWSLETTER)**



Mark Twain, born Samuel Langhorne Clemens in 1835, was an American author whose humorous writings about life on the Mississippi River have endeared him to generations of readers. Clemens grew up near the banks of the Mississippi River; he left school at the age of twelve and became a printer's apprentice. In his early twenties, he worked as a riverboat pilot (*Life on the Mississippi*, 1889). At age 25, he traveled by stagecoach to join his brother in the Nevada Territory (*Roughing It*, 1872); while there, Clemens adopted the penname Mark Twain (a river boatman's term for "marking two fathoms") and wrote articles for the local paper.

He moved to San Francisco in 1864, where he wrote the short story, "The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" (1865). Next, Twain became a travel reporter and wrote about countries in Europe and the Middle East (*Innocents Abroad*, 1869). Returning to America, he gave frequent well-attended lectures that, along with his writings, earned him a reputation for witty observations of human nature and for satirical commentary on human hypocrisy.

In 1870, he fell in love with Olivia Langdon. After marrying, they settled in Connecticut and raised a family. Twain remained utterly devoted to his wife for the rest of his life. He continued his writing, publishing *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and its sequel, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884). Ernest Hemingway wrote of the latter, regarded as Twain's masterpiece: "There is nothing before; there has been nothing as good since." Twain was an international literary sensation. His lectures and writings made him financially secure, and in 1907 he received an honorary doctorate from Oxford University.

His family life, however, turned tragic. After losing an infant son, two daughters, and his wife to illness, Twain grew serious, and his writings acquired a darker tone. As the year of his birth had marked the appearance of Halley's comet, Mark Twain was certain that the comet's next scheduled appearance in 1910 would coincide with his death, and so it did. Mark Twain died at the age of 75 on April 21, 1910.

## **VISITOR NIGHT AT THE UCI OBSERVATORY**

**Date:** Wednesday, Aug 11

**Time:** 8:30 - 10:30 pm

**Place:** University of California, Irvine, Observatory

You may be wondering why we picked that date -- that night is expected to be the peak of the Perseid Meteor Shower. For more information on the Perseid Meteor Shower, see [http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2004/25jun\\_perseids2004.htm](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2004/25jun_perseids2004.htm)

Come see "shooting stars," tour the Observatory, and use our telescope to catch a glimpse of the Moon, star clusters, nebulae and galaxies. See a slide show about the Solar System. We heartily encourage amateur astronomers to bring their own telescopes.

## **NEWS FROM THE CITY OF IRVINE**

The City is developing a Hazard Mitigation Plan, and part of the requirement is public input. We have posted a disaster preparedness survey on the City web site <[http://www.cityofirvine.org/forms/hazard\\_survey.asp](http://www.cityofirvine.org/forms/hazard_survey.asp)>. Please encourage everyone you know who lives in Irvine to participate!

## **NEWS FROM IRWD**

### **Water Conservation Tips**

- Water your lawn when it needs it. Step on the grass: if it springs back up when you move, it doesn't need water; if it stays flat, it's time to water. Trees and shrubs generally require about half (some shrubs even less) of what the lawn needs. Check the moisture of the soil 3-6" below the surface. With our heavy clay soils, the surface will dry out in hours, but the clay remains moist beneath the surface.
- Brown "hot spots" require extra care. Don't turn up the water if you see a patch of brown turf: it will mean over-watering other plants and will result in higher water bills. Instead, look for blocked sprinkler heads or uneven coverage. Adjust the irrigation system or water that spot by hand.
- Check for broken sprinkler heads and for leaks in hoses and couplings.
- Water during the cool parts of the day. Night and early morning are the best times to water. Also, avoid watering on windy days. Don't water the gutter! Position your sprinklers so water lands on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas. Watch for runoff-that is your sign that your lawn can no longer take in water at the rate your sprinkler is dishing it out. Try watering for a shorter period with repeat cycles.
- Cycle your lawn clippings. Mow frequently (every five to seven days) and leave the clippings on the lawn, if they are not too long. Build up should not occur if you cut back on fertilizer. The clippings will restore nutrients to the soil and slow water loss due to evaporation during the high temperature months. Consider raising the height of your mower blade, but make sure your lawn does not grow to block the sprinkler heads.
- Mulch around trees and plants a couple of inches away from trunks and stems. It will slow evaporation of moisture and discourage weed growth.
- Yellow leaves on shrubs may be a sign of over-watering. More plants suffer from over-watering than from becoming too dry!

**Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule for the month August:**

**Turf Grass**

4 days, 3 cycles\* of 3 minutes

**Trees, shrubs, groundcover**

2 days, 3 cycles\* of 4 minutes

\*By "cycling" your irrigation timer to turn on for the suggested number of minutes an hour apart, you reduce runoff and gain deeper watering and healthier root growth. Start with this weekly schedule and increase the times only if your plants show signs of stress. If stress occurs only in isolated areas, check your irrigation system before increasing the time.