

**AUGUST 2005**

<http://www.uhills.uci.edu/>

<http://www.uhills.org/>

Editors: Lauri Barwick and  
Nina Macdonald

## **SURVEY ON COMMUNITY CENTER**

The HRB/CCC has created a brief online survey to receive feedback from our community on issues of the Community Center. We need to have all responses **no later than August 31** so we can report our findings at the ICHA Board September meeting. As of this writing, there is no new information on the status of the Community Center. However, we still feel it is critical to define what type of center, if any, the residents prefer so we may present this to ICHA as soon as possible. Please access the survey at [http://www.tacgi.com/phpESP/public/survey.php?name=uhills\\_CC](http://www.tacgi.com/phpESP/public/survey.php?name=uhills_CC) If you have questions, concerns about the survey, please e-mail Harry Mangalam [hjm@tacgi.com](mailto:hjm@tacgi.com). The CCC and HRB thanks Harry for the time and effort he has spent getting this survey up and running.

*---Thanks, Lu Forrest for the HRB/CCC*

## **HRB RESPONSE TO ICHA BOARD'S DECISION TO NOT PARTICIPATE IN FACILITATED MEETING CONCERNING GOVERNANCE OF UNIVERSITY HILLS**

Over the last year there have been several conversations regarding the “relationship” between ICHA and the HRB and how to improve “communication” between the two parties. The HRB has attempted to proactively represent the needs of the community to ICHA management and the ICHA board, while the ICHA board has conveyed to the HRB on multiple occasions that it does not believe the HRB represents the community. This difference in perspective came to a head during the design of the Community Center, which the HRB felt should be a model of “green design” and far smaller than the plan put forth by ICHA. At recent ICHA Board meetings, the HRB indicated that perhaps “both parties were responsible for the state of miscommunication” and that the overwhelming response from the Community Center survey (conducted by the HRB), combined with the independent community petition drive against the current design, was proof that the HRB was accurately representing their neighbors. ICHA’s agreed that there was a communication problem; but rather than both parties being responsible, the fault lies with the HRB. Discussion of communication concerns between the ICHA board and the HRB ensued, and confirmed different perspectives on the governance of UHills.

This impasse over the community center led to the ICHA Board voting to stop development of the Community Center. At this time, the ICHA board agreed to pursue a facilitated dialog with the HRB and residents. At ICHA’s request, the HRB meet with Chris Darrouzet, a Cultural Anthropologist and facilitated design consultant at Water Cooler Logic Inc., to discuss our desire to clarify each party’s role regarding the needs of current residents and to explore governance issues in UHills. After several meetings with Chris and writing a draft document to explain the process and recruit community input, the HRB and Chris met with the ICHA Board. As detailed in Chris’s letter to the community in the July newsletter, at this time the ICHA Board decided not to pursue this process.

The problem, as the HRB see it, is that the ICHA Board’s primary role is to insure that University Hills is a recruitment tool for the University by providing homes to new recruits. The HRB’s only formal role as laid out in the ground lease is to approve room additions and paint colors, and no specific body has as its charge looking after the needs of the existing residents. For many issues, like the tree-pruning schedule, this works fine. But when significant monies are to be spent on a community center, or road design and traffic patterns will affect existing UHills residents, this vacuum can be a real problem for the residents who already live here.

The HRB has been able to work with ICHA management to accomplish several goals desired by significant populations in the community: modifications to the Engineering crosswalk, an increase in the pool heating budget, addition of a Dog Park, mitigations to reduce the impact of the Southern Radial and parking garage. However, rather than effectively pooling our efforts to work for the betterment of the community, these processes have required significant additional volunteer time, attention, community petition drives, etc. Ultimately, it is the opinion of the majority of the HRB that

the present governance structure does not meet the needs of a more mature UHills community, and must evolve to encompass a formalized process designed to meet the needs of existing residents in order to remain an effective recruitment and retention tool for UCI.

Although the facilitated design process has been halted by the ICHA board, in the interest of moving forward to proactively attempt to represent the consensus needs and desires of the community regarding a community center, the HRB will shortly be conducting a follow-up survey of residents regarding community center plans. The HRB has requested clarification from ICHA regarding the flexibility of monies currently designated for the community center, i.e., in order to attempt to rationally determine whether a scaled down environmentally friendly community center (the general consensus of the previous survey) could be combined with providing other community amenities simultaneously. As yet, this information has not been forthcoming. However, community participation in the survey process is essential. The HRB asks all residents to be sure to participate in any HRB surveys, add your name to the UniHills listserv, and send your comments/suggestions to the HRB (remember, currently we have no other method of communicating with residents besides this newsletter). Without your input, the HRB cannot tell if community silence reflects satisfaction with the state of affairs, faculty overload, or unawareness of the governance of their community.

If you are also interested in such governance issues regarding the oversight of University Hills or serving as a volunteer on a specific issue (parks committee, pool committee, transportation/UCI construction committee ETC.) please contact HRB co-chairs, Rachel Gamby or Brian Cummings.

*---Respectfully, The HRB*

## **HRB MEETING MINUTES - TUESDAY, July 5, 2005, 4 P.M.**

### **1. Call to Order**

HRB Meeting Minutes – Tuesday July 5, 2005

**In attendance:** Aileen Anderson, Jeffrey Beckwith, Brian Cummings, Komal Dewan (had to leave early), Rachel Gamby, Andrew Herndon (ICHA)

### **2. Old Business**

- Monthly Operations Report issues – Andrew

ICHA is has set up panel of residents in the town homes to assist in the selection of replacement garage doors, one representative each from Blake, Newton, Mendel, and Schubert Ct.s. ICHA has moved up this reserve purchase in view of the fact that many of the doors are sagging or inoperable. Any residents in town homes who have comments or questions should contact ICHA. It is anticipated that replacement could proceed as early as September.

There have been several recent occurrences of vandalism over spring break. In a most recent case, someone broke a bollard light next to the tot lot and glass was scattered across the playground. Below is a summary of vandalism for this year, and estimated repair costs.

### **2005**

January - Several irrigation heads broken; several common bollards knocked down. \$1,500

February - Upper Pool = Pots and furniture in pool. Additional service call required \$150.

March - Lower Pool = Drained spa due to excessive soaping. Vista Bonita Park = Plexi-glass window taken from kiosk, broken beer bottles in play area / sand.

April - Lower Pool = Furniture thrown in spa and pool, vandalized garden park fountain.

May - Upper Pool = Burning tables (via candles) at upper pool. Soaping of lower spa (drained). Fire at new tot lot on the base. \$375 (+)

June - Upper Pool = Broke safety grappling hook at the upper pool and removed the rope from the life ring. Replaced both for \$300

July - Bollard lights broken at Vista Bonita Park and Gabrielino Park = \$3,500. Miscellaneous spray painted graffiti along portions of the VBP sidewalk.

Residents are requested to notify ICHA (824-7044, after hours) or UCI police (824-5223) of any incidences of vandalism. In the first 7 months of 2005, vandalism has cost our community **\$5825**. This is a serious concern for all residents. Please ask your kids to keep an eye out for strangers or residents who are damaging U-Hills property.

The HRB has asked ICHA to repair the border around the volleyball court at the lower park and to replace the coarse gravel. Andrew indicated that this would probably be done at about the same time as new playground equipment is installed.

### **Architectural reviews**

A homeowner on Harvey Court has requested to install 2 small and 1 large natural forest green awnings. HRB approved this request.

A home on Urey Court has painted their garage door a dark brown and the remainder of house was refreshed in two-tone tan. University Hills architectural guidelines try to “minimize the garage door” and the painting was completed without HRB review. Based on the color palate presented at today’s meeting, the HRB “retroactively” approved the color scheme. Residents are cautioned that failure to obtain approval **prior** to painting could result in increased costs if the HRB deems that the colors used are unacceptable and the homeowner is required to repaint.

Two homes on Virgil have requested to re-paint, one has been approved, the other wants to use a red color but a sample was unavailable. Approval is pending examination of the color.

A single-family home on Perkins was approved to install a French door.

### **Committee Reports**

#### *Subcommittee meeting with Campus Planning – Aileen and Jeff*

A meeting is scheduled for August 31<sup>st</sup> with EH&S to discuss an Engineering Gateway noise test follow-up. The chances for noise from new campus structures that impact University Hills residents increases with new construction yet there is no formal mechanism for the campus to consider campus impacts on UniHills. Over a year ago, the HRB asked the campus to conduct an accurate noise test of individual pieces of equipment at the Engineering Gateway. Then the HRB asked the campus to conduct a decibel meter test with all equipment running. This test was not done and the data the campus sent the HRB was un-interpretable. But portions of this data did indicate that the campus may **not** comply with city of Irvine noise guidelines. Yet a test of all typical equipment running concurrently (as requested by the HRB) has still not been done. The HRB is asking ICHA to follow-up with Aileen and Jeff the campus to re-test equipment when construction is not on-going and measure specific pieces of equipment. CalIT<sup>2</sup> also appears to be a noise problem and the HRB is concerned about additional noise from the new annex building adjoined to the new parking structure.

#### *Dog Park Committee – Brian*

Brian met with Andrew Herndon to review the final plans for the dog park. Grading is to begin in August and Andrew is trying to get a fence upgrade and lighting quote. It has not been determined if path lighting will be via bollards or from lights mounted on the fences in pointing inward/downward (the preferred option). Former members of the dog park committee (and anyone who sends Brian an email (cummins at uci.edu) will meet over the summer to re-formalize plans and guidelines for resident use of the park.

#### *Parks Committee – Komal*

Tammy Smecker-Hanes is trying to finalize the request for playground equipment. The Park Committee is still slightly over-budget and Andrew is trying to confirm some estimated costs to get an itemized plan. It is hoped that the two parks (lower park and upper park) will be completed by fall.

*Community Center Committee – Rachel*

Nothing specific to report; however the HRB plans to survey the community regarding possible design alternatives so that we can clarify residents wishes for ICHA accurately.

*Pool Committee – Wayne*

Wayne was not present. The pool heating budget has been increased from \$30,000 to approximately \$40,000 per year. This should cover heating all pools and all hot tubs from May to October as well as the lower pool and all hot tubs November to April. This should include heating all pools during Winter and Spring break. New dates will be placed on the website. HRB asked ICHA again to research an average temperature comparison for Oct vs. May and Nov vs. April.

*Landscaping Committee - Jeff*

Nothing to report.

**3. New Business**

- ICHA Board’s decision not to participate in the Facilitated Meeting process (see 5. HRB response below)
- *Phase VIII Traffic* study and University Hills destination survey - summary of the issues – Aileen  
Based on conversations with residents and emails to members of the HRB, there is considerable concern among residents in phase 8 regarding traffic speeds and parking. Since this will likely change with the opening of the Southern Radial and California, the HRB plans to re-visit this issue taking into account the full impact of the Southern Radial when it opens in September. Aileen Anderson of the HRB has received the majority of resident comments, and is preparing a summary of concerns/possible action items for comment by Murasaki residents. Based on this summary and the community input, the HRB will make a formal recommendation to ICHA asap within the next several weeks. Among the target issues currently raised: conduction of a destination survey (by phase) of UniHills residents a month after the Southern Radial is complete and new driving habits are established, including assessment of traffic volume using traffic counters to identify relative volume issues in Phase 8 compared to other phases, and assessment of cut-through traffic from non-UHills residents and non-UCI affiliates. Additional input from residents has included consideration of installing break-away bollards or a cul-de-sac to break traffic flow on Murasaki meets Russell, and revisiting current factors impacting traffic flow in Phase 8. While Murasaki residents do not contest that Murasaki meets city of Irvine code, they are concerned that phase 8 be compared to other phases of UniHills, **not** compared to the city of Irvine.

Many residents have asked the HRB: “Why haven’t I heard about X, or why didn’t the HRB email us about Y?” Most residents probably do not realize that the HRB has no list of homeowners nor their email addresses. Over at least the last four years, the HRB has requested ICHA management to compile such a list and they have recently completed one. However, currently, the HRB does **not** have access to this list. The HRB has asked ICHA management either for the complete email list of UniHills residents (broken down by street) for HRB use, or unfettered/uncensored access to the current list via an ICHA agent. We would like a formal response with detailed procedures for emailing residents and will post this guideline on the HRB website for comment. The HRB does not like receiving excessive email anymore than residents do. This list would only be used for important updates (2 or 3 a year) or to give residents links to surveys or HRB data. HRB is requesting a copy of the by-laws and articles of incorporation that govern ICHA to better understand the governance of UniHills.

**4. Adjournment**

*---Respectfully submitted, Brian Cummings*

**SUMMER ESSAY CONTEST**

I decided on this holiday to have my very own essay contest over the summer months to hopefully get residents to convey their feelings about our home/neighborhood in a thoughtful and constructive way.

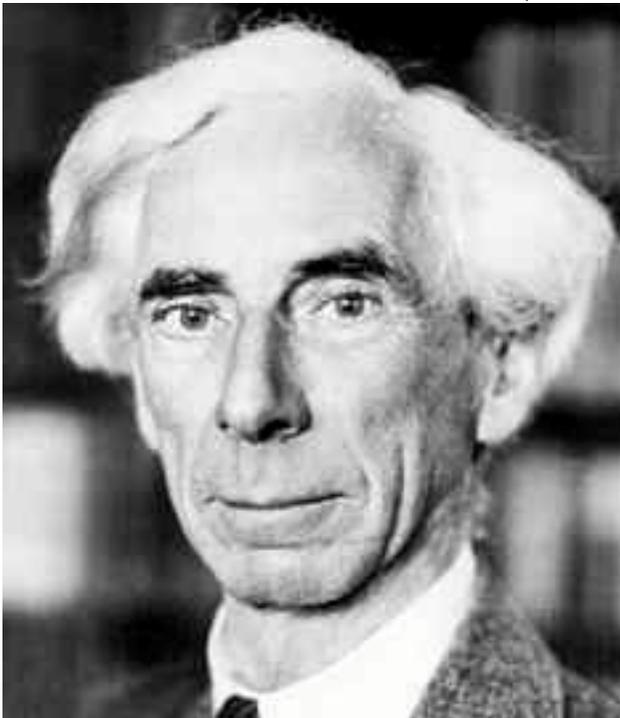
Here are my rules.

1. The topic of the essay is "Three Things I Would Like to Change About the UHills/ ICHA Relationship." Please express your ideas in one thousand words or less.
2. Please e-mail them as attached documents to this e-mail address: [luette.forrest@gmail.com](mailto:luette.forrest@gmail.com). Please do not post to listserv; I will post them after the winner is chosen and announced on Labor Day, September 5. You could also send hard copies to my house at 7 Alcott, but I prefer electronic.
3. Submit your writing by September 1. I won't be around for a good part of the summer and will not be on e-mail.
4. Anonymous writings are welcome.
5. All UHills residents are welcome to submit.
6. The winner will get a \$100.00 donation to the charity/cause of their choice.

Have a happy and safe summer. We will communicate any information on the Community Center as it comes to us. You will likely be hearing more from us before the end of this month.

---Thank you, Lu Forrest

### **STREET BIOGRAPHY – RUSSELL (One in a Series)**



Bertrand Russell was born Bertrand Arthur William Russell in 1872 in Wales, Great Britain. His intellectual achievements and many acts of social activism earned him both reproach and acclaim. Because of his seminal contributions to the fields of mathematics and philosophy, Russell was awarded the Order of Merit by King George VI (1949) and the Nobel Prize for Literature (1950). Due to his staunch anti-war beliefs, Russell was dismissed (although later reinstated) from his teaching position at Trinity College, Cambridge, arrested several times and imprisoned. Even into his nineties, Russell continued his protests against war and the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The grandson of Lord John Russell, who had served as Queen Victoria's Prime Minister, Bertrand Russell was orphaned as a child and raised by his paternal grandmother. He was educated privately by tutors and then studied at Trinity College, receiving two First Class degrees. His areas of interest were mathematics and philosophy, and he wrote several noted works on these subjects, including *The Principles of Mathematics*, *Principia Mathematica* (co-authored with Alfred North Whitehead), and *Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy*. He also discovered the Russell Paradox about set theory.

Russell's anti-war stance began with his opposition to World War I. Although he did support the Allied cause in World War II, he vehemently opposed nuclear arms. Russell joined Albert Einstein in denouncing the spread of nuclear weapons, and together they issued the Russell-Einstein Manifesto in 1955.

A social non-conformist, Russell was married and divorced several times. He chafed at any religious constraints, wrote "Why I Am Not a Christian" (1927), and regarded himself as an agnostic. His moral tenets angered conservatives in the United States, and he was unable to secure an academic appointment at City University in New York. His core convictions are most easily summarized in his own words: "Conquer the world by intelligence and not merely by being slavishly subdued by the terror that comes from it. ...A good world needs knowledge, kindness, and courage...a fearless outlook and a free intelligence. It needs hope for the future...." Bertrand Russell died in 1970, at the age of 97.