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## **October 9<sup>th</sup> Gabrielino Park Design Day Cancelled**

For a number of reasons, the previously announced Design Day for a community built playground at Gabrielino Park has been cancelled. The Uni Hills Park Planning and Use Committee, HRB, ICHA, and a group of residents spearheading the community-built concept are still working on the issue, and it is possible that a design day will be rescheduled in the future. If you are interested in contributing your ideas for a playground at this site, please contact Simon Cole at [scole@uci.edu](mailto:scole@uci.edu).

### **Letter to the Editor**

Dear neighbors:

I have received emails from community members commenting on the little preparation and notice that had gone into the playground Design Day. As the chair of the Uni Hills Park Committee I wanted to provide some history to clarify the issue of the “build-it-yourself” playground and the Design Day.

First, early last fall, the Park Committee advertised for members in a newsletter article. The article specifically noted that the committee was being asked by ICHA to address the issue of a new playground at Gabrielino Park. Less than 5 people responded; I personally contacted others whose names were given to me by ICHA as having contacted them regarding playground issues. We had a meeting in December, and a summary of that meeting was forwarded to the newsletter.

Second, I ran another article in the newsletter in the spring describing the “build-it-yourself” concept and the alternative, and asking for anybody who was interested to contact either Simon Cole or myself. I think a total of 2 people responded. In the HRB minutes at least once, maybe twice, mention was made of the committee and this idea, and Simon and my name were listed. So, it is astounding to me that people are now saying they never knew about this. There is a group of people, including Simon and me, who have been working on this issue for nearly a year now, publicly announcing every step of the way. Despite the fact that I like the idea of a built-it-yourself playground, and much to my surprise, I have to admit that there has not been a huge community outpouring of support for it. Certain people are very excited, and I think there would be enough to build if it does come to pass, but we have to admit that either due to apathy or antipathy, the response hasn't been what we expected.

Some neighbors have suggested communication via email so that we can come to a decision regarding this project. However, email does not always work; ideas can be fleshed out there, but ultimately we need a meeting where actual decisions/recommendations can be made and a vote taken if necessary. Moreover, people can only come to our attention and get on email lists if they first respond to some other form of invitation/announcement.

We (residents) do not, in fact, make final decisions around here, ICHA and ultimately the University do. We need to be able to demonstrate that the majority of the community (or the majority of those who care about what happens to the park) wants to go a certain route to even get consideration of our idea. There are many members of the community, with children, who think it is better to go the route of buying pre-made pieces and having them installed. There are a number of members on the Park Committee who feel this way. This does not mean that these people just want another Little Tykes playground like those that exist everywhere else in Irvine. Rather, they feel that raising the money will be hard (or perhaps that we should not have to raise money), and that it would prove to be a bureaucratic battle all the way (which, it seems, is also the case). The alternative to

the Leathers design, at least from the point of view of the Park Committee, was always an interesting and imaginative hand-picked pieces of equipment-type playground, not another one like all the rest. Whether ICHA will allow us (or pay for) even this is still unclear in my mind -- but that is what the Committee would be working for.

Finally, we got a little pressured for time due to Leathers wanting to come on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, so neither the subcommittee, nor the Park committee as a whole, was quite where it wanted to be when a decision was forced on us. However, as Committee chair, I thought our original mandate was just to provide two alternative suggestions (Leathers and other specific type pieces) to the HRB/ICHA and then sit down with them to decide the details. In fact, perhaps the most important part of our work has already been done by telling ICHA last December that we did not like the simplistic playground concept they were proposing; that we wanted something else.

We will schedule another meeting for all who are interested, and we will try to come to a decision at that time. The meeting will be announced in the newsletter as well as via email.

---Liz Phillips, Uni Hills Park Committee

## **HRB Minutes - September 7, 2004**

**Present:** Rachel Gamby (chair), Aileen Anderson, Jeff Beckwith, Brian Cummings, Andrew Herndon, Ron Reid, Wayne Sandholtz (minutes), Michele Walot

In early September Wendel Brase sent the HRB a letter confirming campus approval of a number of mitigations relating to the construction of the Southern Radial and the California Avenue extension. Rachel Gamby opened the meeting by thanking Jeff Beckwith and Aileen Anderson for effectively working with the campus on these issues. Please see the summary of the letter and the URL for a PDF of the entire letter in this newsletter.

### **Old Business:**

1. Andrew Herndon reported that ICHA will consult with residents of Harvey Court regarding the idea of converting Harvey to a one-way street. A decision on this issue has not been made, and any change would require approval of the Fire Department.
2. The HRB will discuss the feasibility of issuing parking stickers for UH residents, in order to reduce the number of non-residents who park on UH streets.
3. Architectural review: A proposal to landscape using gravel only was turned down because it did not meet minimum community standards.
4. A few more properties without landscaping were reported; ICHA will follow up.
5. The HRB asked Andrew Herndon to identify the sections of the ground lease that relate to non-resident ownership. The HRB would provide proposed changes to be submitted to the ICHA Board.
6. ICHA has received feedback from two households regarding the new townhome light fixtures on display on Blake Court. A letter to residents will soon be sent out to residents concerning the replacement of light fixtures on all townhomes.
7. The fence between the Schubert condos and East Peltason is now fully installed.

### **Committee Reports:**

1. A number of Phase 8 residents have serious concerns regarding street parking and the Southern Radial. Specifically, notification of one-sided parking did not reach residents until after close of escrow.
2. Plaster repair is needed at the lower pool and tile repair is needed at the Gabrielino pool. It was suggested that a clock be installed at the Gabrielino pool; Andrew Herndon will see that one is put up again, but previous ones have been stolen.
3. The Board discussed the suggestion that the UH Newsletter should be sent out earlier each month. It was agreed that deadlines could be moved up a few days to make the earlier release possible, but that this would

not fully solve this problem of the timely notification of residents on important issues. It should also be noted that the Newsletter is now immediately posted to the website.

4. The Board discussed the need to encourage residents to sign up for and use the UH listserv and website. One possibility would be to include a registration form for the listserve in the packet of documents that new residents must review and sign. Also, residents who desire immediate access to the Newsletter can find it on the website.
5. Lot G (corner of Peltason and Gabrielino) will be in use for campus parking during Fall Quarter, but possibly not after.
6. Completion of Phase 8 and the traffic changes associated with the Southern Radial and California extension (including conversion of Gabrielino to a right-in/right-out intersection) will almost certainly necessitate changes in the school bus stops in UH. HRB will examine possible changes and consult with residents and the school district's transportation office before any changes are made.
7. As a reminder to residents, University Hills rules do not permit temporary basketball hoops to remain in UH streets, for safety and aesthetic reasons. All hoops must be stored when not in actual use.
8. HRB will send a letter to the UCI Committee on Faculty Welfare regarding the possibility of allowing newly hired faculty to choose their own 2-year window for eligibility to purchase a house in UH. For instance, many junior faculty might prefer to have their 2-year window immediately after they receive tenure, rather than immediately after they are hired.

#### **Garielino Park playground:**

Simon Cole joined the HRB to discuss the possibility of holding a community "design day" event with Leathers and Associates, for the new play area at the Gabrielino Park. The full process with Leathers, from the community design day through layout and construction, would require a major commitment from the community. It was unclear whether the budget range provided by Leathers included donated materials and funds raised by the community. ICHA Management had indicated prior to the meeting that the total budget for the playground equipment is set at \$50,000. HRB decided to hold the design day with Leathers on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, at a cost of \$1,500-2,000, with no commitment to proceed to subsequent stages of development with Leathers and with the understanding that any resulting preliminary design would be given to the committee for future use. HRB agreed that whether or not we proceeded with Leathers, we would have significant community input on the nature of the equipment most desired. [*Subsequent to this meeting it became clear that there was not a majority of members of the Park Committee in favor of pursuing the Leathers solution and committing such a proportion of the total budget to the design day. On September 15 it was decided not to commit to having Leathers do the October 9<sup>th</sup> design day.*]

#### **Garden Park fence:**

A number of residents, most from Dickens Court, joined the meeting to discuss the possibility of building a gated fence in the Garden Park to reduce inappropriate and illegal activities in the park. Shaun Devlin of the UCIPD also attended. Some of the residents pointed out that they have been coping with loud, late-night activities, sometimes including drug dealing, in the park for nearly 20 years. The residents present all favored a fence at the front of the park. The Board discussed the possibility of an electronic lock that could be connected to a timer, so that the gate would remain unlocked during the day but locked when the park is supposed to be closed. ICHA will research the costs of such a gate, as well as the cost of a key-card system that could be installed at the park and other locked facilities in UH (the pools and the tennis courts). The HRB agreed to recommend at the next ICHA Board meeting the installation of a fence with a keyed gate (with the same key as the pools) as soon as possible, and to proceed with further trimming of overgrown vegetation to improve visibility.

#### **New business:**

1. UH does have a rule that trash and recycling bins should be stored out of sight. The HRB requested that ICHA management approach residents in an area of University Hills about which there had been a complaint.
2. HRB urges dog-owners to have consideration for neighbors who are awakened by dogs barking in the early hours. A reasonable practice would be to keep dogs inside until 7 am on weekdays and 8 am on weekends.
3. The Board discussed a suggestion that UH consider building a bike path separated from the roads, leading from UH to the new school location in Turtle Ridge. The problem is that much of the land between UH and the new school is not under UH control.
4. ICHA is in the process of obtaining new play equipment for the upper park (near the tennis courts and upper pool). The upper and lower park play equipment have reached their life expectancy and require updating. ICHA Management is seeking input from HRB, the Park Committee, and other interested residents before proceeding.

---Respectfully submitted, Wayne Sandholtz

## **Summary of Southern Radial (Sr) Project Measures Adopted to Reduce Impact on University Hills**

The following is a brief summary of the formal impact mitigation memo received by the HRB from the office of Campus and Environmental Planning on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2004. The full memo, along with several maps of the SR project, is available online at the UH website, and has been posted to the UH listserv.

1. Roadway elevation has been re-examined by the project design team and lowered as much as feasible based on financial/physical limitations.
2. The SR project will utilize rubberized asphalt to reduce road noise.
3. All street lights on SR will be fitted with glare shields. Streetlight pattern will be alternating across side of the street to minimize the overall number of lights required.
4. A signal will be installed at the Russell/SR intersection in order to maximize peak traffic flow. This signal will be programmable, to allow default green operation during night/weekend hours, which minimizes traffic noise.
5. The Gabrielino/Peltason intersection will be retained as a right in/right out access.
6. The Palo Verde apartment access from SR will be 'in only' to reduce light/glare impact on adjacent phase 8 residents.
7. Palo Verde II parking lots will receive additional landscape screening because of their location immediately across from Phase 8 residents, and additional landscape screening along the SR radial is planned to also screen the SR itself.
8. A campus construction representative has been designated to allow a single point of contact for UH residents with concerns about construction. Bob Fritch, Director of Construction, will serve in this role. Contact Info: 824-6641. [rlfritch@uci.edu](mailto:rlfritch@uci.edu). Nighttime inquiries should be directed to the campus police at 824-5223.
9. The SR project contractor has begun mobilizing on the site. Project completion is planned for summer 2005.

Additional questions or clarification of this information can be directed to Richard Demerjian at Campus Planning, or via Aileen Anderson ([aja@uci.edu](mailto:aja@uci.edu)), Jeff Beckwith ([beckwith@uci.edu](mailto:beckwith@uci.edu)) or Rachel Gamby ([rgamby@cox.net](mailto:rgamby@cox.net)) of the HRB.

## **UCI Parking Construction**

All of us will face some new, temporary challenges in getting around this year, but the Parking & Transportation staff is determined to meet these challenges with good planning, new approaches to parking, and a little patience. Starting in September, the ground preparation and foundation work will begin for the new parking structure being built in the ICS/Engineering area on East Peltason, in the previous location of Parking Lot 18C. During this time, heavy construction vehicles and equipment may cause an increase in noise during the daytime hours. Also, vehicular traffic in the area may be delayed due to construction vehicle traffic. Please

plan your trips accordingly and consider using alternative routes. We apologize for any inconveniences the construction may bring, but hope you'll bear with us while we work to improve parking for you and other campus affiliates. For further updates and information, visit our website at [www.parking.uci.edu](http://www.parking.uci.edu).

### **Street Biography – Brontë (One in a series continuing to appear on the newsletter)**

Brontë is the family name of three sisters, Charlotte, Emily, and Anne, whose novels, regarded as classic works of English literature, echo the desolation of their authors' brief lives.

The girls' father, Patrick Brontë (he had changed his name from Bronty), was a rector in a Yorkshire village. Charlotte, Emily, and Anne were the youngest three of the six Brontë children and were born in 1816, 1818, and 1820, respectively. Their mother died when the youngest, Anne, was a year old. The two older sisters Maria and Elizabeth died a few years later from illnesses they contracted while students at the deplorable boarding school the girls attended. (Their father later withdrew Charlotte and Emily from the school that was the model for the Lowood School in the novel Charlotte would write, Jane Eyre.)

Much was expected of the only Brontë son Branwell, an aspiring artist and poet, but he squandered his education and family's financial support and became addicted to both alcohol and opium. The surviving sisters were educated primarily at home by Charlotte and began writing stories and poetry; they supported themselves by working as governesses. Their first works were published in 1846 under the pseudonyms of Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell. A year later, each sister published a novel: Jane Eyre by Charlotte, Wuthering Heights by Emily, and Agnes Grey by Anne. Tragically, within a few months of each other, Branwell, Emily, and Anne fell ill and died – Branwell at the age of 31, Emily at 30, and Anne at 29. (Anne's last novel, The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, was published before her death.) Charlotte, the only Brontë sibling to marry, survived but a few short years after the deaths of her sisters and brother. She contracted tuberculosis while pregnant and died in 1855, at the age of 39.

### **News from the City of Irvine**

#### **Irvine Holiday Faire Fundraiser**

Over 150 talented artisans and their handmade fine arts and crafts will be featured at Irvine's Annual Holiday Faire Fundraiser on Friday, November 5, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., and November 6, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Irvine Fine Arts Center located at 14321 Yale Ave. in Heritage Park. Unique handcrafted merchandise including quilts, jewelry, pottery, paintings and more will be for sale. Food and admission proceeds benefit Irvine community art programs. Admission is \$2. Call (949) 724-6880 or visit [www.irvinefineartscenter](http://www.irvinefineartscenter) for more information.

#### **Irvine Shines: Let's Keep it Clean Campaign**

The *Irvine Shines: Let's Keep Irvine Clean Campaign* continues into November with a focus on bulky item pick-up and household hazardous waste disposal. The City, through Waste Management of Orange County, provides two free bulky item pick-ups per household, per year. To schedule a pick-up, call 949-642-1191. For information on the local drop off center for household hazardous waste, please call 714-834-6752. Visit <http://www.ci.irvine.ca.us> or call the Irvine Recycles Hotline 949-724-7669 for additional information.

### **News from IRWD**

#### **Water Purification Method to Change Temporarily**

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) is temporarily making a switch in disinfectants from chloramines to chlorine for system maintenance from now through the end of its well water season in early October. IRWD customers may notice a slight change in the taste or odor of their tap water during this period. The change in taste and odor is normal and poses no health risk.

Chloramines, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, are generally used to disinfect water. During this period, however, chlorine alone will be used. It is common practice for utilities that use chloramines to periodically

switch to chlorine alone in order to maintain optimal levels of disinfection within the water distribution system. The last time IRWD conducted a temporary change in disinfectants was in the summer of 2002. While the taste and odor of chlorine may be more noticeable, it remains safe to drink. Residents can minimize the chlorine taste and odor by keeping an open pitcher of water in the refrigerator for drinking. Cold water tastes better and the chlorine will naturally dissipate out of the water as it sits in the pitcher.

IRWD customers affected include those in all of Irvine and portions of Tustin, Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, Santa Ana and Orange. IRWD supplies mostly local well water from April through October and then turns off most of its wells for the winter season. From October through April, IRWD supplies mostly imported water that is purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and comes from the Colorado River and Northern California.

Typically, fish owners and kidney dialysis patients need to take special steps to remove disinfectants only when a utility changes from chlorine to chloramines (the opposite of the change being made at this time). Nevertheless, kidney dialysis patients may wish to check with their health care provider to ensure the dialysis equipment is properly tested prior to use. Fish aquarium and pond owners should double-check with their fish supply store for information on the special water treatment that is best for their fish. IRWD will return to using chloramines as the water disinfectant at the beginning of its imported water season in early October.

### **Water Conservation Tips**

- Start cutting back on your watering. By the end of September, plants will need as much as one-third LESS water than they did in August, even though the days are still warm. Why? Because the days are shorter, so plants do not lose as much water during the day as they did in mid-summer. Also, plants are slowing their growth rate-the opposite of the spring growth phase. Watch for signs of stress. Lawns show stress when grass blades turn wiry and don't pop back up when stepped on. Plants and bushes show stress when leaves droop or start to turn color. Domestic plants will easily recover from minor stress. If runoff occurs, reduce the watering time, but water twice in the same day at least an hour apart. Shrubs and trees will need about half of what turf requires.
- Brown grass. Warm season grasses go into dormancy and turn brown this time of year. No amount of water will change that! Some landscapers will "overseed" with an annual rye grass to keep a lawn looking green. You will need to water more frequently to get the seeds to germinate, but only a few BRIEF minutes each day for a couple of weeks-just enough to get the seeds wet.
- Lower the mower blade. If you increased the height during the warm months, return to the recommended height for your type of turf. Hybrid Bermuda: 1/2 to 3/8 inch; Tall Fescue: 2-2½ inches.
- PLANT! Fall is the best time of year for planting in Southern California. The soil is still warm, but the days and nights are cool. Winter rains are just around the corner to encourage good, deep root systems so plants will be ready for a surge of growth in the spring.
- Change the battery. If your irrigation controller has a backup battery, now is a good time to install a fresh one.