

APRIL 2005

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Editors: Lauri Barwick and
Nina Macdonald

HRB MEETING MINUTES – Tuesday March 2, 2005

In attendance: Aileen Anderson, Jeffrey Beckwith, Brian Cummings, Komal Dewan, Rachel Gamby, Wayne Sandholtz, Alan Terricciano, Michele Walot, Andrew Herndon (ICHA), Ron Reid (ICHA)

The members of the HRB welcomed newly elected member Alan Terricciano and thanked outgoing member Michele Walot for six years of outstanding service to the community. The HRB then elected as co-chairs Brian Cummings and Rachel Gamby.

Committees: It was moved and approved that the various community committees will report in writing to the HRB on a monthly basis. The committees, with the HRB members who will serve as liaisons between the committees and the HRB, are as follows:

- Parks: Komal Dewan
- Community Center: Rachel Gamby
- Pools: Wayne Sandholtz
- Dog Park: Brian Cummings
- Landscape: Brian Cummings, Jeffrey Beckwith

In addition, Aileen Anderson and Jeffrey Beckwith will continue to serve as HRB liaisons with Campus Environmental Planning.

Committee Reports:

CEP: The parking garage at Peltason and Gabrielino is significantly behind schedule because of the unusually heavy rains; Saturday construction work will be necessary. The extension of California Avenue and the new Southern Radial (to Bonita Canyon Road) should be completed by mid-June. Parking and Transportation are installing push-button operated crosswalk lights at the Engineering Gateway pedestrian crossing.

Parks: The playground equipment for the new play area at the Gabrielino Park has been delivered and is on site. The Parks Committee voted to retain a playground at the upper pool site, rather than convert it to a picnic or barbecue area. The Committee also received a request to construct a reed hut at the Gabrielino Park, since the log fort at Vista Bonita Park had been removed. Committee members are currently reviewing catalogues preparatory to making recommendations for replacement (tentatively scheduled for this summer) of equipment at the Los Trancos playground.

Pools: Feedback from the committee shows extensive support for continuing to heat the Los Trancos pool and hot tub year-round. Further consultation will need to be done to decide whether this year's schedule should be modified for next year. The HRB recommended strongly that next year's pool heating budget be increased, given the significant deficit in this year's heating budget. The HRB also asked ICHA to check monthly average temperatures to see if cost savings might be possible by heating the pools through the end of October and resuming heating in early May, instead of the current schedule in which all the pools are heated through Thanksgiving and resume at Memorial Day weekend.

Monthly Operation Report, submitted by Andrew Herndon

The Town Hall meeting will be held on March 16, 2005 at the University Club at 7:00 pm. Residents will hear about the design of the planned Community Center and have the chance to ask questions.

The wet weather has delayed the installation of the new playground equipment at the Gabrielino Park site. Construction of the play area should be completed by the end of March, weather permitting. The Dog Run and landscape aspects of the park will follow, contingent upon completion of the California Avenue improvements.

Shutting down the jacuzzis during the weekends helped reduce pool heating costs to less than those of December and January last year. Overall, usage is still about 9% higher than last year and gas prices remain .10 - .15 higher per therm. The budget is still not balanced, but there has been progress.

New Home Walkthrough Policy: ICHA has honored Brookfield's standard policy of maintaining the homeowner orientation tour as an event specifically for the buyer, Brookfield, and the appointed real estate facilitator. After the tour, an owner has every opportunity to walk through the property with a representative of his or her choice. Any summary of items to be fixed can still be forwarded to Brookfield for review and correction under the 30-day pickup policy, and up to 24 months after close of escrow.

Southern Radial Planting Plans are available for resident review by appointment.

Parking and Transportation Services has completed a study of U Hills parking options. Andrew will forward a copy of the study to Brian and should be available to HRB for review and discussion at the April meeting.

The University Hills resident e-mail roster is about 80% complete, and should be finished by mid-March.

Community maintenance:

Work in progress:

1. Tree pruning for many common areas has been delayed by the weather. Work will resume in early March and be completed in about a month (weather permitting).

2. Installation of the new fence at the lower pool is about 98% complete. One panel and the gates are yet to be completed.

3. Brookfield is preparing to begin removal and replacement of the coping edge at the Gabrielino Pool. Replacement of the tile and some of the plaster will also be necessary.

4. Leak repairs and restoration are in progress. Repair of roof leaks in the condominiums will be covered by the condo association. Roof leaks in the townhomes are likely covered by the townhome reserve fund; contact Ron Reid or Andrew Herndon.

Work completed:

1. Police records continue to show no significant disturbances at the Garden Park.

2. New soccer goals for the Gabrielino Field have arrived; they will be installed upon receipt of pieces not included in the shipment.

Architectural review: Eleven new applications were received during the past month, including seven landscape and hardscape plans for Murasaki and Fuertes residents, one awning request, one landscape request, and two building additions.

The HRB approved the following Architectural applications:

Owen: a 2-story rear addition

Mendel: an addition with minor conditions

Fuertes: a gate - provided it match the existing fence

Twain: garage conversion and addition

The HRB requests additional details regarding a Twain application.

Some houses on McClintock and Bartok are in need of landscape cleanup and improvement; HRB will request a hearing with the homeowners at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

---Wayne Sandholtz, HRB

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

March 18, 2005

Dear University Hills Residents,

As many of you know who attended the March 16 University Hills Town Hall meeting ICHA is planning to construct a Community Building in the near future. This multi-million dollar project will be the single biggest investment in a community amenity University Hills has ever made, and is ever likely to make. Community input in the development process and in the ongoing management of this building is clearly essential and as a result the HRB has created a survey on the University Hills web site: <http://www.uhills.org/>. Please complete this on-line survey by April 15 so that ICHA will get your input regarding this building and so that the HRB and the Community Center Committee can represent your desires accurately.

PDF copies of the site plan, the floor plans and the north and south elevations of the building that were presented at the March 16 meeting are also posted on the web site. To give you some context for those plans, here is some background on the process to date and some description of the plans.

In 2003 ICHA asked the HRB to form a community advisory committee to give input on their planning of a Community Building on the currently undeveloped land on the southwest corner of Gabrielino and California (kitty-corner from the Gabrielino Park.) HRB called for volunteers to serve on a committee, and the Community Center Committee (CCC) has been meeting since January 2004 to provide that community input. ICHA selected the architect Leason Pomeroy to design the building. The architect received input from ICHA and then the CCC to develop the current set of plans. The CCC and HRB feel it is very important that the wider community comment on these plans before they are finalized. Whether these plans can be built within budget has not yet been determined. From the beginning our aim has been to ensure that we get a well-liked and useful structure that becomes a pride for the community and serves residents of all ages and abilities. Thus, it is very important to us that we get your input and learn more about your priorities and expectations for this building.

The current plans consist of the following facilities (measurements are taken from the plans and are approximate):

- Approximately 12,600 ft²
- 44% ICHA management office and storage space
- 24% Dual use space
 - Conference/Meeting room (upstairs) 410 ft²
 - Small Meeting room (upstairs) 109 ft²
 - Small Meeting room (downstairs) 125 ft²
 - Restrooms 610 ft²
 - Kitchen 363 ft²
 - Meeting room beside Kitchen 246 ft²
 - Entrance lobby/stairs/elevator 1,128 ft²
- 32% Community space including rooms of the following dimensions:
 - Multipurpose Great Room 1,764 ft²
 - Auditorium (with fixed seating) 574 ft²
 - "Library" (upstairs) 480 ft²
 - Mid-sized Multipurpose room 412 ft²
 - Small Multipurpose room 204 ft²
 - Small Multipurpose room 100 ft²
- Patio and barbeque areas (including one roof-top deck)
- 133 Parking spaces (approximately)
 - much of which is on the easement which cannot be built on
 - the portion of the parking lot furthest from the building is intended to be dual-use and serve as a half basketball court when the parking is not required

When the CCC undertook this task we began by trying to visualize how we as a community could use such a building. We advocated for a building that was both pleasant to the eye and pleasant to the Earth. We recommended an energy/cost efficient building with built-in energy efficient and environmentally sustainable elements and have/operate as:

- An Emergency/Disaster/Rescue center, including storage for equipment (with off-grid energy sources)
- Space for receptions and large gatherings (with adjacent covered outdoor areas to allow expansion, i.e. for a big Town Hall meeting, voting, etc.)
- A number of multifunctional rooms of different sizes to permit passive and active recreation, as well as contemplation: parties, book/hobby/senior citizen clubs, teen recreation, youth/cultural groups, educational or recreational classes, reading room, children's areas, music/theatre performance, etc.
- Active recreation spaces outdoors
- A kitchen suitable for catering large events

- Restrooms with internal and external access
- Gas fireplace(s)
- Storage

Additional comments/concerns not specifically addressed in the survey may also be sent via e-mail to members of the Community Center Committee. The current chair is Luette Forrest and the e-mail address is luette.forrest@gmail.com. Please include the subject heading Community Center. University Hills' residents wishing to join the CCC may also contact us at anytime.

If you do not have access to the web a paper copy of the plans can be viewed and a paper copy of the survey can be picked up from the ICHA offices. If you do have access to the web please look for a link to the survey on the U-Hills web site.

---Sincerely, HRB/CCC

UHILLS PLAYGROUND UPDATE

Those of you who have recently passed by Gabrielino Park probably have noticed the beginnings of the construction of the new Gabrielino Playground. The small dunk hoop has been moved to the basketball half-court. A brand new playground structure has been installed on the concrete circle (see the accompanying Figures 1 and 2 for detailed views), and a soft rubberized surface will soon be installed over portions of the concrete. The main features of the play structure that are bound to excite older children will be the rock-climbing wall, double track ride, triple sky-wheel and the tall slide. Younger children especially will enjoy the small double slide, steering wheels, storefront and tot seats. A trolley and a jeep for the younger children will be installed on the circle (where the rectangles are at the bottom of the schematic Figure). In addition, a sandbox is being constructed next to the circle. The volleyball court has been removed and soon will be replaced with a set of swings and a teeter-totter. When this phase of completion is over, probably sometime in April, we will open the playground on a Saturday and have an ice cream truck on-hand to provide some treats. Note that we'll have a much larger "Grand Opening" for the new Gabrielino Park later in Summer or Fall when all the renovations (including the construction of the adjacent dog park) are complete. We'll post notices of the Saturday Playground Social on UHills community bulletin boards and on the UHills listserv. So if you haven't signed on to listserv yet, this is some extra incentive to do so. To subscribe or unsubscribe via the World Wide Web, visit <http://www.uhills.org/mailman/listinfo/uhills>.

Parents: please note that until the concrete surface has been rubberized, it is too dangerous to allow children to play on the equipment! Please talk to your children about it and ask them to remain outside the areas roped off with yellow tape. The new play structure is very enticing – incredibly hard to resist – but we don't want to have any unfortunate accidents.

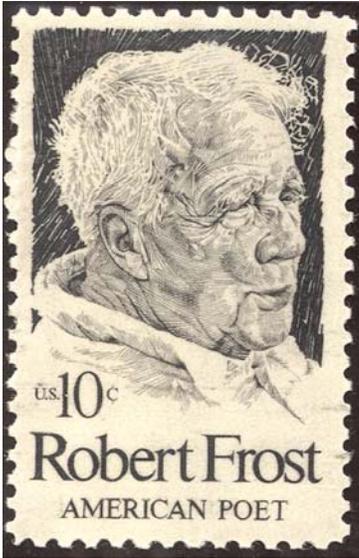
I want to extend a hearty round of thanks to the other members of the Gabrielino Playground Subcommittee for their hard work in planning the playground: Outgoing Parks Chair Liz Phillips, Simon Cole, Komal Dewan, Pascale Mestdagh, Michelle Rodriguez, Carol Uhlaner and Max Welling. We also thank Andrew Herndon of ICHA for helping with the planning and coordinating all the work. We are going to be enjoying this new playground for many years to come!

I also want to encourage you to consider joining the Playground Subcommittee for some important work we are currently undertaking. The playgrounds at the Lower Pool and Upper Pool are badly in need of renovation, which we are in the midst of planning. New state regulations mandate that all swings be well separated from climbing structures. Thus if we include swings where they currently exist we may be severely limited in amount of other equipment we can include. Another new regulation prohibits using sand in the fall zones of swings and climbing structures. So there are some critical trade-offs to consider and important decisions to be made. If you're a fan of either of these playgrounds and want your favorite equipment to remain available then you should join us for the critical planning process. We're a very friendly group of people, we relish new ideas, and we strive for short, concise and infrequent meetings. (Meeting times are typically on Thursdays at 8pm.) Please email me your name, email address and phone number to join the group.

In addition, there has been a suggestion that as a replacement for the log fort that was originally built at the Vista Bonita playground, we get together as a community and build a replica of a Gabrielino Indian reed hut. A local expert, who is a descendent of the Gabrielino tribe and has done similar projects before, can help us with the construction. We might be able to obtain reeds from the San Joaquin Marsh Reserve at little or no cost. However we need someone from the community to step forth and spearhead the effort. For example, this would make an interesting project for a local Indian Princess or Indian Guides group. If you are interested, please contact me.

---Tammy Smecker-Hane, Parks Committee Chair, tsmecker@uci.edu

STREET BIOGRAPHY: FROST (ONE IN A SERIES)



Robert Lee Frost (1874-1963) was an American poet and the only person ever to receive four Pulitzer Prizes for poetry. His best-known and frequently quoted poems are “The Road Not Taken” and “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening.” Frost’s melodic verses —often set in rural New England— were traditional in format yet considered experimental in style: he used regional, everyday syntax to express his philosophical observations of life.

Born in San Francisco, Frost moved to New England with his family after his father’s death from tuberculosis in 1885. He published his first poetry in high school. Frost attended both Dartmouth and Harvard universities, and although he never earned an undergraduate degree, he later received more than 25 honorary degrees.

As a young man, Frost continued writing poetry, supporting himself by teaching and working as a newspaper reporter. In 1895, he married Elinor White, his high school sweetheart. They were married 43 years and had six children, only two of whom survived Frost. After selling the family farm in 1912, Frost moved his family to England in order to write full time. There he published two volumes of poetry, *A Boy’s Will* (1913) and *North of Boston* (1914). Lured by the prospect of having his work published in America, Frost and his family returned to New England. Fame and recognition soon followed. Elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1916, he was awarded his first Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1924 for *New Hampshire*. After his second Pulitzer

for *Collected Poems* (1930), Frost was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He won two more Pulitzers for *Further Range* (1934) and *A Witness Tree* (1942). Throughout his long career, Frost taught and lectured at Amherst College, the University of Michigan, Dartmouth, and Harvard.

Frost was honored in 1950 by a Senate resolution and three years later was awarded the Fellowship of the Academy of American Poets. President Eisenhower invited him to visit the White House in 1958, and in 1960, Congress awarded Frost a gold medal for his poetry. Newly elected John Kennedy asked him to read a poem at the inauguration in January 1961—the first time a poet read a poem at a Presidential inauguration. Frost wrote a new poem for the event but could not read it that day due to the glaring sunlight. Instead he recited “The Gift Outright” from memory. In late 1962, after an exhausting trip to the former Soviet Union and a visit with Premier Khrushchev, Frost’s health declined. He was diagnosed with prostate and bladder cancer and suffered a pulmonary embolism. He died at the age of 89 on January 29, 1963. Although Congress did not establish the office of poet laureate until 1985, his fellow Americans certainly regarded Robert Frost as the national poet.

---Ellen Elghobashi, Zola Ct.

LOOKING FOR DONATIONS OF NEW AND USED CHILDREN’S BOOKS

I’m connected with a women’s group that is collecting new **and** used children’s books to be distributed in the pediatric units at UCIMC. These books are a comfort and a distraction for the in-patients; also, when discharged, they may take some books home to be their own. If you want to contribute, please call me and I’ll retrieve them from you, or you may drop them at 16 Blake Court. Thanks for considering this project.

---Betty Newcomb, 856-0969

CHANCELLOR’S DISTINGUISHED FELLOWS SERIES: CHILINGIRIAN STRING QUARTET

From April 4th to the 10th, the Chilingirian String Quartet will be in residence at the UCI School of the Arts Music Department. This quartet is one of the world’s most celebrated and widely traveled ensembles, renowned for their thrilling interpretations of the great quartets and commanding performances of the contemporary repertoire. They are the Quartet-in-Residence at the Royal College of Music in London. While at UCI, they will be giving master classes, seminars and lectures (all open and free to the public). Their final appearance will be at the Irvine Barclay Theater on Sunday, April 10th at 4:00 p.m., performing Beethoven and Schurmann String Quartets (Schurmann’s quartet will receive its US premiere that day), and the program will close with the Schumann Piano Quintet with Lorna Griffitt as pianist. Tickets for the final concert are \$8, \$10, and \$12. There will be a pre-concert discussion with composer Gerard Schurmann at 3:00 p.m. For further details please contact Haroutune Bedelian at (949) 824-8489 or email at hbedelia@uci.edu.

---UCI Music Department

UCI ARBORETUM EVENT

On Saturday, **April 2** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the UCI Arboretum will present “April Showers of Flowers.” This event offers a wide selection of unusual early spring perennials and bulbs from the Arboretum’s nursery. These plants are rarely found in local nurseries, most are very easy to grow, and many attract hummingbirds or butterflies. Featured is an outstanding selection of flowering perennials for shade. Admission and parking for this event are free. The UCI Arboretum is located just south of the corner of Campus Dr. and Jamboree Rd. on the UCI North Campus. For more information please call (949) 824-5833.

SHERMAN LIBRARY AND GARDENS NINTH ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR

The Volunteer Association of the Sherman Library and Gardens invites the public to its ninth annual Garden Tour on **Sunday, April 24** from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event features tour of several lovely local gardens with refreshments served at Sherman Gardens. You can reserve tickets by phone at (949) 673-2261, or purchase them in the Garden Gift Shop. Advanced ticket price is \$25; on the day of tour it will be \$30. Please wear comfortable flat shoes. Tour will occur rain or shine, and there are no refunds.

---Judith Simon, Urey Ct.

STARBUCKS INVITES YOU

The Starbucks at the UCI Research Park is now open longer hours and even on Saturdays! Bring a book to read or material to study. If you haven't been to our location before, come in and settle back into one of our dozen overstuffed chairs or set yourself up to do some work at one of our study tables. We look forward to seeing you soon! Don't miss our upcoming Brewing Equipment sale! Come in and enjoy the relaxing setting of the Bison and California Starbucks in the evening - until 9:30 p.m. - or on Saturdays - from 7:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

CITY OF IRVINE PRESENTS FREE SPRING CONCERT SERIES

The City of Irvine will host a free Spring Concert Series featuring the California Concert Artists and the Orange County Women's Chorus on various dates in April and May at the Irvine Civic Center. Light refreshments will be served at 3:30 p.m., with performances beginning at 4 p.m. on each of the scheduled dates.

Performance Schedule:

- **April 10 - *Under The Sea*** - The program centerpiece is George Crumb's haunting *Vox Balaenae* (Voice of the Whales) for Three Masked Players. Performed in a hall lit only with a deep blue light to symbolize the depths of the sea, this rarely performed work was inspired by the singing of the humpback whale. Also on this program: Debussy's *The Engulfed Cathedral* and other sea-inspired works to be performed by the California Concert Artists.
- **May 22 - *Music of America*** - The California Concert Artists celebrate Memorial Day with a concert of works by our own American composers including Samuel Barber's *Summer Music*, Morton Gould's *Benny's Gig* (composed for Benny Goodman,) Gunther Schuller's *Suite for Woodwind Quintet*, and others.

Space is limited and reservations are required. Please confirm attendance by calling (949) 724-6606, or email specialevents@ci.irvine.ca.us. Please include: concert date, name, total number of seats to be reserved, and a daytime contact number. A reservation confirmation will be sent by email or telephone. For more information, please visit us on the web at www.ci.irvine.ca.us.

NEWS FROM THE IRWD

April is the most active growth period for turf grass and other plants. Be sure to water adequately, but don't over water. Too much water can stress plants and leave them susceptible to disease. According to the California Association of Nurserymen, more plants are lost due to over-watering than to any other cause. If you think you need to water, check the moisture of the soil 3-6" below the surface. With our heavy clay soils, the surface may look dry, but the clay remains moist beneath the surface. Aerate your soil: heavy Orange County soils compact easily, making it difficult for plants to send their roots deep. Amend your soil: composted mulch and other soil amendments incorporated into the soil greatly improve its texture. Change the battery in your irrigation controller: if your sprinkler timer has a backup battery, now is a good time to install a fresh one.

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule For April

	Turf grass	Trees, shrubs, groundcover	Percent Option**
April	2-3 days, 1-3 cycles* of 2-4 minutes	2 days, 2 cycles* of 4 minutes	70%**

*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.

**Some irrigation controllers have a feature by which the watering time can be set by changing the percentage instead of specifically entering the days, cycles and minutes. If you don't have the instructions for your controller, check the manufacturer's website. Many controller manufacturers provide online access to the owner's manual.