



university hills  
newsletter

Cactus Wren

**MARCH 2003**

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Editors: Lauri Barwick and Nina Macdonald

**HRB MINUTES - Tuesday, February 4, 2003**

**Present:** Michele Walot, Shirley Palley, Isabel De Figueiredo, Luette Forrest, Andrew Herndon, Ron Reid, Jeffrey Beckwith, Richard Haier, ICHA Chair.

**Agenda:**

1. Call to Order
2. ICHA Updates
3. Architectural Reviews
4. Old Business
5. New Business

**ICHA Updates:**

Stop signs have been installed on Murasaki and on Gabrielino. To increase resident awareness of the new signs at the Gabrielino and Russell intersection, temporary stop signs have been installed in the center of the street as well

ICHA management is meeting with Campus and Environmental Planning regarding the new Peltason parking structure. CEP will send disclosure notifications to Murasaki and Schubert Court residents on the planned campus improvements. The structure is to be built on Lot 18C.

The Gabrielino Community Park water fountain, entry improvements, and turf enhancement were completed in January. The fountain was paid for in part by the Bennett/Berkelhamer household in memory of their son Drew who passed away in 1999. With HRB concurrence, a plaque was placed at the base of the fountain honoring Drew.

The postcard ballots for requesting a seventh member for the HRB have been mailed to all voting members of University Hills. A 51% yes vote is needed to add the member. HRB requested the seventh member be added to provide better representation to the University Hills community. The community has grown substantially since the inception of the HRB.

The HRB request for a Dog Park will be on the ICHA Board agenda in February. This is the second discussion. Revised program details and the proposed process for managing the facility have been completed. The Chair of the HRB will attend the meeting and answer any questions.

A final inspection by the Irvine Ranch Water District will enable ICHA to bid and begin the conversion of the hill area above Vista Bonita Drive to recycled water. Construction is anticipated to begin in March.

The Annual Reserve Study is in the process of being updated for the new fiscal year budget preparation. Scheduled maintenance and replacement items are in bid process or under review.

The Campus has requested ICHA management to relocate the Landscaping and Storage Yard from California and Gabrielino. CEP and ICHA are considering options.

Bids have been secured to resurface the Gabrielino Community Park court surfaces. HRB is considering a delay in the resurfacing until the Area expansion/park development is completed.

The Arroyo Garden Park has been refurbished. Substantial damage occurred almost immediately from rabbits. Management is meeting with the landscaper to consider solutions to the problem. Tree pruning of various specimen trees will begin again this month. The previously completed eucalyptus pruning saved tree damage and limb loss during the recent Santa Ana winds.

Fire hydrants in University Hills will be tested this month. This insures equipment function and water pressure for fighting fires.

The Area 8 streetlights are still scheduled for retrofitting. Difficulties in obtaining the appropriate shields have caused delays in the work. Several residents have complained regarding the strength of the lighting.

Three bee swarms were eradicated from common area locations. Per Orange County Vector Control, there is a 50/50 chance the swarms could be Africanized.

Per HRB request, additional rubbish containers and "doggie clean-up" bag dispensers will be placed throughout the community. ICHA is working with HRB on appropriate placements.

### **Architectural Reviews:**

A room addition for a residence on Curie was approved by the HRB. The final details included painting, fenestration, and roof detailing to match the current structure.

A request for a gate on Frost was discussed by the HRB. The basic design was approved pending modification to height and materials.

### **Old Business:**

Ballots for the HRB election will be counted on Tuesday, February 18, 2003. The names of the elected members will be printed in the newsletter.

A report from the landscape committee was received by the HRB and will be printed in the newsletter.

Wastewater damage to a condo on Schubert Court was referred to Condo Board I.

### **New Business:**

A complaint regarding the noise from the traffic control whistles was received. Parking and Transportation staff directing traffic at the East Peltason and Gabrielino intersection in the early evening use the whistles. The HRB felt this was a campus issue.

Pending the outcome of the vote, the seventh member will be added to the HRB in March.

*---Respectfully submitted, Jeffrey S. Beckwith*

## **BACKGROUND ON THE QUEST FOR A DOG PARK IN UNIVERSITY HILLS**

As far back as resident surveys from the 1980s, the University Hills community has requested that a dog run be considered as one amenity that would serve to attract new residents, improve our quality of life, and be a gathering point for diverse people. Over the two years that an informal dog gathering was a regular after-work occurrence at the lower pool, it brought together not only dog owners, but also parents with small children, singles, and retired residents. This informal dog gathering was voluntarily stopped in late 1999 because a dog knocked down a passerby, not because of land-usage or noise complaints. A fenced dog park would solve this problem, bring together a wide range of community members, and isolate dogs from those who do not want to socialize with pets.

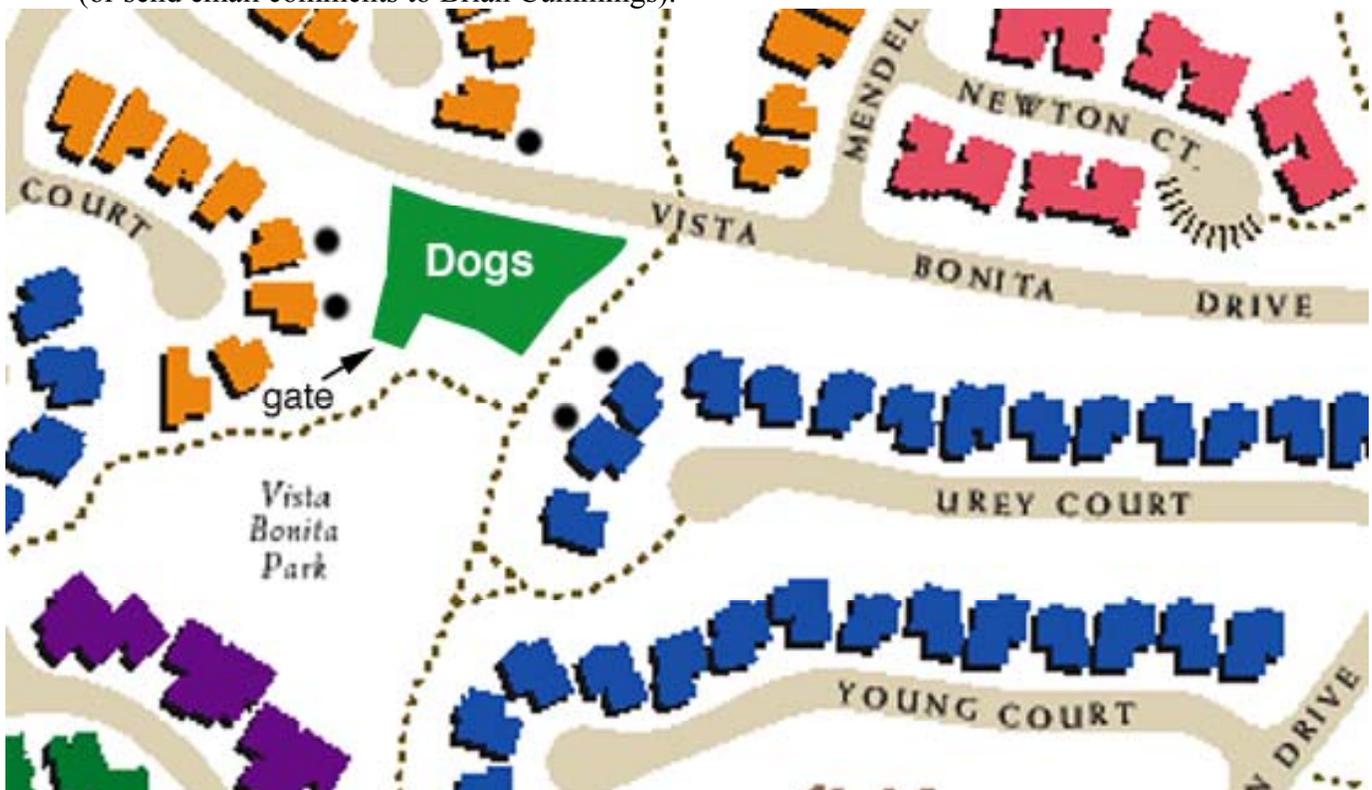
In early 2000, a petition in favor of a permanent dog park was circulated and signed by more than 490 adult residents of University Hills (this was over 50% of the population at that time!). A permanent dog park also received the unanimous support of the University Hills Park Planning and Use Committee (chaired by Elizabeth Phillips) in letter to the HRB and ICHA dated Feb 22, 2000.

Many points were made in favor of using ICHA land for such a facility. The key arguments are that this facility would be primarily designed for the benefit of the *residents* of University Hills, not specifically for dogs. The informal "Dog Park" at the lower pool was the largest, recurring social gathering in University Hills. It brought the entire community together, not just dog owners. Furthermore, a fenced area would not be restricted to dogs

only; everyone can still use the land. Dog owners merely need a fenced area to exercise their dogs more responsibly. Finally, this proposal would make use of an under-utilized area, the lower bowl area of Vista Bonita Park. Since the inception of Vista Bonita Park, additional free form recreational elements for children have been added in the upper Vista Bonita Park and at Gabrielino Park. Additional play facilities are slated to be added to Gabrielino Park during the completion of phase 8.

At the November 2002 HRB meeting, the HRB unanimously voted to request ICHA's concurrence and action on erecting a temporary dog run in the lower, northern end of the Vista Bonita Park. This trial period would give residents, the HRB and ICHA a better understanding of the issues associated with such a facility, allow time for resident feedback, and provide data on resident support for a permanent facility.

- 1) The location of the temporary Dog Run will be in lower Vista Bonita Park as shown on the attached map. The exact border will be determined by taking into consideration buried irrigation lines and other physical obstacles to a fence.
- 2) Installation of double-gated entrance at the flat, southern end (indicated by arrow) will allow for the entry and exit of dogs without risk of escape, as well as permit handicapped access over a base of decomposed granite.
- 3) The gate will be locked at all times, requiring the same key as used for pool entrance.
- 4) A sign with rules and hours of operation (see below) will be posted at the entrance.
- 5) A six-month comment period will be maintained via email to [cummings@uci.edu](mailto:cummings@uci.edu). Please include "Dog Run" in the subject field.
- 6) Signage and the University Hills newsletter will include this address and request such comments. Monthly reports will be given to the HRB and ICHA.
- 7) A group of "Dog Run Volunteers" will oversee the daily usage of the park. If determined to be necessary, "University Hills Dog Run Tags" could be required to further limit access. But during the trial period, special tags will not be used.
- 8) **The HRB will host a meeting to answer questions about this proposal and hear resident feedback in order to report back to the ICHA board. Please join us at 6:00 PM on March 10<sup>th</sup> at the ICHA trailer (or send email comments to Brian Cummings).**



## ***University Hills Dog Run Rule***

*Entrance into this Dog Run indicates your agreement to abide and be bound by the following rules:*

1. This Run is a “Use at your own Risk” facility. By entering this facility, you agree and acknowledge that:
  - a. You understand and assume the risks inherent in this type of facility.
  - b. The UC Regents, ICHA, HRB and their volunteers, are not liable for injury or damages that may occur to you, your dog(s) or property, and you waive such claims against them.
  - c. You are directly liable for injuries caused by your dog(s) to other persons, pets or property and will indemnify the UC Regents, ICHA, HRB and their volunteers against such claims.
2. This Run is for the use of University Hills residents and their immediate guests only. Users may request that you show identification with a University Hills address.
3. Dogs must have a valid dog license from the City of Irvine (IMC Sec. 4-5-209).
4. Hours are from 7:30 AM to one hour after sunset Monday through Friday, and 9:00 AM to one hour after sunset on Saturday, Sunday and University holidays.
5. Residents must clean up after their own dog(s) (IMC Sec 4-5-710). Those who fail to do so will be banned from the Run.
6. A resident may bring/supervise no more than three dogs at one time.
7. Dogs must be supervised by someone at least 14 years of age.
8. No unattended children under the age of 10 are allowed within the Run.
9. Neither excessive aggressive behavior nor excessive barking is permitted. If your dog(s) cannot be controlled, they may be required to leave by other residents or a Dog Run Volunteer.
10. If you have questions, comments or complaints about this Run, please contact Brian Cummings ([cummings@uci.edu](mailto:cummings@uci.edu)), and include the words “Dog Run” in the subject line.
11. If there is a problem requiring immediate attention, call the UCI Police at 949-824-5223. Dog bites must be reported to the police and Animal Control at 949-724-7092.

### ***Graded Responses to Potential concerns regarding a Dog Park***

In drawing up the final rules presented on the previous page, the HRB went through several iterations of potential concerns and possible ways to address those concerns. We include the following to document this process and provide possible responses should reports of problems occur during the trial period.

#### **I. Without an official monitor, park rules will not be enforced.**

- a. The community has worked for many years to obtain a dog park. Hopefully they will work as hard to maintain it and keep resident support for such a park. Clear posting of the rules should be sufficient to maintain a small park. A lock, keyed the same as the pool, will be installed.
- b. If deemed necessary by the HRB and ICHA following the trial period, a Dog Park Volunteer group will be formed to oversee park usage. Official Dog Park Volunteers would be vested with the power to enforce the rules and ban problem dogs and owners.
- c. If necessary, a “University Hills Dog Park Tag” could be required to allow tracking of properly eligible dogs and enable restrictions to be enforced.

#### **University Hills will be liable for injury or damage to property or persons**

- d. The park will be clearly marked as “Use at your own risk”.
- e. Residents would agree to be liable for injury or damages prior to entry. This agreement could be by virtue of ones entry into the park. Alternatively, a waiver could be signed when picking up a “University Hills Dog Park Tag”. Signage at the park would then reflect this requirement.
- f. Exact wording limiting liability to be provided by ICHA or insurance agent

#### **Non-Residents will make use of the Dog Park**

- g. Lock the gate with the same key as used for pool access and post notice that “Park is for the use of University Hills residents only”
- h. Residents can monitor usage of the park by their neighbors and request identification
- i. Restrict the park to dog’s with a “University Hills Dog Park Tag”

### **Barking dogs will annoy the neighbors**

- j. The noise of a dog park is far less than existing traffic noise or noise from existing playgrounds and basketball courts in other University Hills locations. Monitor feedback from the community to determine need for rule IVb or IVc.
- k. Restrict park to dogs that do not bark or who's barking can be controlled by their owner.
- l. Post rule that barking dogs will be asked to leave by Dog Park Volunteers.

### **Dogs may spread disease to each other**

- m. Restrict usage to dogs that have a valid City of Irvine license or hold a license from another city (Cities typically require a current rabies vaccine, spaying and/or neutering).
- n. Charge a fee for a "University Hills Dog Park Tag" and use proceeds to cover park clean up if feces become a problem. Based on user feedback.

### **Residents will not pick up after their dogs**

- o. Require owners to pick up after their dogs. More dog time at the park means less dog time on the sidewalks. Peer pressure was very effective at keeping the lower park clean when the informal dog park met there.
- p. Have ICHA alter the plantings within the park and apply more bark mulch to make clean up easier.
- q. Charge a fee for a "University Hills Dog Park Tag" and use proceeds to cover park clean up if feces become a problem.
- r. Authorize Dog Park Volunteers to ban residents and their dogs from the park if they do not clean up after their dog (take away their "University Hills Dog Park Tag").

### **The hours of operation will be ignored**

- s. Based on prior experience, set hours of operation, or restricted hours of operation should not be necessary. Dog owners regularly met after work/prior to dinner in the lower park at left the park at dusk.
- t. Based on neighbor feedback, park hours could be restricted to the same hours as those in effect at the basketball court.
- u. If hours of usage become a problem, an additional chain lock on the gate could be installed and opened daily by ICHA and closed nightly by Dog Park Volunteers.
- v. The park could be opened specified days only (e.g. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday).

## **II. Individual dogs may be out of control and frighten or injure other dogs or their owners.**

- a. This problem tends to be self-policing, as most owners with aggressive dogs know their dog and would not bring them to a park to socialize. Peer pressure regarding this issue essentially eliminated aggressive dogs from the informal dog park. Notice will be posted that entry into the park obligates owners to be liable for veterinary costs if their pet injures another animal.
- b. Restrict usage of park to spayed and neutered dogs only.
- c. Dog Park Volunteers will have the authority to ban problem dogs or owners (or take away their "University Hills Dog Park Tag").

### **Dogs may escape and bother the community or run onto Vista Bonita**

- d. This issue should be addressed by the installation of a 4-foot high fence and a double-gated entrance.
- e. Dogs that jump the fence are unsuited to using the Dog Park and will be banned from the Dog Park if their owners cannot control them.

### **The landscape will be damaged**

- f. Less damage to surrounding University Hills landscape will occur with a Dog Park in place than without one.
- g. Plantings and groundcover can be altered if necessary to better withstand usage by dogs. Heavier bushes and more bark mulch could be used instead of grass if a problem arises. More

bark mulch will also make cleaning up after dogs easier.

### **Unattended children may get trampled or injured**

- h. Post rule that no unattended children under the age of 10 are allowed in the park.
- i. Require that children be at least 14 years old to supervise a dog.

### **III. Too many dogs being supervised by one person can't be controlled or picked up after.**

- a. Restrict each person to the supervision of no more than 3 dogs.

### **Too many people will make use of the park**

- b. Hopefully this will make the park more enjoyable, and not be a problem.
- c. If over usage becomes a problem, a maximum number of dogs allowed in the park could be set and monitored by Dog Park Volunteers.

---HRB

## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

The minutes of the January HRB meeting in the February newsletter included this item: "Fencing and landscaping completed on Frost did not meet HRB approval...The HRB also noted that requests for similar stucco fences in Phase 8 would not meet the style of the neighborhood and would not be approved without a full review of HRB."

So we walked over to see the offending construction. The stucco involved was a series of simple, not terribly wide, about 3 feet high, quite widely spaced posts plus a low, perhaps 8 inches, support wall linking them with the open space between posts filled in with a wooden lattice. Both were painted to agree with the colors of the house. The lattice is not unlike ICHA-constructed fences on other homes on Frost and since the buildings are entirely stucco except for roofs and trim, stucco hardly seems terribly out of place. The fence is the height of others in the neighborhood. So, to us, the design seemed compatible with the neighborhood, better than some others, and certainly similar fences appear throughout University Hills.

To be sure, the boundary line between HRB's mediating homeowners' potential for impinging adversely on their neighbors and forcing an arbitrary definition of stylistic uniformity is fuzzy, but surely in this case the Board has erred very far in the dictatorial direction. Is the HRB afraid we are in danger of losing our designation as Uniformity Hills?

---Carolyn Scheer and Duncan Luce

## **CELEBRATE UCI**

Come to UCI's annual Open House, Celebrate UCI, one of the campus' oldest and most festive traditions on Saturday, April 19, 2003, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Now in its 25th Anniversary year, this Spring event features games and rides for children, an Earth Day Celebration, academic information, Car Show, campus tram tours, class reunions, Wayzgoose Medieval Faire with food booths, demonstrations, prize drawings and much more. It's an excellent opportunity to invite family, friends and alumni to visit and see what's new.

At Celebrate UCI there's something for everybody, so mark your calendar now!!!!!!

**Events and Parking are FREE!!!!!!**

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### **SOME EVENTS AROUND CAMPUS**

**Claire Trevor School of the Arts** - Tickets and Information: UCIArts Box Office (949) 824-2787, hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and one hour before performance

**Irvine Barclay Theater** - Tickets and Information (949) 854-4607 or [www.thebarclay.org](http://www.thebarclay.org)

**Bren Events Center** - Tickets and Information (949) 824-5000

- **Wednesday, March 5** - *Gassmann Electronic Music Series*, 8 p.m., Winifred Smith Hall. Free.
- **Friday, March 7** - *Ballet Pacifica*. 8 p.m., Barclay Theatre. Tickets: \$25-\$29. Also 2:30 & 8 p.m. March 8.
- **Friday, March 7 and Saturday, March 8** - *Opera Workshop: Dido and Aeneas*, 8 p.m., Winifred Smith Hall, Tickets: \$8-\$12.

- **Saturday, March 8** - *18th Annual Great American Write-In. 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., University Club.* BDEGROOT@aol.com
- **Saturday, March 8 to Sunday, March 9** - *'Prelude to Spring' Winter Bulb Festival, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., UCI Arboretum, Tickets \$2.00, children under 12 and Friends of the UCI Arboretum are admitted free.*
- **Sunday, March 9** - *Audio Adrenaline Concert. 7 p.m., Bren Events Center.*
- **Monday, March 10** - *UCI Percussion Ensemble, 8 p.m., Winifred Smith Hall. Free.* Theresa Dimond, conductor.
- **Monday, March 10** - *UCI Gospel Choir, 8 p.m., Claire Trevor Theatre, Tickets: \$8-\$12.*
- **Monday, March 10** - *Trio Fontenay. 8 p.m., Barclay Theatre, Tickets: \$23-\$29.* Featuring *Piano Trio in E-flat major, Op. 1, No. 1* by Beethoven; *Piano Trio No. 1 in G* by Debussy; and *Piano Trio in E-flat major, Op. 70, No. 2* by Beethoven.
- **Thursday, March 13 and Friday, March 14** - *UCI Music. Instrumental Color: Impressionism and Sonic Impressions, 8 p.m., Barclay Theatre, Tickets: \$8-\$12.* Presented by UCI Symphony Orchestra with Stephen Tucker, conductor.
- **Saturday, March 15** - *Jazz Orchestra: Salsa Night, 8 p.m., Claire Trevor Theatre, Tickets: \$8-\$12.* Charles Owens, conductor and Bobby Rodriguez and the Latin Jazz Ensemble, guest artists.
- **Saturday, March 15 to Sunday, March 16** - *Trinity Irish Dance Company, 3 p.m., Barclay Theatre, Tickets: \$35-\$40.* Small, Chicago-based, all women Irish-American dance company.
- **Monday, March 17** - *Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra, 7:30 p.m., Barclay Theatre, Tickets: \$9-\$12.* Michael Hall, conductor.
- **Thursday, March 27 to Sunday, March 30** - *Momix: Opus Cactus, 3 p.m., Barclay Theatre, Tickets: \$33-\$40.*
- **Monday, March 31** - *Adeline Yen Mah, 6-8 p.m., Emerald Bay A & B, Student Center. Free.* Author of *Falling Leaves* and *Chinese Cinderella*, in conversation with Ketu Katrak, chair of Asian American studies and professor of English and Comparative Literature.
- **Tuesday, April 1** - *Music, Dance and Martial Arts of Manipur, India. 8 p.m., Barclay Theatre. Tickets: \$29-\$35.*
- **Friday, April 4** - *Shakespeare Revue. 8 p.m., Barclay Theatre Tickets: \$32-\$38.*
- **Saturday, April 5** - *Strings Attached, 8 p.m., Barclay Theatre, Tickets \$24-\$38.* Presented by Mozart Classical Orchestra.

Hello! We are the radKIDS and we're here to help you. Each one of us has important information to share about all sorts of things.



The UC Irvine Police Department and the Anteater Recreation Center are sponsoring a personal empowerment and safety education program designed specifically for boys and girls. We offer 2 separate classes for children ages 5 to 7 and 8 to 10. The radKIDS program is taught nationwide by certified instructors. The radKIDS instructors are from the UC Irvine Police Department.

This program covers all aspects of personal safety such as out and about safety, vehicle safety, bike safety, home safety, as well as stranger awareness, good, bad, and uncomfortable touch, and basic principles of defense.

**The next course is for children ages 5-7. The 8 hour course is scheduled for March 22, 23, and 29, 30 (Saturday and Sunday) from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm each day at the Anteater Recreation Center on the UC Irvine campus. Registration is at 12:30 pm on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There is a nominal \$40 fee for the class. Kids can return and practice cost free until their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

To reserve a space in the class, contact Officer Caroline Alberti at [calberti@uci.edu](mailto:calberti@uci.edu) (949) 824-7181

r.a.d.KIDS Website: [www.radkids.org](http://www.radkids.org)

**THE radKIDS OBJECTIVE:** To Provide educational opportunities for children and parents, concerning awareness and self defense strategies, instilling confidence and reducing the possibility of adverse physical control and/or harm.