



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE
OPEN SPACE / CONSERVATION ELEMENT COMMITTEE**

Monday, December 8, 2008

6:30 p.m.

Pasadena City Hall

Grand Conference Room SO38 (Basement of City Hall – southeast corner)
100 North Garfield Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

The meeting was called to order by Chair Richard Janisch at 6:50 pm.

Present: Anne Dove, Belinda Faustinos, Don Bremner, Edwina Travis Chin (vice-chair), Laura Garrett, Madhu Kumar, Michael Coppess, and Richard Janisch (chair)

Absent: Cara McLane Meyer (alternate), Carolyn Naber (alternate), George Wilson (alternate), Jane Beesley (alternate), Paul Edelman, Roger Gray (alternate), Stephen Acker (alternate), Tim Wendler (alternate)

City Staff: Laura Dahl and Scott Reimers

I. Public Comment on matters not on the Agenda

None.

II. Approval of minutes from November 3, 2008

Committee Member Garrett motioned to approve the minutes and Committee Member Bremner seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved without changes.

III. Presentation on the Cal Poly Pomona Golden Necklace Project by Julianna Delgado, Ph.D., AICP

Ms. Delgado summarized the work that Cal Poly Pomona's capstone classes have completed on the Golden Necklace. (To view the slide show presented at the meeting please visit <http://www.arroyoseco.org/goldennecklace/publications/SCPC.pdf>).

Linda Zinn asked if bike trails will go into the Lower Arroyo Seco. Meredith Mackenzie from the Arroyo Seco Foundation stated that plans are still ongoing, but they will most likely use existing streets.

Nina Chomsky asked if the Golden Necklace Plan made recommendations on whether trails should be multi-use. Ms. Delgado stated that the Plan assumed walking would be first priority. The plan did not specifically look at this issue in Annandale Canyon.

Committee Member Coppess asked how detailed the map is. Ms. Delgado stated that the map is not specific enough to show a specific path but if this was a priority the students could go out and map specific paths. She suggested that the Commission review the work of Cal Poly Pomona's Landscape Architecture 606 Studio which has done more detailed plans.

Ms. Delgado suggested that the Open Space and Conservation Element should recommend further studies; refer to plans, such as the Golden Necklace; and look at using alternative rights of way for use as trails. She mentioned as an example, a large project in London where utility rights of way were put underground and the area on the ground level is used for open space.

Chair Janisch asked if the Army Corps of Engineers could come and speak about how existing rights of way could be restored or reused. Committee Member Dove stated that Mark Pestrella from the Los Angeles County Public Works Department might be a better resource.

IV. Public Participation Program

Ms. Dahl presented the proposed general plan logo and noted that its purpose is to reflect the three aspects of sustainability: natural, social, and economic. Committee members asked if the sun in the City Hall image could be removed and a bird put in its place.

Ms. Dahl then presented the questionnaire which will be used at the Open Space and Conservation kiosk. Two questionnaires were prepared one for adults and one for students. The kiosk will sometimes have a staff member or person attending it, but at sometimes it will stand alone. The survey is meant to be one page, double sided.

The following recommendations were provided to staff:

- The Central Arroyo or Brookside Park should be added to question two.
- The questions are constraining. They should be more open ended.
- Instead of a list of answers we could give a list of examples.
- Ranking answers may not be important.
- If we use the terms "Lower, Central and Upper Arroyo Seco" we should describe these better or show them on a map.
- It might be helpful to know if people are Pasadena residents or not.
- We need something more whimsical like the wishing trees idea that was used at One Colorado.
- Question five needs to be revised.
- It might be helpful to show pictures of open space.
- Jargon, like urban forest, should be removed.
- There is a disproportionate amount of emphasis on open space.
- Exclamation marks should be removed.

- Terms need to be explained.
- Question two is missing, “to be with your friends.”
- The title lacks interest.
- The surveys should be available in multiple languages.

Ms Dahl stated that the questionnaire would be rewritten and sent to the Committee for comments. Ms. Dahl described the design of the kiosk (see attachment 3). Committee members expressed concern over whether three panels would be sufficient. Ms. Dahl suggested that the consultant move forward with a three panel design and if more panels were needed the design could be amended.

V. Open Space Land Inventory

Ms. Dahl presented attachments four through six. Talk ensued over the need to identify parcels that may contribute to natural systems but are not vacant. Committee members noted that properties in this area might need special rules for fencing and lighting and require information about how to care for pets. Vice-Chair Chin mentioned that the Element could include policies encouraging the creation of easements.

VI. 159 South Kinneloa follow-up

Ms Dahl mentioned that staff is still trying to get additional information. The property has been owned by the City since 1947. In 2001 the State Department of Toxic Substances Control placed a covenant on the property noting its contamination. Because of the Open Space (OS) zoning designation, no commercial uses are allowed without a conditional use permit or possibly a general plan amendment and zone change. The City’s long term goal for this property has not yet been identified.

VII. Agenda items for next regular meeting – January 12, 2008

- Staff will work on getting a speaker, either Mark Pestrella from the Los Angeles County Public Works Watershed Division or Tony Zampiao from the Raymond Basin Management Board.
- Staff will return with a list of criteria for the open space inventory and note from where the information will come.
- The Committee will discuss the community event (which will be on February 21 or February 28).
- The Committee suggested that another meeting on January 26 might be necessary in order to plan for the community event.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Janisch adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.



 Scott Reimers, Recording Secretary