



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

Monday, February 9, 2009

6:30 p.m.

Pasadena City Hall

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

Present: Richard Janisch (Chair); Mike Coppess; Don Bremner; Anne Dove; Laura Garrett; Belinda Faustinos; Stephen Acker (alternate)

Absent: Edwina Travis Chin (Vice-Chair); Madhu Kumar; Cara McLane Meyer (alternate); Carolyn Naber (alternate); George Wilson (alternate); Jane Beesley (alternate); Paul Edelman; Roger Gray (alternate); Tim Wendler (alternate)

City Staff: Laura Dahl, Robert Ávila

Speakers: Elizabeth Pomeroy

I. Public Comment:

Nina Chomsky, *Linda Vista-Annandale Association*, commented on the purchase of the Annandale Canyon parcels for public open space that was on the City Council agenda. The acquisition of the Annandale Estates property is a great achievement for the public. The newly acquired land should be reflected as open space in the land inventory and rezoned as open space for a public park.

Joan Dooley, *Save the Hill*, a resident group organized to stop the Hillside Homes monopole project. Ms. Dooley came to the committee meeting to learn the protocol to have the Hillside Homes property designated as open space. Chair Janisch advised that the Committee is taking an inventory of open space parcels in the City of Pasadena. Committee Member Garrett added that the committee must write element first, and that the committee is in the gathering information stage now. Ms. Dahl informed that the process entails neighborhood meetings on the rezoning, review before the Planning Commission for an advisory recommendation to the City Council, and finally Council review.

Mary Barrie, *Altadena Trails*. Altadena Trails would like to participate in Community Fair.

Jeff Weinstein, *City of Glendale, Trails and Open Space Specialist*, would like to talk about connectivity and regional trail planning, development of seamless trail connectivity. His office will attend the Community Fair and brings some trail maps.

John Stillian, *Collaborative for Eagle Rock Beautiful*. His group purchased some of the last vestiges of open space for a trail to Eagle Rock Reservoir. The newly acquired property is a gateway to Annandale Canyon. The Open Space Collaborative would like to connect to Annandale Canyon. The two resources are interrelated.

Michelle Zack—Ms. Zack is currently working on an American history teaching project to improve content knowledge with teachers. Ms. Zack worked with Art Center students to develop a movie called *Eaton's Water* which ties into the development of water resources. She also works with Tim Brick in portraying Benjamin Eaton and his wife, Alice.

Dale Trader commended the Open Space Committee for its work that has been done so far, from the beginning of the effort. He noted the difficulty in moving such a huge issue forward. The Committee's work has brought open space issues to the forefront.

II. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2009—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.

Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2009—Committee Member Bremner motioned to approve the minutes and Committee Member Garrett seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved without changes.

III. Presentation by Elizabeth Pomeroy

Ms. Pomeroy presented photos of natural open space around Pasadena, Eagle Rock and Altadena. Included were historic photos of the recent and distant past from her book

Mr. Puelicher brought pictures of the abandoned Earthside Nature Center. Chair Janisch described the Earthside Nature Center and what it was. Cal Poly Pomona graduate students will come up with a plan to reuse the site and make a presentation at the Community Fair. Committee Member Coppess added that the committee is in the process of making people aware of the site.

IV. Community Fair—Saturday, February 28, 2009 @ City Hall Courtyard

Ms Dahl stated that the questionnaire was mailed to the committee. Copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the committee members to distribute at their group meetings. Staff is encouraging groups to use the on-line form. Flyers are at all of the libraries and community centers. Postcard will be mailed announcing the public meeting.

Ms. Dahl described the proposed interactive stations for Community Fair.

- Ideas for the Children’s station:
 - Have the kids make a pledge about what they will do (i.e. plant a tree, turn off lights) and either put it on a wall or do a pledge tree where they attach it similar to the Yoko Ono wish trees;
 - Have the kids draw something related to what they envision or what they pledge and turn the drawing into a badge using a badge maker machine.
- History Station with historic maps as well as photos of Pasadena’s history as an outdoor recreation tourist attraction, i.e. Mt. Lowe Railway, natural open space attractions in mountains. Exhibits on how important historically natural and recreational tourism was in Pasadena. We asked people to submit their photos of open space and ask visitors to guess where the photo was taken is. Examples of then and now photos will be included.
- Additional tables at the event for:
 - Collaborative for Eagle Rock Beautiful;
 - Altadena Trail Council.
- Some of the best input may be at the organization tables – need to ensure that this feedback is recorded, suggestions include:
 - Have post-it tab pads at these tables and train the table sponsors to ask commenters to write it down and direct them to where they can be posted on a wall;
 - Have a flipchart near the tables and direct the commenters to the flipchart to record their comments.
- Ask organization table sponsors to summarize what they hear at their tables via a feedback form – not feedback on logistics of event, but on what issues and comments they heard.

Mr. Trade encouraged a discussion on view sheds and what they mean to participants. Ms. Silver recommended surveying participating groups on their experience and what they learned. Committee Member Dove recommended asking Parks & Recreation staff to share their Earth Day Fair contacts for possible give-aways. Staff will look into the City providing parking for the day of the Community Fair.

Ms. Dahl reviewed the list for public location suggestions. Permission will be needed to place kiosk on private property. Booth will be staffed and stand alone if no one is available.

- Arroyo Seco Archery Center on any Saturday *with Vice Chair Chin*
- All Saints Church on any Sunday *with Committee Member Garrett.*
- Eaton Canyon Nature Center—Pasadena Audubon Society Meeting on 2/18.
- Eaton Blanche Dog Park on 2/21 *with Committee Member Dove.*
- PNC Monthly meeting on 2/26 *with Chair Janisch*
- Rose Bowl Flea Market on 3/8 *with Committee Member Dove.*
- Pasadena Marathon on 3/22
- Wistaria Vine Festival in Sierra Madre on 3/29
- Pasadena Heritage Spring Home Tour on 3/29
- Bungalow Heaven Home Tour on 4/26

V. Future Public Participation Events

The suggested date for the spring event is Saturday, May 2, with Saturday, May 9 as a back-up date. It was also suggested that some events be on weeknights – maybe a Monday and Thursday. Ms. Dahl read recommendations from Vice-Chair Chin, including inspiring the public to get involved in the process; having an expert speaker panel at next meeting that is a facet of the larger whole, not the sole focus; having skilled facilitators to gather public comment; and have participants confirm the vision statement developed by committee. Committee Member Faustinos commented that it would help to have a technical subject matter expert to talk about how to cover issues in an open space element.

Committee Member Garrett recommended that the future meeting program start with a plenary session, followed by smaller subject matter conservation group meetings, similar to the symposium model. Committee Member Faustinos suggested having the secondary meetings in geographically different areas of the City of Pasadena to have a balanced public response and increase public accessibility to the process. Stacy Cahan, *Upper Hastings Ranch Association*, suggested that there not be too many community meetings scheduled so that people do not become frustrated or that they are missing something by not being at every meeting. Committee Member Dove suggested videotaping the expert panel, and airing video at future meetings/community group meetings.

Linda Zinn, *West Pasadena Residents Association*, asked what the timeline for writing the Open Space Element was. Ms. Dahl replied that the committee would have element ready for commission review by the end of summer.

Chair Janisch reiterated that the kiosk is available for interested groups.

The Committee recommends the following individuals for potential speakers on the expert panel at a future community meeting:

- Bill Pastert, *Jet Propulsion Laboratory*;
- Stephanos Polyzoides & Elizabeth Moule, *Moule & Polyzoides*;
- Someone to speak on a contrasting perspective to New Urbanism;
- Tim Brick;
- Juliana Delgado;
- Joan Woodward, *oversaw Emerald Necklace project*;
- Mia Lehrer;
- Belinda Faustinos, *Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, Committee Member*;
- Mickey Long, *LA County*;
- Frazier Schilling.

VI. Emerald Horseshoe Concept Plan Coordination

Hold for future meeting. Committee Member Coppess stated that Emerald Necklace Concept Plan connects to Eaton Canyon Nature Center trail then down to Eaton Wash. Mary Barrie asked why Altadena equestrian groups were left out of loop. Committee Member Coppess explained that the plan is not yet published or adopted. The plan is a small project prepared by students at Cal Poly Pomona.

VII. Selection of Volunteers for General Plan Update Advisory Committee

The City Council is taking applications for General Plan Update Committee. The Council would like an open space representative. The Committee can nominate up to three people. Council will pick one representative from the three nominees. The first meeting is on April 14, 2009. The assignment would be at least a one-year commitment. The Committee must submit nominees by end of the month.

VIII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting—Special Meeting on February 23, 2009

One agenda item is planned for the Special Meeting on February 23, 2009, the preparation for the 2/28 Community Fair, including assignments for committee members and facilitator training for the different stations.

March 9, 2009 is the date of the next regular meeting. David Ford, Southern California Edison, will be the guest speaker. It was suggested that Mr. Ford bring maps of the utility right-of-way easements in City of Pasadena.

IX. Adjournment

Chair Janisch motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 pm. Chair hearing no opposition. Meeting adjourned.



Robert Ávila, Recording Secretary