

Robles, Sandra

Subject: FW: Message to City Council about archery range proposal on agenda for Monday, Sept. 16

Re: Lower Arroyo Seco Archery Range Proposal for Sept. 16, 2013

Greetings:

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

I write in hopes of an excellent archery range open at all times to archers with ample shooting lanes that brings vitality and honor to the City and the Arroyo neighborhood and that is safe, is fairly priced to add to the resources for Pasadena residents to use all recreational facilities, and enhances the beauty of the nature park that is its home. I have worked for this goal over the last three years but am still frustrated that solutions, promised in tantalizing if bureaucratic terms, still need management by this Council as to balancing City policies and adjusting details set by prior proclamations.

I grew up by and in the Arroyo and am a thirty year resident of South Arroyo Blvd., next to the Lower Arroyo Nature Park. I walk there regularly as it is my favorite part of the City. Three years ago an incident with some archers from Covina prompted me to call the National Field Archery Association about generally accepted safety standards for range configuration. It's president reported that a walking path through a range, as has existed in our range for decades, was considered unsafe. I reported this to City staff, and they promised to address the problem. In June, 2011, the Pasadena Police Department issued a report stating that the range was unsafe. After three years of effort, staff has issued a "final," fifth edition of its proposal, but at least three problems remain unsolved and need help from this Council.

THE RANGE IS DANGEROUS TO NEIGHBORING HOMEOWNERS

As we all addressed the challenges of an archery range in a residential neighborhood we learned in June, 2011 that one homeowner next to the range had reported to the City that his homesite had suffered shots of over 60 arrows falling all over his yard, some near South San Rafael Blvd. While the cause of this calamity is unproven, the most reasonable likelihood is that one or more errant archers have used his yard to test the power of their bows. Though the homeowner has shown admirable restraint, it appears possible that at some future time this situation could lead to personal injury or serious property damage and a lawsuit for damages, to enjoin a nuisance, or to compensate the owner for inverse condemnation. The risk of a brash archer abusing a powerful bow seems inherent in any archery range. Some bows can now shoot an arrow nearly a mile. Constant surveillance seems impossible.

The problem remains nearly ignored, as the current report, after the long continuance of the risk, states merely that "targets will be situated . . . to enhance safety and minimize encroachment." (Report @ page 4, para. 5). But this seems hardly satisfactory after as a new promise after years of apparent indifference, and this leaves the fear for all homeowners that the City places dangerous recreational uses above quiet enjoyment of homes. If there is a solution, we should find it before expanding the use of the range, and the associated danger, and I ask the Council to withhold approval of the proposed expansion of the range (by exclusion of walkers entirely) until this problem is solved.

THE PROPOSED USE FEE IS SO LOW AS TO UNFAIRLY FAVOR NONRESIDENT ARCHERS OVER NEEDY PASADENA YOUTH

The Report recommends a new annual use fee for the huge archery range area to based only on membership fees for the Pasadena Roving Archers, the private sports club to which the City will delegate most control over the range and whose members are the majority of users. (p. 6, para. 4). The club has admitted that most of its members are not

residents of Pasadena and that it collects various additional fees from its members designated as something other than membership fees. Thus the use fee is subject to manipulation and any preferential rate and inherent subsidy will be primarily for nonresidents. While earlier iterations of the City proposal for the range have guessed it's new formula will raise about \$10,000 per year, no estimate is now offered. For the past decade or so, the fee has been less than \$3,000 per year.

These amounts seem low. At the same time, the City's Recreation Department, not part of Public Works, has set fees for other recreational facilities and services not on what user groups charge their members but rather on a combination of factors emphasizing costs to the City and current market rates, sometimes set by a bidding process. Then, if individual residents need help to pay the fees, the City provides subsidies, person by person. And it should be noted that, while some archers may object to higher fees, their equipment, at prices ranging up to \$1,000 for a bow and \$500 for a dozen arrows, suggest most of them could pay a fair price.

The City offers no explanation for its proposal, and this may suggest to some some special preference for this club over other recreational activities. Or the low fee may arise from some historic anomaly, as the range has had a long and unique history. If the standard formula would provide the cash-strapped City with more revenue, it would flow to other recreational uses, like water safety programs for all Pasadena youth.

For these reasons, I ask the Council to obtain an explanation (which has not been forthcoming all these years) and set a formula that appears to fairly compensate the City and support Pasadena residents in all recreational activities.

THE PROPOSED 1500 FOOT NATURAL BARRIER NEEDS TO BE DESCRIBED BEFORE IT IS APPROVED

Safety for the walkers and protection of exclusive use by the archers is to be achieved by a "natural barrier . . . comprised of Arroyo stones and/or boulders . . ." and native plants (p. 5, para. 2). This 1500 foot boundary barrier that is the key element of the proposal will be the largest structure on the west bank of the Arroyo, and native plants are notoriously difficult to start, nourish to maturity, and maintain. If not done properly, the barrier could ruin the area, a line of ugly rocks and dead bushes.

The City says it will in the indefinite future provide "additional information" to the Design Commission. But it purported to make a submission earlier, which that commission dismissed as incomplete. One Commissioner put it this way: "I think of a 'natural barrier' as something you climb over. How will this work?" Moreover, the Public Works Department has retained the discretion to treat the Commission's recommendation as merely advisory and reject any part it does not like.

For these reasons, I ask this Council to set a reasonable schedule for review by the Design Commission subject to final approval by City Council.

The "PASADENA WAY" NEEDS A BETTER ROAD MAP FOR THE ARROYO SECO

While the last three years, and the last several decades, have shown that the Arroyo Seco is deeply loved for widely differing reasons, and this has generated perpetual struggle over whose vision should prevail. Over the past three years archers, walkers, nature lovers, park,lovers, neighbors, City staff, City commissions, Council members, City executives, et al. have searched for solutions. Some archers have sometimes vilified people with other views as enemies attacking them personally because of evil motives. Some walkers and natural park lovers have felt attacked, embittered, and betrayed by the City. Some City staff have sometimes appeared to feel conflicted by irreconcilable contentious factions and hamstrung by City policies that range from inspirational hopes to technical details, like the placement of archery lanes. Some City executives have occasionally appeared to feel unduly bothered over intractable trivialities. And after three years of effort, there is not a generally acceptable proposal of which we can all be proud, as the Arroyo deserves.

Thus the vaunted "Pasadena Way" has proved sometimes to be bumpy and labyrinthine. Maybe we should start again, with a big picnic by the Casting Pond, I don't know. But I,suspect the process could be improved.

CONCLUSION

The current report, the fourth or fifth version of a proposal since the issues arose three years ago, leaves important problems unsolved. The potential for an excellent archery range that is safe, fairly priced, beautiful remains just beyond our reach. but a little more help from this Council might get us there.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John C. Fauvre
530 S. Arroyo Blvd.

Sent from my iPad

Iraheta, Alba

Subject: FW: Dear mayor (archery range)

From: Donna Hollander <donalh46@yahoo.com>

Subject: Dear mayor

Date: September 11, 2013 8:25:14 PM PDT

To: "bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net" <bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net>

Cc: "city_letters@rovingarchers.com" <city_letters@rovingarchers.com>

Reply-To: Donna Hollander <donalh46@yahoo.com>

Dear Mayor Bill Bogaard,

My name is Donna Hollander, a year ago my daughter got our family involved in archery at Pasadena Roving archers.

It was free for the first lesson and \$5 after that.

I was amazed at the level of professionalism, safety, care, and instruction we received.

The people that the range attracted is wide and diverse, scientists, engineers, actors, artists, teachers.

We came to love the core group of people that work so hard to provide a safe and exciting place to spend our Saturday mornings. We are amazed by the ever changing array of people that show up and how everyone is made to feel welcome.

There is a wonderful art store in Pasadena that I rarely came to because it was so far away, but now that I'm at archery on Saturdays it is easy to hop over to the art store and pick up what I need.

So for us archery is opening up Pasadena.

Donna L. Hollander 

Robles, Sandra

Subject: FW: Arroyo Seco and the Roving Archers, who need to be encouraged not to rove

From: Ted Krontiris <tkrontir@gmail.com>

Date: September 13, 2013, 9:53:12 AM PDT

To: <mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net>

Subject: Arroyo Seco and the Roving Archers, who need to be encouraged not to rove

Mayor Bill Bogaard and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

The Arroyo Seco is Pasadena's Great Park. Assembled by concerned citizens over decades, the Arroyo Seco was established for the people of Pasadena as a public park, with the Lower Arroyo reserved in the historic 1918 plan for the enjoyment of nature by hikers and equestrians. The Arroyo Seco has since been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Now the Pasadena Roving Archers club seeks to seize a significant portion of this wooded natural preserve for their exclusive use. Despite over 2 years of negotiations with the club, which has no legal claim to the land and pays a pittance for its use, the City is now about to give in to their demands, closing off this beautiful area to the public forever.

Until recently, walkers and archers co-existed, sharing access with civility. Now, ironically, the peaceful pursuits to which the land was originally dedicated will be outlawed in favor of a private club that uses lethal weapons. School and college running teams and science classes that use the Arroyo frequently will be barred from a major portion of the Lower Arroyo and from a significant area of plant and wildlife habitat. One of the trails to be closed is on the local Audubon Club's bird habitat map.

Instead of awarding exclusive use to one group, I urge that the Council grant a **limited exclusive use** to the club during certain hours on weekends, opening the area for passive recreation during the week. I also urge that the City act quickly to facilitate setting up an archery range in Eaton Canyon, where the sport can be practiced safely.

Please distribute this email to all Council members. Thank you.

Ted Krontiris

770 S. El Molino Ave.

Pasadena

Robles, Sandra

Subject: FW: Use of the Arroyo Seco

Mayor Bill Bogaard and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

The Arroyo Seco is Pasadena's Great Park. Assembled by concerned citizens over decades, the Arroyo Seco was established for the people of Pasadena as a public park, with the Lower Arroyo reserved in the historic 1918 plan for the enjoyment of nature by hikers and equestrians. The Arroyo Seco has since been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Now the Pasadena Roving Archers club seeks to seize a significant portion of this wooded natural preserve for their exclusive use. Despite over 2 years of negotiations with the club, which has no legal claim to the land and pays a pittance for its use, the City is now about to give in to their demands, closing off this beautiful area to the public forever.

Until recently, walkers and archers co-existed, sharing access with civility. Now, ironically, the peaceful pursuits to which the land was originally dedicated will be outlawed in favor of a private club that uses lethal weapons. School and college running teams and science classes that use the Arroyo frequently will be barred from a major portion of the Lower Arroyo and from a significant area of plant and wildlife habitat. One of the trails to be closed is on the local Audubon Club's bird habitat map.

Instead of awarding exclusive use to one group, I urge that the Council grant a **limited exclusive use** to the club during certain hours on weekends, opening the area for passive recreation during the week. I also urge that the City act quickly to facilitate setting up an archery range in Eaton Canyon, where the sport can be practiced safely.

Sincerely,

Betsy Mertens, Pasadena

Robles, Sandra

Subject: FW: Arroyo Seco and the Roving Archers

From: Sue Parilla <parilla.sue@gmail.com>
Date: September 13, 2013, 9:55:58 AM PDT
To: <mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: **Arroyo Seco and the Roving Archers**

Mayor Bill Bogaard and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

The Arroyo Seco is Pasadena's Great Park. Assembled by concerned citizens over decades, the Arroyo Seco was established for the people of Pasadena as a public park, with the Lower Arroyo reserved in the historic 1918 plan for the enjoyment of nature by hikers and equestrians. The Arroyo Seco has since been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Now the Pasadena Roving Archers club seeks to seize a significant portion of this wooded natural preserve for their exclusive use. Despite over 2 years of negotiations with the club, which has no legal claim to the land and pays a pittance for its use, the City is now about to give in to their demands, closing off this beautiful area to the public forever.

Until recently, walkers and archers co-existed, sharing access with civility. Now, ironically, the peaceful pursuits to which the land was originally dedicated will be outlawed in favor of a private club that uses lethal weapons. School and college running teams and science classes that use the Arroyo frequently will be barred from a major portion of the Lower Arroyo and from a significant area of plant and wildlife habitat. One of the trails to be closed is on the local Audubon Club's bird habitat map.

Instead of awarding exclusive use to one group, I urge that the Council grant a **limited exclusive use** to the club during certain hours on weekends, opening the area for passive recreation during the week. I also urge that the City act quickly to facilitate setting up an archery range in Eaton Canyon, where the sport can be practiced safely.

Please distribute this email to all Council members. Thank you.

Sue Parilla

770 S. El Molino Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91106

From: CityWeb-Server@cityofpasadena.net [mailto:CityWeb-Server@cityofpasadena.net]

Sent: Saturday, September 07, 2013 10:48 AM

To: Corey, Delia

Subject: WWW COMMENT

Data from form "Contact City Manager Michael Beck" was received on 9/7/2013 10:48:16 AM.

Send Comments

Field	Value
Your Name	Katherine Wimmer
Phone	6262225885
Email	kathwim@yahoo.com
Comments	<p>I am writing to express my strong concern for the public safety issues of allowing archery on city property. I believe the City Council should vote against extending any agreement with the Roving Archers. In understand Los Angeles County banned archery from the public parks in the 1950s. Bows and arrows have become over the years even more powerful than they were then to the point that they now should be considered lethal weapons. There have been a number of close calls of arrows narrowly missing hitting people. Some of the properties surrounding the Arroyo, I am told, are littered with the spent arrows that have gone far astray. Do we have to wait to someone is seriously injured or killed before the City takes action? I do not see shared use of Archery with walking and other outdoors activities as being a viable option in the Arroyo that is too close to human activity. If another location can be found within the boundaries of Pasadena, then perhaps the Roving Archers could lease that space under conditions that are set by the city and strictly enforced. The Roving Archers should be required to carry liability insurance just as all other private groups. Since the Roving Archers will not supply their membership list, they have not revealed how many of their members are actually Pasadena residents. Also, as the arrangement currently stands anyone (whether they are a member of Roving Archers or not) may use the archery range and someone with no training whatsoever may use the range at will. It is important that the City Council take a leadership stand on protecting our residents and others who use the Arroyo Seco. Please vote "no" on archery in the Lower Arroyo Seco. Thank you for your consideration, Kathy Wimmer Treasurer of San Rafael Library Associates President of Wimmer Associates</p>