



*** Atwater Village Monthly Report ***

Update on current issues in Council District 13, Office of Councilmember Eric Garcetti

June 2008

(Si gustaria un reporte en Español, favor de llamar al 323.957.4500)

Chevy Chase Park Public Safety:

CD13 has been working on two security cameras at the park. Trees have been trimmed, and camera placement agreed upon. The cameras will be on two poles on opposite ends of the park. Radio signal had been established to Northeast Station. Unfortunately, one camera was mounted and immediately shot out. CD13 is now considering what the best option is for moving forward with Anti-Ballistic camera casing. We are trying to find another vendor that will stick to our timeline, but this is proving a challenge.

Glendale Streetscape project:

This project began with public consensus meetings and the formation of a Master Plan for Glendale Boulevard. The larger plan is a multifaceted, multimillion dollar, long term project. To begin, the city put together enough money for Gateway signs, a bump out and signal on Madera, modest landscaping, and increased wattage for the streetlights.

This first phase was finished when the second Monument sign was complete in April. Both signs have been graffiti coated.

CD 13 is currently working on landscaping of the medians- adding trees and landscaping around the monument signs and checking into repair of the sprinkler system. We received an estimate on the planting from General Services, but then had North East trees come in and tell us that they could do the planting, for free. We are taking Northeast Trees up on their offer! We will have 5 new trees: 2 Southern Magnolias and 3 Jacarandas. We also received an estimate for the irrigation system repairs from bureau of street services. The estimate runs in to the ten's of thousands of dollars and we are working on ways to fund this.

Fletcher Drive Street Scape Project:

CD13 has been working over the past year with the FDIA (Fletcher Drive Improvement Association) on beautification and safety. In early 2007, Cathy Cerra and Associates was hired to begin researching a Street Scape Master plan for Fletcher Drive in Atwater Village and Fletcher Drive and Eagle Rock Boulevard in Glassell Park. A series of community meetings and a design workshop have been held in both Atwater Village and Glassell Park. The Master plan is now complete and will be provided to the Atwater Village Library. CD13 is already exploring funding options. For more info call 323/957-4500.

K District:

Though the proposed K District in North Atwater Village is mainly in Council District 4, many of the concerned constituents are CD13 residents. The Planning Department conducted a final round of community outreach over the summer and held a Planning Hearing on 9/17. In December the K District was approved!

Los Angeles River:

The Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan was adopted by the city one year ago. Currently there are efforts at creating the River Corporation through the auspices of the City Redevelopment Agency. Within this framework, the creation of a program to hire a team of people tasked with monitoring safety and working on small maintenance projects is being conceptualized. This would mean creating a dedicated patrolling the river on a regular basis beyond what our Park Rangers and Police already do. Furthermore, improvement options are being explored along the river in Atwater Village so the environment can be cleaner, safer, and more attractive.

Legion Lane meeting, May 10, 2008

Facilitator: Mitch O'Farrell, CD13

Attendance: Approximately 60 people. (41 signed in, an additional 11 filled out a comment form but didn't sign in, but there were a few more in attendance judging by a head count).

Purpose of the meeting: To get a sense of how the community felt about purchasing the 3 parcels at 3781 Legion Lane and creating a public park.

It should be noted that full funding to acquire the lots is far from certain. However, CD13 wanted to explore this possibility in conjunction with hearing from the community.

Several years ago a house was built there without the proper permits. It has sat empty since that time. In the last year the current owner received his entitlements and paved the street, installed storm drains, and street lights. The owner has entitlements to construct 2 more homes but would rather sell the existing house and both empty lots. The area is surrounded by homes to the North, South and east, and the Los Angeles River to the west. It is accessible by Legion Lane and the River.

Meeting:

I made introductions and gave an overview of why we were gathered. Roberta Javier helped me with sign in sheets and questionnaire's.

We then began hearing from individuals:

The first was a question that someone posed to the group asking for a show of hands in opposition to a park. We then did a show of hands of those who are neutral and those in support of a park. Results:

Opposed: 15

Neutral: 5

Supportive: 25

Here is a list of the comments Mitch took down at the meeting:

- 1. Current maintenance of the existing parks along the River is non existent. How can we expect anyone to take care of a new park?***
- 2. What about the fire hazards that exist already?***

3. *The existing median between Legion Lane and the River is not maintained.*
4. *Improve and maintain the river channel but don't put a park here.*
5. *We need pedestrian & Bicycle access.*
6. *There is a gang/graffiti issue and I don't believe there would be maintenance.*
7. *If there is a park, there must be a fence.*
8. *There are already plenty of parks.*
9. *The dead end location is not accessible and it will become a homeless destination.*
10. *Our kids need a park we can walk to so I support a park here. There will always be problems but a park is necessary.*
11. *Tax money should go to other purposes.*
12. *What's the alternative?*
13. *Things aren't being taken care of now. Why should we believe a park will be taken care of?*
14. *I'm in favor of a park but it will need to be patrolled.*
15. *I want a nature/sanctuary area but we need a conservancy to maintain it.*
16. *The existing parks are already overgrown. Legion Lane should tie in to existing parks along the river but they all would need to be maintained.*
17. *Open parcels are few and far between so we should take advantage of this opportunity and build a park.*
18. *The police don't respond to me when I call them.*
19. *Community members could form a coalition to maintain a park there.*
20. *What happens to the house?*
21. *The house could be incorporated into some type of public use.*
22. *Any park must have security and maintenance.*
23. *What's the natural history of the site? (Referred to AV historical society).*
24. *We have to see the positive in the community.*
25. *How about a community garden?*

Questionnaire results: Yes, No, Undecided with comments attached.

- YES *Access to River & bike path*
- YES *Easy access to river & bike path*
- NO *Gang hang out, drug dealing. Area not for children to play*
- YES *Good lighting, & security gate hours of operations*
- UND.
- NO *Who will pay to build park & to maintain*
- YES *Well secured playground*
- YES *Play ground, good lighting, and cameras*
- YES *well like play ground*
- YS *play ground, bike path, & meeting facility*
- NO *Drug and gang*
- NO *Drug and gang*
- YES *well secured w/playground & green*

YES well secured w/playground & green
YES with training for adults
YES with training for adults
YES Playground, Basketball courts
YES cover patios, BBQ area, play ground
NO Gang & homeless hang out
UND Depends on proposal
YES
YES well secured w/reasonable hours
YES
YES
YES would be pleased to see this happen
YES
YES Play grd., water fountains, and good
YES
YES Play grd., youth cntr., & botanical garden
YES
UND
NO Hang out for homeless, & gang members
NO gang activity, not safe to walk dogs
YES Children's play equipment
NO gang and homeless problems
NO graffiti problems & gang hang out
YES dog park, garden, & art sculptures

The Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority is responsible for maintaining most pocket parks along the river including the ones north of the Legion Lane properties.

*Here is their contact information:
 Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority
 570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100
 Los Angeles, CA 90065
 Tel: (323) 221-9944
 Fax: (323) 221-9934*

~USEFUL NUMBERS & WEBSITES~

For non emergency police service – 1/877-ASK-LAPD

For emergencies – 9-1-1

For all city services – 3-1-1

For all County Services – 2-1-1

Atwater Village Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Gina Chovan: 213/793-0713

Northeast Division General Number: 213/485-2563

Atwater Village Neighborhood Council www.atwatervillage.org

Friends of Atwater Village www.friendsofatwatervillage.org

For more information please contact Billie Jean Londoño or Sally Martinez at the Glassell Park satellite office, Councilmember Garcetti's caseworker for the area. They can be reached at 323-478-9002. You can also contact the Hollywood Field Office at 323-957-4500.