



**SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL  
BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE**



**MINUTES**

Huntington Beach Civic Center  
Room B8, Lower Level  
2000 Main Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648  
April 18, 2006  
5:00 p.m.

Present: Council Committee Gil Coerper, Cathy Green (Chair), Dave Sullivan; City Staff Dave Dominguez, Jim B. Engle, Cheryl Robinson; John Anderson; Stephanie Barger; Ellen Brown; Garry Brown; Jerry Dominguez; Lena Hayashi; Jerry King; Merrilee Madrigal; John Scott

Mayor Sullivan called the Santa Ana River Trail Blue Ribbon Committee to order at 5:10 p.m. and made a motion that was seconded by Coerper to make Green Chair of the committee. Green accepted and asked Engle to give an overview of what the committee is trying to accomplish. He gave an historical perspective of what Orange County and the cities of Newport Beach and Costa Mesa are doing, and explained that Huntington Beach will be creating a vision statement concerning the Santa Ana River Trail.

Engle introduced Lena Hayashi with the Orange County River Park (OCRCP) and the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy, who provided a PowerPoint on the OCRCP, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve, enhance and expand parks, open space and coastal recreation facilities in Orange County. She said their first project is the OCRCP, a thousand acre project in a densely populated area in central Orange County. Hayashi noted that the three goals of developing the park are to restore an ecological staircase; extend a passage to the coast; and to create an oasis of tranquility. She estimated the cost of the OCRCP to be \$51 million. She said it is the intent of OCRCP to have the agencies ban together to seek funding over the next five to ten years to accomplish their goal.

Barger invited everyone to the OCRCP Open House at Fairview Park in Costa Mesa on Saturday, April 29 at 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Engle reported that he and other Community Services staff are attending the tri-county and Orange County meetings on this project. He said the groups

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hope to combine marketing and funding efforts. He noted that Huntington Beach has to refine its involvement with the OCRP project, and that the committee would be doing that and creating a vision statement. He referred attendees to the draft vision statement provided in the agenda packet as well as examples of two other agencies' vision statements.

Engle reported that The Wildlands Conservancy would make a \$5,000 grant available to the city towards its effort to create its vision statement and to market it.

Chair Green advised that at its meeting Monday evening, City Council reviewed an offer of \$30,000 from the Friends of Harbors, Beaches & Parks (FHBP) as an initial fund to lease Southern California Edison property adjacent to LeBard Park, and directed staff to determine the impacts to the city of adding five acres of leased property to the city's park system, including costs for development, lease payments, drainage problems, and maintenance.

Chair Green asked for public comments and received the following:

- There is a need for a master plan of bicycle trails to be considered as part of the OCRP.
- The area from Little Shell to the river should be reassessed to determine what could be a part of the project and then draft a master plan.
- The trail should be studied to determine how it is being used currently. There needs to be equity for all users (pedestrians and bicyclists).
- Decomposed granite (DG) should be considered for pedestrian trails; DG does not necessarily lend itself to bicycles.
- Multiple areas for staging should be considered where groups could hold activities.
- We should consider a general plan for the Huntington Beach Santa Ana River that includes as much open space as possible. Consider closed LeBard School for an interpretive center. Section river plan into three areas: Victoria-Hamilton to the ocean; Hamilton-Victoria to Adams; Adams to Garfield.

Jerry Dominguez, SCE, explained the process of licensing agreements with specifics on how licensed property is used, length of agreements (five years), cost, etc. He spoke on SCE's involvement in the community and past history with the city, and advised that SCE currently leases six

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properties to the city for parkland. He noted that the five-acre SCE property south of LeBard Park is currently involved in litigation and is under a license agreement to a nursery. Dominguez noted how costly it is to develop SCE properties within SCE's constraints, maintain them, and pay the license fees. Engle commented that SCE has been a great partner to the city and has tried to keep the fees for existing licensed parkland to a nominal amount.

Chair Green thanked attendees for their comments, and received their agreement to keep the committee meetings on Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. Engle was asked to set up the next meeting and work with the Chair to develop an agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Robinson, Administrative Assistant



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**AGENDA**

Huntington Beach Civic Center  
Room B9, Lower Level  
2000 Main Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648  
June 12, 2006  
5:00 p.m.

Council Committee: Gil Coerper; Cathy Green; Dave Sullivan

City Staff: Dave Dominguez; Jim B. Engle; Cheryl Robinson

1. Public Comments (*Note: Comments are limited to 3 minutes per person*)
2. Review of Huntington Beach Elements of Blue Ribbon Committee Master Plan
3. Huntington Beach Vision Statement
4. Adjournment

Community Groups: Carrie Thomas, Huntington Beach Community Services Commission; Jerry Dominguez, Southern California Edison; Lena Hayashi, HB Wetlands Conservancy/OC River Park; Merrilee Madrigal, HB River Park Foundation; D. P. Myers, The Wildlands Conservancy; Jean Watt, Friends of Harbors, Beaches & Parks; Stephanie Barger, Earth Resource Foundation; Melanie Schlotterbeck, Santa Ana River Watershed Alliance; Garry Brown, Coastkeepers; Steve Homer, Southeast Huntington Beach Neighborhood Association; Doug Traub, Conference & Visitors Bureau; Mary Behrens, HCP Equestrian Center