



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: October 17, 2006

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FOR THE SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL VISION PLAN

DATE: OCTOBER 9, 2006

FROM: City Manager's Office

PRESENTATION BY: THOMAS R. HATCH, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: CAROL C. PROCTOR AT (714) 754-5688

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the modified membership of the Blue Ribbon Committee for the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Plan.

BACKGROUND:

At their August 1, 2006 meeting, City Council unanimously authorized the City to participate in the Santa Ana River Habitat and Recreational Planning project (Santa Ana River Trail). As part of this action, City Council accepted a \$5,000 grant from The Wildlands Conservancy (TWC) and designated the Fairview Park Friends Committee to serve as the Blue Ribbon Committee for creating a vision document. The vision document will provide habitat restoration and passive recreational activities and trail links along the River trail on the City's westerly border. (See Attachment 1 – Staff Report of August 1, 2006, for reference.)

ANALYSIS:

Members of the Fairview Park Friends Committee discussed their role as the Blue Ribbon Committee at their meeting of September 12, 2006. The members believed the vision plan to be an important element in connecting Fairview Park and other areas in the City to a regional trail and other parklands, including the Orange Coast River Park. However, they expressed concern that taking the lead in this endeavor would be too daunting a task for the entire Committee. Three members of the Committee have volunteered to serve on the Blue Ribbon Committee: John Anderson, Mark Tabbert, and Bill Thomas. Additionally, a City resident, Jay Litviet, has indicated his interest in being a member.

Fairview Park Friends Committee Council Liaisons Linda Dixon and Katrina Foley, and Parks Commissioner Liaison Robert Graham met with staff to consider the modified

membership, the time frame for completing the vision plan, and the possibility of hiring the facilitator used by the City of Santa Ana for their project. It was concluded that:

- a smaller group would be more efficient;
- the Blue Ribbon Committee consist of those individuals who expressed interest in serving;
- outside agency representatives who are already knowledgeable about the overall Santa Ana River Trail system and vision plans (such as from Orange County Harbors, Beaches & Parks and Southern California Edison) be invited to attend applicable meetings;
- the projected time frame be six months;
- the group meet monthly or as needed to complete the document in a timely manner;
- a facilitator be considered to assist with the process, preferably one familiar with the vision plans through TWC;
- at least one community input meeting be held;
- the vision document project be overseen by Fairview Park Plan Administrator Robert Staples; and
- the document prepared by the Committee be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission for their review and recommendation to the City Council for final approval, and then forwarded to TWC. TWC is overseeing the entire project and is the collection point for all public agency vision documents for the Santa Ana River Trail. TWC will create an overall plan using these documents and will be working to secure funding through grants, Proposition 84 funds and other means.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

None.

FISCAL REVIEW:

A budget adjustment will be processed when The Wildlands Conservancy grant is received. This funding may be used towards a facilitator fee.

LEGAL REVIEW:

No further legal review is required.

CONCLUSION:

City Council is requested to consider and approve the modified Blue Ribbon Committee Membership for the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Plan.

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Director of Finance (fiscal review only)

DISTRIBUTION: Parks & Recreation Commission
Public Services Director
Development Services Director
Transportation Services Manager
Fairview Park Plan Administrator
Parks Project Manager

John Anderson
Mark Tabbert
Bill Thomas
Jay Litviet

ATTACHMENTS: 1 [City Council Agenda Report from August 1, 2006](#)