



Photograph Courtesy of Pasadena Historical Society

No. 9

January 1982

WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Program: Jane Ellison speaking on
the Urban Design Plan

Thursday, 11 March 1982
7:30 p.m.

La Casita del Arroyo
177 S. Arroyo Blvd., Pasadena

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform the residents of the West Pasadena and San Rafael areas about issues of possible concern. It is the hope of W.P.R.A. to publish this newsletter four times a year. The editors wish to keep the newsletter informal and welcome any news articles, suggestions, comments, and help. Do call us.

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MESSAGE FROM WILLIAM J. BOGAARD, MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CITY OF PASADENA

Last month, the City Board conducted a policy workshop on goals and objectives for fiscal 1983. It was part of the Board's new program to study and make decisions on important policies affecting the future of Pasadena.

The goals and objectives workshop was an important step in the Board's work on next year's budget, which must be adopted before 1 July 1982. The results of the three hour session established the direction of the City during the next 18 months.

Among the significant conclusions reached were (a) a renewed commitment to control of crime; (b) an emphasis on balanced development policy, designed to encourage new development which meets community needs for jobs and housing and reinforces the special quality of living in Pasadena; and (c) a policy of inviting the neighborhood associations into the City policy making.

After lengthy discussion, the Board adopted as a 1982-83 goal "increased police patrol services in the commercial and residential areas of the City and increased involvement of citizens in the effort to control crimes." During the next sixty days, the Board will examine ways to provide additional police patrol services including an active effort to receive suggestions from Pasadena residents.

It is likely that the Neighborhood Watch program will be expanded; and a committee of City Directors will examine ways to use cable television to provide fire and burglar alarm and medical alert systems.

Regarding new construction, the City Board is committed to accommodate the record level of development that is occurring in Pasadena in a manner that maintains Pasadena's character.

During 1981, new office construction equalled 300% of the annual average for the five years ending 1980! The dollar amount of new developments in the last five years approximates 500 million. This pace of development presents major environmental challenges, which the Board seeks to meet.

Negotiations are underway on the Cushman project on the old Broadway store site with the developer planning to commence construction before the end of 1982.

Finally in its workshop, the Board recognized the increasing importance of neighborhood associations by stating its intention that the associations

be consulted regularly, and by establishing a policy of "supporting the involvement of residents associations in the policy making process."

The City wants to be responsive to concerns in the community. That gives increased importance to the work of West Pasadena Residents' Association.

PASADENA NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

The growing strength of neighborhood organizations cannot be denied. Historically, however, most have been provincial in thought; limiting their activities to within their neighborhood boundaries.

Pasadena has recently broken out of that mold with the foundation of the *Pasadena Neighborhood Network*—an organization made up of representatives from most of the 52 neighborhood associations within the city.

After six months of intense meetings, the articles of association were ratified on November 3, 1981. The preamble of those articles contain the following:

'The common purpose is to preserve, maintain, and improve the environment, livability and quality of life in Pasadena.'

'The common needs are communication among neighborhood associations, the sharing of information, expertise and experience, the exchange of newsletters, the appointment and identification of contact persons, the establishment of sources of current information about city plans and procedures that concern neighborhoods, and the formation of an organization that can express a consensus of opinion of the participating neighborhood organizations to the members of the City Board of Directors, Commissioners, Staff, and others.'

'The common ideal is respect for the unity, vitality, and richness of life of the residents of Pasadena as demonstrated by the diversity of the neighborhoods, the cultural, scientific and educational institutions in the city and the pluralism of races, national origins, social and economic groups and religion found within our community.'

The Neighborhood Network is basically an outgrowth of a merger between the Independent Neighborhood Associations (INA) and the Congress of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) and one which has emerged as a new city-wide organization with a broad base of support throughout the city. The officers elected at the November meeting are as follows:

President Thomas D. Seifert
Vice President Robert Douglas
Secretary Susan Mossman
Treasurer Ernest Sanchez
Newsletter Editor Nancy Crawford
Chairman, Advisory Committee... James Gruettner
Neighborhood Liaison Robert Scott

The meetings, which are held monthly have proven lively and educational. The newest City Directors, Bill Thomson and Jess Hughston, spoke after their weekend at Coto de Caza. Various representatives have made presentations soliciting support on issues within their specific neighborhoods. An open forum was held to determine areas of greatest concern. Jane Ellison spoke on the Urban Design Plan, and on February 3, 1982, Mayor Jo Heckman will present her "State of the City" address to the neighborhood representatives.

The Pasadena Neighborhood Network seems to have gotten the City's attention. Officers and representatives have been asked to appear before or meet with the Cultural Heritage Commission, the Redistricting Committee, Neighborhood Development, Community Services (relative to their CDBG program), and various individual City Directors. It is hoped that the presence of the Neighborhood Network will make individual neighborhood associations all the more effective in achieving their goals and realizing their potentials. The WPRA has been a major supporter of the Network from the beginning and recognizes its importance.

URBAN DESIGN PLAN

The Urban Design Plan has been under preparation for approximately one year within the City of Pasadena. Review of the preliminary draft of the Urban Design Plan will be completed at a special meeting of the City Board of Directors on Saturday, 6 February 1982 at 10:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the City Hall.

The preliminary plan has engendered a good deal of interest within the community. Many believe that the Urban Design Plan will be the means for reconciling the diverse views expressed recently about the kind of a community Pasadena should become. The Urban Design Plan represents a zoning program to carry out Pasadena's dual efforts to encourage new development and to preserve the unique character of the city and its special quality of living.

In addition to providing guidelines for development, the plan provides information needed

to formulate mitigation measures for adverse environmental impacts of new development, particularly traffic congestion; to encourage residential land use in the Central Business District; and to measure the scale and density of development so problems of unbridled new construction can be avoided.

Once review of the preliminary plan is completed, the Advisory Task Force, a group of citizens, will continue to meet with the consultants to refine the plan. Pasadena citizens are encouraged to follow the developments of the Urban Design Plan. For more information, call Jane Ellison, Director of Urban Conservation, at 577-4206. Copies of the preliminary plan are available at all Pasadena libraries.

UPDATES

Vista del Arroyo — The Pasadena architectural firm of Neptune and Thomas will soon begin the restoration of the Vista del Arroyo tower, on South Grand Avenue.

The judges from the United States Court of Appeals have hired Raymond Girvigian, a South Pasadena resident, and architect, to oversee the interior work of the historic structure. Mr. Girvigian was recently featured in a newspaper story which detailed his work on the restoration of the State Capitol in Sacramento. The judges are anxious that the new court facility within the Vista tower have design which is in keeping with its original architectural quality.

The final Environmental Impact Statement has been published and will be certified.

The disposition of the nineteen bungalows is still an unresolved question, but it is likely that several will be demolished to provide additional parking for the court building. Meanwhile, several developers are studying the possibility of restoring the bungalows for residential use once again. The nineteen buildings which have been declared structurally sound, were, in fact, designed by some of Pasadena's leading architects, including Sylvanus Marston and Myron Hunt. The bungalows and tower building are all listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

NEIGHBORHOOD STREET WORK

Neighbors in the West Pasadena area have noticed the reconstruction work of Fair Oaks to south of California Boulevard, which was recently completed. In December, the City Board of Directors approved Phase II for the continued

reconstruction of Fair Oaks Avenue south to State Street.

The proposed second project would include extending the construction of the roadway in concrete to State Street, replacing all existing curb and gutters, installing two sections of storm drain to relieve flooding along the roadway, replacing a deficient sewer, and installing street trees. New street lighting will be installed as part of the contract.

Neighbors might use Raymond as an alternative north-south route during the construction period.

FAIR OAKS/ALESSANDRO ZONE CHANGE

Neighbors in the Alessandro Place area, west of Fair Oaks, and south of Bellefontaine, were surprised recently to learn of a public hearing scheduled before the Planning Commission for a proposed change of zone for their neighborhood from residential to commercial. A group of doctors and investors had approached the City with a plan to construct a large medical facility adjacent to the Cotton Medical Center but needed to change the zone from residential to a business overlay.

Neighbors were concerned with the impacts that such a development and the changed zoning might have on the residential neighborhoods to the west and to the south. At the conclusion of the public hearing at the City Board level, a compromise was reached.

The medical facility will be permitted within a modified "business overlay" zone, with some restrictions, including a limit of the parking structure to two stories. No above grade structure will be permitted on the surface parking lot on Hurlbut. That lot will be further restricted to ingress only with mechanically operated controls limiting its use to employees only. This will result in further limitations on traffic on the residential street of Hurlbut. In addition, the R-1 zoning on Bellefontaine Street would continue unchanged.

According to an account in a local newspaper, "Pasadena City Directors served notice Tuesday they will not permit medical facilities to encroach any further into housing areas surrounding Huntington Memorial Hospital... Further demand for ancillary medical facilities near the hospital will have to be met by construction along Fair Oaks Avenue, the City Board indicated."

Neighbors along Bellefontaine near South Orange Grove arranged to meet with the City Traffic Engineer, Dave Barnhart, to discuss in-

creased traffic along their street, resulting from the proposed project. Discussions include possible traffic diversion steps of various kinds.

THE HUNTINGTON HOSPITAL HOMES

Last spring, members of the West Pasadena Neighborhood Association learned that the tenants in the three homes on the southeast corner of California Boulevard and Pasadena Avenue had received eviction notices. The homes which belonged to the Huntington Memorial Hospital were to be demolished.

Residents of west Pasadena, Pasadena Heritage, City officials, and even a columnist from the *Los Angeles Times* called the Huntington Hospital with a plea for "time" with the hope that new sites could be found for the three historic homes. The *Star News* carried a story about the plight of the three homes. For a short time, it was believed that a developer would be moving the homes to a site in Altadena.

Neighbors, upon learning that the developer was unable to proceed with his plans, once again approached the Huntington Hospital with a request for "time." Interested parties were told that more than a month's delay had already been granted and that the houses would be demolished. The site was needed immediately as a temporary parking lot for the heavy equipment needed to construct the parking structure on the corner of Bellefontaine and Pasadena Avenue. The homes were demolished, a number of mature trees were removed and a chain link fence erected.

Several months later, a spokesman from the Huntington Hospital was invited to address the Board of WPRA regarding the expansion plans of the hospital. At that time, WPRA Board members learned that the hospital had never received a permit from the State of California needed to begin any construction, including that of the garage on Bellefontaine. Board members learned further that the needed permit would not be issued for at least six months and maybe as long as four years!! And meanwhile—the West Pasadena neighborhood lost three stately mansions, which provided needed housing and historic interest to those traveling California Boulevard—to an empty lot, a chain link fence, and an uncertain future.

ARROYO SECO ORDINANCE

November 10th ended the public hearing of the proposed Arroyo Seco Ordinance. The ordinance

has been referred to a sub-committee of the Board of Directors composed of Directors Bogaard, Crowley, and Thomson. The sub-committee will bring their recommendations back to the City Board and additional hearings will be scheduled to provide for public input.

PASADENA ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SURVEY

The City of Pasadena will sponsor a series of training classes designed to teach volunteers how to recognize and describe architectural examples from the Victorian, the craftsman, the Twenties and Thirties periods in Pasadena.

Five two-hour training classes featuring speakers Dr. Robert Winter and Ken Miedema will begin on February 13, 1982 at 10 a.m. Classes will continue on consecutive Saturday mornings in Room 242 (the Council Chambers), City Hall. Ten hours of volunteer time from participants will be requested to help further work on an architectural and historical survey now in progress within the City of Pasadena.

Come learn about the architecture of Pasadena, the development of neighborhoods and our urban history! Join others who share your delight in the Pasadena environment by becoming a volunteer surveyor, researcher, or photographer. Classes are free but registration is necessary. For further information, call Ann Scheid in the Department of Urban Conservation, City Hall at 577-4206.

CIRCUS... CIRCUS... CIRCUS...

Sponsored by the Junior League of Pasadena, The Circus will again be held in the Rose Bowl on March 27 and 28, 1982. There will be two performances each day, at 11 A.M. and 3 P.M. Tickets are available through Ticketron or for more information call 796-8924.

TOUR

An Architectural Walking Tour of the Prospect Neighborhood will be sponsored by Pasadena Heritage on Saturday, 27 February 1982. The neighborhood has just been nominated as an historic district to the National Register of Historic Places. The tour will include the history of the development of the neighborhood, visits to the interiors of several homes and refreshments. Reservations, which are necessary, can be made by calling the office of Pasadena Heritage at 793-0617.

NEIGHBORHOOD FIRE WATCH PROGRAM

The Pasadena Fire Department, under the leadership of Administrative Chief Carl E. Marckmann and Capt. II Joe Nestor, is offering to neighborhood associations, the *Neighborhood Fire Watch Program*. The program will cover a full presentation of home fire safety, including a film and an overview of fire problems of all aspects of the home and residential buildings. Various prevention steps and danger areas will be discussed. If you are interested in such a program for your block or neighborhood, call Administrative Chief Carl E. Marckmann 577-4655, 8-5 Monday-Friday or Captain II Joe Nestor 577-4342, B Shift.

For Your Information

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

Burglary continues to be of great concern to the residents of Pasadena. Both the Police Department and WPRA encourage each neighborhood block to contact Agent Curtis, who will help you formalize a program for each specific area. His telephone number is: 577-4550.

Did you know?

... that members of the Police Department will come to your block to describe the Neighborhood Watch Program?

... that a Police Officer will come to your home upon request to advise you about potential security problems?

Help to reduce residential burglary on our streets. Call Agent Curtis today!

WHERE TO CALL IN CITY HALL IN CASE OF:

1. Abandoned or junk vehicles 577-4633
2. Vehicles parked on lawns or vacant lots 577-4149
3. Trash and debris on lawns or vacant lots 577-4087
4. Poorly maintained houses and yards 577-4633
5. Overcrowded dwellings 577-4633
6. Boarded-up houses 577-4633
7. Businesses operated in a home 577-4149
8. Too many garage or yard sales 577-4152
9. Health problems in a home or yard 577-4390
10. Animal problems 792-7151
11. Overgrown street trees or vegetation ... 577-4158
12. Cracked sidewalks 577-4158
13. Streets that need sweeping 577-4158
14. Problems with garbage pickup 577-4158
15. Errors on utility bills 577-2440
16. Landlord/tenant disagreements 794-7194
17. Need for a low-interest home loan 796-1813
18. Need for assistance in Spanish 792-3148
19. POLICE DEPARTMENT 577-4241
20. FIRE DEPT. and PARAMEDICS 792-4161