

## **Meeting Outline**

### **El Toro Trail**

**June 2, 2012 • 10 a.m. – 12 noon • Council Chambers**

#### **1. Welcome and introductions (Karl Bjarke, City Engineer)**

- Introduce: City representatives, OSA representatives, Consultant
- Purpose of meeting to involve community in implementation of the adopted 2007 City Trails Plan;
- Share plans for trail access to El Toro and get feedback from neighbors to make project a success;
- Briefly note grants and significant public investment that made this project possible including \$184K from OSA to secure Acton property (the eastern face of El Toro) and Council-approved applications for transportation funding grants
- Project history and timeline
- Note sign-in and comment opportunities: Comment sheets, e-mail or mail to David Gittleson

*Visual Aids:* Board with trail planning time line

Board with map #6 from Trails and Natural Resources Study

#### **2. Project background and objectives (BFS)**

- Recreational demands of a growing city and region: meet growing needs in a timely and sustainable fashion (recognize and implement trends)
- Quality of life: Hiking and walking consistently top rated recreational activities; low impact, affordable, nature experience, health promoting;
- Benefits of trails: environmental, health and well being, assets to community
- El Toro trail is part of a larger trail network: expand local experience;
- Current and past uses of trail, including recent trail survey findings

#### **3. Existing trail conditions and proposed improvements (BFS)**

While not official, the existing trail has been in use for a long time; the proposed improvements formalize an existing condition rather than create a new use

##### **Existing Conditions:**

- Environment concerns: Because trail is too steep it causes environmental degradation including erosion of soils and destruction of habitat and cannot be maintained
- Public health and welfare concerns: Because trail is too steep it is unsafe to use; history of occasional injuries and recent search and rescue event

- Visual impact concerns: Because of the degradation of the trail it has become a viewshed concern: decommissioning of trail would allow for rehabilitation of existing trail
- Trespassing concern: Current informal trail alignment results in private property trespasses

### **Trail Visioning:**

- Phase 1: Meandering trail less steep, with firm surface and safe cross slope; connection to OSA trail segment; preserves viewshed
- Future phase (ultimate objective): connection to El Toro summit based on willing sellers; alignment not determined at this time
- Recommended trail uses: hiking and bicycling plus dogs on fixed 6' leash; no equestrian uses
- CEQA process to comply with environmental requirements
- Volunteer program to educate trail users and enforce trail etiquette and assist in maintenance of trail

*Visual Aids:* Perspective map and plan map of proposed trail alignments

## **4. Presentation and discussion of neighborhood concerns**

### **Concerns and Proposed Improvements (BFS to make intro statement; discussions will be handled by various team members)**

- Thank residents for providing early comments.
- Provided opportunity to think about possible improvements.
- Currently aware of the following concerns: Parking, trailhead location, safety, litter and fire.
- Ask for feedback on any other concerns not listed and ideas/suggestions on how to address them.
- Outline to residents how we will step through and record comments.

### **Parking (David)**

Concerns: Trail users occupy street parking spaces needed by residents

Improvements: Designated parking at library, on east DeWitt Ave. and City Hall on weekends; 'no parking' signage; increased police presence to enforce parking requirements; explore permit parking system if necessary; OSA exploring options to secure a formal parking area including potential collaboration with City

### **Trailhead (Karl)**

Concerns: Trailhead is located adjacent to residential properties causing disturbance

Improvements: Recessed, fenced/screened trail head to ensure privacy of residents; signage (regulatory, informative/map, interpretive and trail etiquette ); consideration of other trail heads per Trails plan to disperse trail use/trail entry

points (OSA exploring use of Church parking lot; City engaged in discussions with property owner at Dunne Ave)

#### **Safety (Derek)**

Concerns: Trail users hang out at trail head and in cars; alcohol and drug use

Improvements: Increased police presence to enforce parking requirements; more users => more self-policing; presence of trail volunteers; trailhead removed from residences

#### **Litter (Julie)**

Concerns: Trail users drop litter in street and sidewalk

Improvements: Trash receptacles at trailhead; trash receptacles in designated parking areas; trail volunteer maintenance; designated parking => trail users are only passing through; City trash pick-up

#### **Fire (Matt and Derek)**

Concerns: Trail users might cause fire that could spread to neighborhood

Improvements/Comments: Concern is unfounded; statistical evidence shows that fires are typically not caused by trail users

#### **Additional comments/concerns not noted above**

#### **5. Next steps (Karl Bjarke)**

- Community Meeting(s)
- PRC Presentation
- City Council Presentation