

PVP Watch Newsletter – October 11, 2008

To Our Friends & Supporters:

REMINDER – For those NOT registered to vote, registration forms must be filed by October 20th. Permanent Absentee ballot applications can be downloaded from www.pvpwatch.com

RPV City Hall – The Continuing Sagas

Monks Case

For those who may be unaware, the "Monks Case" is a legal situation wherein the Plaintiffs (the owners of 16 parcels - approximately 1 acre each in Portuguese Band) sued the City of Rancho Palos Verdes (RPV) because RPV denied Plaintiffs permits to develop these properties. There is much history but succinctly RPV won the initial trial. Plaintiffs appealed and recently the Appeals Court (Second Appellate District / Division One) ruled for the Plaintiffs thus reversing the trial courts decision. The Courts decision is posted at www.pvpwatch.com / Current Issues.

The October 9, 2008 edition of the PV News included an excellent, well written article by Ashley Ratcliff which succinctly presented the Court's conclusions. Ashley's article as well as other Monk relevant information is also posted on the PVP Watch web site. We encourage RPV tax-payers to read the "Monks" case information for themselves.

It is reported that RPV's response to the Appellate Courts decision is to incur more legal expense by appealing to the California Supreme Court. Current RPV Mayor Doug Stern, an attorney, is using the usual losing attorney argument that the Court is wrong, RPV must appeal. After all it is not the Councilmen's money that is at stake, only some egos. It seems to us that Stern's history of overzealous denial of private property rights is what got RPV into this mess. Stern was the driving force on the council that pushed to get the design factor-of-safety to 1.5; this appeared to be the unreasonable requirement which the appeals court considered as one of the factors in their reversal. It appears that RPV may be obligated to some serious financial penalties caused by Stern and his fellow attorney Councilman Tom Long. PVP Watch will continue to monitor this serious situation.

Trash

Well, here we go again. At last Tuesday's October 7th meeting RPV Council agreed to retain a consulting firm to assist in negotiating a new trash contract. It was about two years ago when they made the same expensive mistake. They spent about \$135,000 to only throw the proposals in the "trash" can. We did note that Councilmen Wolowicz & Gardiner were not favorable towards

hiring a consultant again but seemed to go along as the proposed \$135,000 was a not to exceed. We all know how that will conclude.

The reason is that this is but more ridiculousness is because the last drill found few responders. The existing haulers were doing a good job, residents were satisfied, and questioned why City Hall was seeking change. What should be done is to first negotiate with the existing trash vendors. They have the business and presumably would like to keep it. Proposals can be compared to existing costs as well as other close by cities. We have a high paid senior staff (\$135,000 for Public Works Director Bell & Finance Director McLean & over \$140,000 for Deputy City Manager Petru). Are these people not competent to negotiate a contract? Why is a consultant needed to do this?

CVS Pharmacy

The proposed project for converting the Valero service station at Hawthorne Blvd & Granvia Altamira to a CVS pharmacy is on the Planning Commission agenda for next Tuesday October 14th. There are many in the adjoining neighborhood opposed to this project. If you wish to voice an opinion, the e-mail address for the Planning Commission is pc@rpv.com

Marymount Update

An emerging matter that should interest all Peninsula residents, but particularly those on RPV's "East Side" is the Marymount expansion project. For more information concerning Marymount's plans, go to <http://www.marymountimprovement.com/>

The final EIR (Environmental Impact Report) is expected soon. Other than the NIMBY (not in my backyard) approach by a limited, but vocal group, it seems that many area residents find the Marymount plans appealing. One of the NIMBY's reported objections is that "dorms" will lead to wild parties and increased noise. Seems like unfounded and horrible accusations to us. Another alleged problem is traffic. Although there are traffic issues on the Eastside, (as anyone living near Miraleste Intermediate School and the Early Learning Center knows), It would seem that having students living on campus would reduce traffic rather than increase it.

Trader Joe's

Good News, It has been reported by RPV City Hall that the Trader Joe's at Golden Cove project has been resuscitated. We shall all watch for completion. Phone calls & e-mails do work.

RPV & Fire Hazards

Most who either reside adjacent or close to a canyon are ever vigilant for potential fire causing hazards. While most are aware of ordinances / codes for brush clearing, it seems there is a problem as to who has code enforcement responsibility when homeowners and or government

entities such as the city are negligent. One of our associates encountered a paradoxical situation in attempting to get fire codes enforced. Read the story at www.pvpwatch.com / Current Issues. If readers have encountered similar scenarios, send your story to info@pvpwatch.com

For those awaiting PVP Watch views on this years Propositions, opinions will be published shortly.

PVP Watch – Newsletter List

A reminder to ALL PVP Watch supporters. Should you change your e-mail address, don't forget to advise PVP Watch of your new address.

PVP Watch – Contributions

PVP Watch welcomes modest contributions. Those desiring to contribute, please send checks to PVP Watch PO Box 7000-22 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

Subscribers

The PVP Watch e-mail list continues to grow. For those who wish their addresses removed, please send notice to info@pvpwatch.com

PVP Watch strives to bring current issues to www.pvpwatch.com. Those who have topics of community interest are encouraged to bring those issues to PVP Watch.

The Editorial Committee