



CITY OF PASADENA

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

**OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
HAHAMONGNA WATERSHED PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

6:00 p.m.

Virtual Zoom Meeting

**1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by former, most recent Chair,
Cindy Clark-Schnuelle**

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Tim Martinez, Terri MacQuarrie, Treasure Sheppard, Jonathan Fuhrman, Mark Mastromatteo, Cindy Clark-Schnuelle, Daniel Rossman, John Onderdonk

Staff Present: Ara Maloyan (PW), Rosa Laveaga (PW), Jason Crouch (PW), Elisa Ventura (PW&P), Jeffrey Hernandez, (ED), Gary Devore (Dolt), Jade Chang (Dolt)

3. Public Comment on Matters not on the Agenda and Items over which the Committee has Advisory Authority

4. New Business

A. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair (*Action item – HWPAC Nominating Committee*)

- Mark Mastromatteo was nominated for Chair
- Motion for nomination passed unanimously after vote taken (7 ayes) with one abstention from committee member Rossman
- Tim Martinez was nominated for Vice-Chair
- Motion for nomination passed unanimously after vote taken (7 ayes) with one abstention from committee member Rossman

B. Habitat Enhancement Plan for the Upper Arroyo Seco Project (*Information item – PW&P staff*)

- Elisa Ventura (PW&P staff) provided background information on the project including a PowerPoint presentation (see PowerPoint presentation on HWPAC webpage @ <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/commissions/hahamongna-watershed-park-advisory-committee/>)
- The PW&P presentation covered the following topics:
 - o Project Background
 - o Project Purpose & Goal
 - o Project Boundaries

- Related Baseline Studies
 - Non-native Vegetation Map
 - Plan Recommendations
 - Restoration Opportunities
 - About the Behner Restoration Site
 - Native Species Recovery
 - Non-native Tree Removal
 - About the Spreading Basins Restoration Site
 - Public Outreach
 - Long Term Benefits
- The HWPAC posed several questions; PW&P staff responded accordingly.
 - Questions were posed that would entail a lengthy response and that PW&P staff was not completely prepared to respond to. Responses will be prepared and provided on the HWPAC webpage as soon as possible. (See attachment)

5. Old Business

- A. Update on Equestrian Leases in HWP (*Information item – Office of Economic Development staff*)
- Jeffrey Hernandez (Economic Development staff) provided background information on the project including a PowerPoint presentation (see PowerPoint presentation on HWPAC webpage @ <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/commissions/hahamongna-watershed-park-advisory-committee/>)
 - The HWPAC posed several questions; Mr. Hernandez responded accordingly.
- B. Updates on Old Business (*Information item – PW Staff*)
- Rosa Laveaga (PW staff) provided background information on this item including a PowerPoint presentation (see PowerPoint presentation on HWPAC webpage @ <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/commissions/hahamongna-watershed-park-advisory-committee/>)
 - Ms. Laveaga's presentation covered the following topics:
 - BMX and off-road bikes in trails in HWP
 - Arroyo Seco Signage Program (ASSP)
 - Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
 - La Canada Parent Parking in HWP
 - Rose Bowl Riders
 - Herbicide spraying at Disc Golf Course in HWP
 - Spreading Basin Improvements in HWP
 - JPL Eastside Parking Lot
 - Formation of CIP Sub-committee
 - Berkshire Creek Restoration Project
 - The following public comments were made on this item:
 1. Betsy Bour, Pasadena resident ~ Ms. Bour thanked the park crews for the signage and new trail crossing in the park

2. Ann Regan, Altadena resident ~ Ms. Regan thanked staff for addressing the BMX and off-road bike issue in the park
3. Ingrid McConnell, RBR ~ Ms. McConnell commented on RBR entering into long-term lease with the City of Pasadena
4. Hugh Bowles, Altadena resident ~ Mr. Bowles had questions regarding the Spreading Basing Improvements in HWP that were answered in the attached

C. Update on Devil's Gate Sediment Removal project (*Information item – Brittany Barker and Mark Gim with LACDPW*)

- LACDPW staff provided background information on the project including a PowerPoint presentation (see PowerPoint presentation on HWPAC webpage @ <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/commissions/hahamongna-watershed-park-advisory-committee/>)
- The LACDPW presentation covered the following topics:
 - o Construction Overview
 - o Habitat Restoration
 - o 2019 Sediment Hauling Season
 - o Hauling Routes
 - o Trail Closures
 - o BMP's
 - o Traffic Impacts
 - o Air and Haul Truck Monitoring
 - o ASF/PAS Settlement Agreement
 - o Ongoing Communication
- The HWPAC posed several questions; LACDPW staff responded accordingly.
- A number of questions were posed that would entail a lengthy response and that LACDPW staff was not completely prepared to respond to. Responses will be prepared and provided on the HWPAC webpage as soon as possible (see attachment) and LACDPW will also provide responses to these unanswered questions at the next HWPAC meeting.

6. Items from the Chair

- A. Presentation on Settlement Agreement between LA County Flood Control District vs. Arroyo Seco Foundation (ASF) & Pasadena Audubon Society
- Tim Brick of the ASF with Darren Dowell and Laura Soloman of the Pasadena Audubon Society provided background information on the project including a PowerPoint presentation (see PowerPoint presentation on HWPAC webpage @ <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/commissions/hahamongna-watershed-park-advisory-committee/>)
 - The HWPAC posed several questions; Mr. Brick responded accordingly.
- B. HWPAC Work Plan
- This item was moved to the next HWPAC meeting due to time

C. Next regularly scheduled meeting – September 22, 2020

7. Announcements from the Committee

A. General Announcements (*From commissioners and/or staff*)

8. Adjournment

Former Chair Schnuelle adjourned the meeting at 8:50pm



RESPONSES TO UNANSWERED QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory Committee (HWPAC)
Meeting of 7-28-2020
(corrected 9-22-2020)

The following were submitted by Hugh Bowles during public comment:

1. *The signs at the project site show an image of what the project will look like when done. There is a stream flowing through something resembling an alpine meadow. If PWP under the Arroyo Seco Canyon Project are diverting all flows below 25 cubic feet per second into spreading basins.*

The flows depicted will only occur when flows are around 10 cubic feet per second.

When will this image designed to create a positive image of the completed project ever occur?

Response from PWP: PWP is not familiar with the depiction that is being referenced, but the comment appears to be making an assumption on what 10 cfs looks like and questioning the frequency of this occurring. Commenter should understand that there are several sources of water below PWP's diversion that outlet to the HWP, aside from flows remaining in the Arroyo Seco after diversion. Additionally, even with the projected increase in diversions resulting from the Arroyo Seco Canyon Project, the majority of Arroyo Seco flows will remain in the stream.

2. *The project plans to turn Johnson Field into a wetland. When will Johnson Field ever be wet if PWP are extracting all flows below 25 cubic feet per second into spreading basins?*

Response from LACDPW: The plan for Johnson Field will include the establishment of riparian willow woodland and mulefat scrub that will be planted throughout the reconfigured basin. Johnson Field will not directly connect to the main wash in the arroyo and it is not expected to be a wetland that supports cattails and other plant species typical of very wet areas. Rather, the culvert that drains the adjacent neighborhoods will be redirected into Johnson Field and a meandering channel will be formed to direct flows through the area. Low areas will be formed where water can percolate into the soils, which will allow some areas to stay wet longer. Precipitation and runoff will be the water sources that primarily feed the vegetation planted in Johnson Field. Irrigation will be used initially to get the vegetation established.

3. *The City was alerted in February 2020 that the easement allowing LACFCD to operate a dam in the Arroyo Seco states, "Flood Control shall have no rights to enter City lands" to remove vegetation. What steps is the City taking to enforce this requirement. Recommendation is the City either do all vegetation removal itself in accord with the easement, or set up a permitting process with public review that Flood Control apply for permission to remove vegetation.*

Response from LACDPW: The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) worked with the City of Pasadena and residents to develop a Project that was consistent with the City's Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan to re-establish flood protection and to include much needed habitat restoration for the Park. The LACFCD conducted many presentations to the Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory Committee on the Project's development and addressed concerns raised by the Committee and public. The City also issued a letter supporting the habitat restoration work within the Park on June 19, 2018

In addition, the Project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) included the Project description, impacts, and mitigation measures to be conducted. During the EIR's public comment period, resident, organizations, and agencies were able to review and comment. The City of Pasadena also provided favorable comments. The EIR was then certified and the Project approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

The following was asked by commissioner Tim Martinez:

Will the HWPAC have the chance to ask more questions about the Arroyo Seco Canyon Project?

Response from HWPAC Liaison: Yes, PWP will be providing a project update at the 9-22-2020 meeting of the HWPAC.

The following comment/question was asked by commissioner Daniel Rossman:

What has been the coordination between the City and the Angeles National Forest as a part of the Upper Arroyo Seco Habitat Enhancement Plan? Commissioner Rossman offered his experience in assisting in this matter.

Response from HWPAC Liaison: PWP will provide further information in response to this question at an upcoming HWPAC meeting. Offer to assist is noted. Thank you.

The following was asked by commissioner Tim Martinez:

Can the topic of the La Canada High School Parent Drop-Off in HWP be placed on a future meeting agenda?

Response from HWPAC Liaison: Yes. Noted and it will be suggested for the November 2020 agenda.

The following was asked by commissioner Cindy Schnuelle:

Can funds that go into the City's General Fund from Arroyo Seco revenue sources be targeted to fund Arroyo projects, such as the various projects needing funding in the HWP Annex?

Response from HWPAC Liaison: Staff is still seeking a response and will provide a reply as soon as possible.