

April, 2004

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RIVIERA ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

Sunday Afternoon, April 25, 2004 5 p.m.
Marymount School Auditorium
2130 Mission Ridge Road

WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE AS OUR GUESTS:

**A panel of speakers discussing and answering questions on the Neighborhood
Preservation Ordinance**

Friends and neighbors are welcome. Refreshments served after the program.

A Letter from the President:

Dear Neighbors:

The Riviera Association had a very successful candidate forum last fall. Thank you for your attendance and interest in being informed voters for city council elections. The

revised Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance is now at the working stage. I have been selected by the Allied Neighborhood Association to be one of two neighborhood representatives on the steering committee along with representatives from the City Council, ABR, Planning Commission and Historic Landmarks. I hope you will participate in the public workshops and attend our general membership meeting to get a progress report on this important ordinance revision.

**Sincerely,
Dianne Channing**

UPDATE ON CURRENT RIVIERA ISSUES

Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance

The long awaited revision of the NPO has finally begun. Neighborhood workshops to solicit public input will be held and the public input will be utilized by the city staff and steering committee. The revision process should take about fifteen months. The steering committee and city staff are still working on the goals of the revised ordinance. The Riviera and Lower Riviera are included in the Hillside Area, which is tentatively scheduled for a workshop meeting with Heather Baker, Project Planner, on Wednesday, April 28th, 6:30 p.m. Check the website for confirmed locations and times.

Franceschi Park and House

The Franceschi Park Master Plan, after about five years in the making, was accepted by the Park and Recreation Commission on November 19, 2003 and the City Council on December 16, 2003.

On March 24, 2004 the Park and Recreation Commission appointed a permanent Franceschi Park Advisory Committee, composed of a Horticulture expert, an immediate park neighbor, a Pearl Chase Society representative, a community member at large, and a representative from the Riviera Association. This committee will assist the Park and Recreation Commission and park management and staff with implementation of the master plan.

Although City Council unanimously approved the master plan, public speakers were almost evenly divided: twenty (Pearl Chase Society members) spoke in favor of the plan, twenty-one (neighbors and Riviera Association members) voiced opposition. At the meeting, park staff informed Council members and the public of the lack of funding to implement the master plan. Only \$450,000 from a State Park Bond is available for parking lot upgrade and a new restroom. The Pearl Chase Society announced a \$75,000

contribution from the Santa Barbara Foundation toward the more than 2 million dollar house rehabilitation.

Based on brush clearing requirements from the Fire Department, extensive pruning and clean-up was done at the upper and lower park in January. In February, the California Conservation Corps cut a large stand of the invasive Euphorbia weeds west of the parking lot; cut weeds have not been cleaned up and removed.

Early this year Park and Recreation Director, Richard Johns, announced his retirement, effective April 30. City Administrator, James Armstrong, is leading the search for the new department director. Focus group discussions are planned with advisory committees, neighbors. Members of a special panel will interview selected candidates, hopefully by mid-year.

Franceschi Park Foundation

Rob Hughes, who started the Franceschi Park Foundation, announces that exciting things are happening with the foundation. Launched two years ago to provide an opportunity for private donations to accelerate improvements of Franceschi Park (emphasis is on the park, not the house) like general clean up, as well as trail, seating and horticultural renewal, the Franceschi Park Foundation now has over 100 members. A meeting scheduled for April with the City Parks Department to review and prioritize gifting opportunities within the newly completed Franceschi Park Master Plan should offer an important first step in advancing long overdue TLC for a Park we all love. For more information, contact Rob Hughes (805) 963-3932 or by email: RH@ccgbank.com.

Sheffield Reservoir

Demolition of the open reservoir began in November, 2003. Pouring of concrete tanks and other work will take place this spring. The city has identified three major concerns to neighboring residents: noise, dust and traffic. The contractors are taking measures to minimize impact to the neighbors, including 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. workdays, no work on weekends, as well as limiting truck speeds and implementing watering to control dust. Bob Sedivy, Supervising Civil Engineer, is serving as the Neighborhood Construction Liaison for this project. He, or his designee, is available during business hours at 680-2488 or online at Sheffield@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us. Call him with your concerns.

Riviera Business Park

The lighting at the business park is still undergoing review at the Architectural Board of Review. Sample lights of the wall pacs that are to be changed throughout the campus will be reviewed before final approval of the new lighting. The new lighting should

reflect a reduction to be compatible with the neighborhood. The immediate neighbors have already said the lighting has been greatly improved from the levels that caused complaints from neighbors and the Riviera Association. On March 17th, the Historic Landmarks Commission voted to recommend to the City Council that the Quadrangle Building, the Grand Stairway, Furse Hall and Elberts Hall be designated historic landmarks. The Riviera Association supports the designation of the Riviera Park as an historic district. This will be before City Council on April 13th.

El Encanto Hotel

The El Encanto has been undergoing many changes recently following the death of owner Eric Friden this past summer as the result of a polo accident. Nicholas Davaz was hired as the General Manager last year. He and Mr. Friden's brother, Rennick Andreoli, who has assumed the position of President of FHC, the Santa Barbara based hotel management company that operates El Encanto, are making strides to move Mr. Friden's agenda forward. Changes at the hotel include new furnishings in the lobby, as well as in selected rooms and extensive gardening improvements—and a new entertainer, Ron Valentine, in the Lobby Lounge! Mr. Davaz invites all neighbors to stroll through the grounds to enjoy the upgrades. The plans for a full restoration of the property are moving forward, with no completion dates as yet.

Fire Safety—Red Flag Alerts

If you see red flags flying at different locations on the Riviera, it means that a general red flag alert has been called. This means that all individuals should monitor local news agencies and stay informed.

Wildfire Plan

In April, the Fire Department will submit a final wildfire plan to city council that will include the newest guidelines for brush clearance. These new guidelines will affect our neighborhoods, so you will want to refer to them once the city makes them available.

Riviera Association Website

The Riviera Association now has a web site in place to inform members of current issues, history, and to provide links to city services. Some aspects of the site are still under construction, but you can access the site by entering: www.sb-riviera.org.

Friendly reminder: Check to make sure you've paid your membership dues. If you haven't, please send them in. Dues are \$20.00 per year. Our address is P.O. Box 41838, Santa Barbara, CA 93140-1838.