

City Council

from front page

school officials, business owners and film industry representatives to discuss potential solutions. The ultimate goal was to minimize impacts on residents and businesses while still facilitating filming.

The new ordinance, since deemed by the California Film Commission as a model for other cities in the state, created a 300-foot radius impact zone around a filming site emanating from any and all areas used by the crew. Anyone within that impact zone receives notice and has the ability to protest.

Permit categories identify degrees of impact on the community. Areas with little or no traffic that are not on a public right of way and are not in a residential area require 50 percent of the individuals within that impact zone to protest to keep the permit from being issued. Only 10 percent protest is needed to stop filming if noise, lighting, special effects and other elements disturb nearby tenants. Just one person's protest can stop a street closure.

The ordinance also limits filming hours by stating that crews may not start before 7 a.m. and cannot work after 10 p.m. Production companies must also reimburse the City's actual costs for police officers or signage if either is needed.

Finally, the ordinance also puts clamps on the number of days anyone can film at a particular site. In impacted areas, 20 days is the max over a 12-month period unless 100 percent of property owners in the radius agree to increase that by four days to 24 days. On Tuesday night, Mayor McDowell pointed out that the District had not attempted to reach affected residents to get their consent to add the four days and "get us 40 percent of the way home." Also of note: The filming maximum day limitations do not apply at locations such as Chevron where there are no impacts on residents or businesses.

After Three False Starts, Council Agrees to Reconvene Film Subcommittee

After providing an overview of the film subcommittee's efforts and how the ordinance was designed to protect resident quality of life, Councilmember Fisher made a motion to reconvene the original subcommittee and re-engage the prior interested parties to look into the possibility of adding more restrictions as well as filming days to the ordinance. The motion died when no one seconded it. Fisher appealed to his colleagues and re-introduced the motion again with the same result. "It's a travesty not to try," he said.

Mayor McDowell then introduced his own motion, suggesting formation of a new subcommittee comprised of Fisher and Councilmember Don Brann (a former Wiseburn School District Superintendent with a wealth of school finance experience) that would look at film ordinance limitations and consent provisions while also considering alternative funding sources that could make up the District's lost dollars should the 20-day maximum remain in place. McDowell also thought it prudent to look at the definition of "no-impact" filming, since that might offer "a way out."

Councilmember Carl Jacobson pointed out that there is a "huge blacked out area" in the center of ESHS that is far enough away from residents that diesel trucks and generators wouldn't be heard—as opposed to the high-impact east side of the campus. He warned that upcoming construction of a new track will make it impossible for crews to access that area. Jacobson suggested adding to McDowell's motion that the District look at this section of the campus to see if it can be modified to accommodate crews.

Fisher said he wasn't sure what the difference was between his own motion and McDowell's other than switching Brann for the Mayor on the subcommittee. Fisher felt the process would move faster with the McDowell's continued involvement. "It makes a difference to know the history, what was said and what went on," he explained.

McDowell's motion ultimately failed, lead-

ing Fisher to make one last attempt, again asking that he and the Mayor comprise the subcommittee to "get this done quickly." The motion otherwise contained all the elements introduced by McDowell with Jacobson's add-on provision. This time, the Mayor seconded Fisher's motion and the Council passed it 3-1 with Brann dissenting. Mayor Pro Tem Eric Busch had to recuse himself from the discussion and vote because he works for a major motion picture company.

Earlier in the discussion, Brann said teachers he approached in 2006 wouldn't support the Measure Q school bond initiative because they were "mad about filming at the high school." He also said he didn't think the upcoming state measures (other than 1F) would pass and that the extra \$50,000 to \$75,000 in film revenue at stake wouldn't fix the overall problem that "times are tough and promising to get tougher."

The film ordinance does contain a clause allowing the Council to revisit it one year after original adoption (November 2009) to see how it's working. The revived subcommittee can attempt to speed up that timeline. Any change in the ordinance will take a minimum of 60 days to enact. Staff must first draft changes, introduce the item at a regular Council meeting, and have a second reading two weeks later. If approved by the Council, the amended ordinance becomes effective 30 days later.

Council Takes No Action on Teachers' Request for Ballot Measure Support

Speaking on behalf of El Segundo Teachers Association President Daphne Moote, Bonnie May asked the Council to adopt a resolution supporting six upcoming state ballot measures (Props 1A-1F) with the stated goal to protect against further devastating program, personnel and service cuts to California public schools and community colleges. According to the California Teachers Association, failure to pass the measures will cost California \$23 billion over the next four years and severely impact education. During public communications, local resident Liz Garnholz cited documentation that Prop 1C will actually take away lottery monies formerly earmarked for schools and instead place them in a state general fund. She wondered why teachers would support the initiative in that case. Later, the Council opted not to take any action on this item.

Parking Tickets to Go Up Five Bucks

After a public hearing on the matter (no speakers came up), the Council agreed to increase local parking violation penalties by \$5 because of a significant hike in penalty surcharges imposed by the State of California on the City of El Segundo. El Segundo Police Chief Dave Cummings explained that the State recently amended its government code so that the City must pay \$4.50 on every parking citation written. But "the Department of Motor Vehicles collects a portion of the citations we don't collect fines on and only deals in whole dollar amounts, so we had to round either up or down," said Cummings. Rounding up to \$5 will increase City revenues by roughly \$5,500, so Cummings opted for that route rather than rounding down to \$4. The Council approved unanimously the item.

Proclamations Galore

Tuesday's agenda included no less than six different proclamations recognizing various events, individuals and programs during the month of May. Here is the rundown:

May 9: El Segundo Public Safety Services Day, the annual joint open house hosted by the local police and fire departments takes place this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fire Station 1 and the El Segundo Police Department (both next to City Hall). The event allows attendees to observe SWAT and apparatus demonstrations, and public safety officials' readiness to protect lives and property. Cummings and Fire Chief Kevin Smith accepted the proclamation.

May 11-15: More than 100,000 people are expected to bicycle to work during the 15th

Education

from front page

not have Honors French until French 4, Laubenstein wanted to push the kids a little harder than they thought they were able.

Even though he won a language award, Sierra is at a loss for words about his accomplishment this year. "I'm not sure how to describe it," he said. "I'm honored and happy." Sierra is Laubenstein's only student who has gotten a medal in all the exam levels he has participated in for each of his four years at ESHS. Upon Laubenstein's request, Sierra spoke several lines of French he learned from his studies at the Board meeting.

Elder is excited about his honor because last year he missed getting a medal by just one question. "Nice to know I've learned something in French," he said.

Board of Education receives update on high school athletic field renovation

Tim Truax, construction lawyer and chairman of the Citizens' Advisory Committee for El Segundo Unified School District facilities, went before to the Board members and brought them up to speed on the progress of the renovation of the ESHS athletic fields and auditorium.

The committee oversees the two renovation projects being paid for by the Measure M school bond passed last fall. According to a press release from the District, "All Advisory members have an extraordinarily wide

breadth of knowledge as well as first-hand experience in how to best ward off potential pitfalls of construction projects."

According to Truax, the committee reviewed the schematic design for the athletic field and also the cost estimate based on the design. It also made several suggestions to the design team to keep the project within budget. In addition, the committee reviewed the schematic design for the auditorium, but has not seen a cost estimate. "And we've solicited input from any number of folks on both projects with respect to the overall design of each component," Truax said.

After the schematic design stage, a lot more detail still needs to be added before the design is ready, Truax explained. The design development phase comes next, where the committee has the opportunity to make suggestions and modifications. "[These are] things that we need to do in order to get the best projects we can for the amount of money that we've been allotted," Truax said.

Truax was also part of the committee that oversaw Measure C and E, the two bonds that renovated all of the El Segundo school facilities. "It's rewarding to be able to come back to the high school now and finish some things that those bonds did not even contemplate," but are in many ways very necessary," Truax said. •

ESHS

from page 7

Breast specialty. The 200 Medley Relay and 400 Free Relay used the same lineup of Hogoboom, Chen, Saravia and freshman Ryan Kigawa to capture a pair the blue ribbons, while freshman Anton Hedayat had a breakout meet with a silver in the 50 Free and a bronze in the 100 Free.

If "imitation is the best form of flattery," then the ESHS girls' frosh/soph team succeeded in outdistancing its varsity counterparts. Versatile sophomore Nichol Puma won the 100 IM and ninth graders Tessa Barbee (50 Back) and Breeana Telfair (100 Free) were the only individual event winners. As a matter of fact, the female hatchlings lost the first two relays and found themselves down by seven points going into the last event, once again the 400 Free Relay. With the coaches again put in a position of "winner take all," they followed the same successful strategy that had beaten Beverly Hills a week earlier. The number one relay team of: 10th graders Natalie Friedrichs, Kelsa Middough Puma and Telfair took care of business and ran away with the gold. Now it was up to four swimmers who had experienced minimal

success in their first competitive swimming season. Instead of crumbling and playing "bottom feeders," the "fearsome foursome" of Hallie Lindsey, Grace Diaz, Chenin Matthews and Makenna Stone pulled off the upset. The female hatchlings had climbed back up to .500 and solidified their chances for a league upper division finish.

The 2009 Pioneer League Swimming Championships will be held at Beverly Hills High School starting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 8. The 2009 CIF Division III Swimming Prelims will take place on Thursday morning, May 14 at the Belmont Plaza Pool in Long Beach starting at 10:00 a.m. The CIF Finals follow two days later on Saturday, May 16 at the same site, starting again at 10:00 a.m.

The final swimming activity of 2009 CIF-SS will be the Master's Swim Meet on Tuesday, May 19 at the Belmont Plaza Pool in Long Beach, starting with warm-ups at 3:30 p.m. and competition getting underway at 5:00 p.m.

For all the up-to-date information on the ESHS Aquatics program, please call the El Segundo High School Athletics hotline at (310) 615-2662, extension 313. •

annual **California Bike Commute Week**. The California Bicycle Coalition coordinates this event—the largest of its kind in the country—to promote bicycles as an energy-conserving and traffic-reducing mode of transportation and recreation. Local employers are encouraged to ask their employees to take bikes to work that week, while elected officials are also expected to participate. Assistant City Engineer Dan Garcia, who commutes by bike to work, accepted the proclamation.

May 16: El Segundo's annual **Elderfest Celebration** takes place next Saturday at the Joslyn Center at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. In addition to other festivities, Chris Sherrill (who accepted the Council proclamation) will be honored as the 2009 Senior of the Year after being elected as such by her peers for her volunteerism. As part of this proclamation, the entire month of May was recognized as **Older Americans Month**.

May 16: During **Kids Day American/International**, families are encouraged to participate in activities that reinforce positive, healthy life choices among children. The owner of Body Doc Healing Center accepted the proclamation and announced a community event on May 16 from noon to 3 p.m. in the

1924 E. Maple Avenue parking lot that will feature health and exercise programs, fingerprinting, police and fire department health and safety issues, refreshments and snacks.

May 17-23: National Public Works Week celebrates the tens of thousands of men and women in North America who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as public works. The parameters include water, sewers, streets, public buildings and solid waste collection. Assistant City Engineer Garcia accepted the proclamation.

May 30: The 14th annual event **Super CPR Saturday** co-hosted by the El Segundo Fire Department and American Red Cross will take place at El Segundo High School. Free CPR classes, approximately three hours each, will be available at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon that day. Registration is now open through May 22, with a maximum of 120 sign-ups available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Participants must be at least 12 years old. For more information, call 310-524-2236. Chief Smith accepted the proclamation and noted that through this program, ESFD trains approximately "300 people a year to literally save lives." •