

School Board Approves Mira Costa Master Plan

By Duane Plank

On November 18, the Manhattan Beach School Board moved forward to implement the Mira Costa High School Master Plan. Spawned by the approval of Measure BB by Manhattan Beach voters in the November 2008 elections, the Master Plan will utilize bond funds to improve and modernize the Mira Costa campus.

According to the Master Plan Framework Final Report, which was published in late October, Harley Ellis Devereaux was hired by the School Board members to complete the plan study. Devereaux was to assess the existing conditions on campus. The scope of the study, the report said, "included an assessment of existing program uses, and the development of a comprehensive master plan vision including both immediate projects to be funded by BB, and longer-term projects."

General goals for the plan include replacing outdated and unsafe facilities, grouping like buildings together to make for easier student navigation, upgrading campus power and IT infrastructure, improving food service distribution, improving campus safety, and providing an open-space, quad-type area that will be used as a gathering spot for students outside of the classroom. The plan deemed that the highest priority is the construction of a new building to house math and science classrooms and labs.

So when will all of the improvements begin? According to Board clerk Bill Fournell, "We should be getting a high-level timeline from the architects at our next meeting. But I don't believe that we will break ground much before the end of 2010." Once the work begins, the building and construction projects could take up to 48 months to complete.

Members of the public approached the microphone and urged the approval of the current edition of the Master Plan, mentioning the benefits to be garnered by the community and surrounding environs. A concerned citizen also spoke to the Board, expressing his viewpoint that certain revisions to the Master Plan be considered.

Mira Costa student Jason Boxer noted that he hoped that the Master Plan construction wouldn't disrupt the students as they went from class to class. He said that it was important for the new students to develop a comfortable routine when travelling between classes.

In addressing the Master Plan itself, Manhattan Beach Unified School District Assistant Superintendent Steve Romines recapped what had occurred in the prior meeting and presented the Board with additional items for consideration. "Staff is recommending approval of the MP, with a couple of additions, and a couple of extra steps," Romines said.

The first addition asks project architects

to expand upon what is termed the "opinion of costs" and to include construction costs for each project, including "soft" costs and contingency costs. Romines said it is key to "ensure that we are building to budget, and, number two, that we are going to have enough money to cover all of the projects."

Romines also suggested adding a timeline showing the 46-48 months it will take to complete the entire project. He said staff additionally recommended that a final draft of the architects' contract be made available at the December meeting, and to expedite the process of adding a construction manager to the project. Said Board member Amy Howorth on the necessity of a project construction manager, "It is something we need so that everybody is doing what they say they are doing and that things make sense, because I am not an architect. We need that person so that we can get all of this done. I love that idea." A discussion then ensued amongst the Board members about the need for a construction manager and a liaison to relay and filter out public concerns about the implementation of the Master Plan. The Board ultimately approved the Master Plan, adding the revisions noted above.

Northrop Internship Program on Hold

The Board approved all consent agenda items, with the exception of the implementation of a contract to authorize an internship program between the District and Northrop Grumman Systems Corp. Fournell had some questions about the roles that the students would play in the program. He wasn't sure what the advantage of the unpaid work experience would be for the students. A discussion followed during which the value of internship programs was bandied about. It was also noted that the District may need to be aware of some liability issues. The Board did not approve the internship program at this time, choosing to revisit the issue at a future meeting.

Odds and Ends

Other agenda items included the discussion of a timeline involving the search for a new Superintendent as Dr. Beverly Rohrer is slated to retire in June. Janet Schwabe had consulted with the District before and was approved by the Board to lead the search process for a replacement. Items for future discussion included dealing with budgetary concerns and the State's lack of school funding.

During Board announcements, there was a comment that all were working diligently to improvement the scheduling and registration process for next year at the high school, which has become very cumbersome. "Everybody is very excited about changes that could be

Calendar

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2009

• Caregivers Support Group has been formed in Manhattan Beach for caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and other related dementia or memory loss. Caregivers are welcome and participation is free. To participate, call Madonna Newburg at 310-546-1876 for information and location.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 2, 2009

• Play Reading Fun and adventure await you. Spontaneous and unrehearsed activity facilitated by KC Johnson and Maria A. Ruiz, two experienced artists in the South Bay. Short improvisation portions will be interspersed between some play readings. Every 1st Tuesday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Joslyn Center, 1601 Valley Drive, MB. Free Event, Sponsored by Parks and Rec. All are welcome. Info: 310-325-3251 or 310-540-5635.

UPCOMING

• Hermosa Kiwanis Club Tree Lot. The lot opens Friday, November 27th, at the corner of Pier Avenue and Pacific Coast Highway. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the Lot go directly to charity. For more information call 310-466-0960

• Vista Mar School Open House on December 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Reservations requested. At VistaMar, students build a solid foundation of academic skills. 373 Hawaii Street, El Segundo. Visit vistamarschool.org or call 310-643-7377 for more information.

ONGOING

• MOMS Club of Manhattan Beach. Meet local at-home mothers for friendship, fun playgroups, support and more! For membership info and meeting dates/locations call Michelle at (310) 489-3927 or momsclub90266@hotmail.com

• A beginner class in Scottish Country Dancing is starting in Manhattan Beach on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm. The class meets at the Knights of Columbus Hall 224 1/2 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach. The first two lessons are free. For further information contact Willma 310-546-2005.

• Sea Story Time at the Roundhouse Aquarium 11:30 a.m. each Sunday the Aquarium features a unique interactive experience for children that involves listening to a story about ocean animals, exploring real animal artifacts, and doing a craft that they can take home. Afterwards, they can enjoy all the wonderful displays the aquarium has to offer. This program is free, but donations are greatly appreciated. The Roundhouse Marine Studies Lab and Aquarium is located at the end of the Manhattan Beach pier. For more information call 310-379-8117 visit roundhouseaquarium.org

• Recovery International offers effective self-help method, allowing personal control over anxiety, depression, and anger. (Free, but donations accepted.) Meetings are Mondays, 1:00 p.m. at the Center for Spiritual Living, 907 Knob Hill Ave. (at Prospect), Redondo Beach. Back Entrance. Call (310) 322-6373 for more information.

• Older Adults discussion group. Come discuss current events, movies, and topics of local and national interest, whatever is on your mind. The discussion group meets every Monday from 9:00 a.m. - noon at the Joslyn Community Center, 1601 Valley Drive. For more information please call The Older Adults Program (310) 802-5447.

• Caregivers Support Group. A support group has been formed in Manhattan Beach for caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and other related dementia or memory loss. The group will have the opportunity to share their experiences, provide information, and do problem solving of similar situations. Caregivers are welcome and participation is free. To participate, call Madonna Newburg at 310-546-1876 for information and location.

• Play Reading activity facilitated by KC Johnson and Maria A. Ruiz, two experienced artists in the South Bay, Every 1st Tuesday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Joslyn Center, 1601 Valley Drive, MB. Free Event, Sponsored by Parks and Recreation. All are welcome. For more detailed information call: 310-325-3251 or 310-540-5635. •

Abducted child inside. A text message could've told you that. wirelessamberalerts.org

SIGN UP FOR FREE AMBER ALERTS ON YOUR CELL PHONE. Go to wirelessamberalerts.org. Sign up today. Then when an AMBER Alert is issued in the areas you've chosen, you'll receive a free text message. If you spot the vehicle, the suspect or the child described in the Alert, call 911. If your phone is wireless, you're no longer helpless.

DEADLINES

- OBITUARIES: Monday at noon.**
- CALENDAR ITEMS: Prior Friday at noon.**
- PEOPLE ITEMS: Prior Friday at noon.**
- DISPLAY AD CHANGES: Prior Thursday at noon.**
- CLASSIFIEDS: Tuesday at noon.**
- LEGAL NOTICES: Monday at noon.**
- NEW DISPLAY ADS: Prior Thursday at noon.**
- REAL ESTATE ADS: Monday at noon.**
- AD CANCELLATIONS: Prior Thursday.**

LATE CANCELLATIONS WILL BE CHARGED 50% OF AD

HERALD PUBLICATIONS

El Segundo Herald • Manhattan Beach Sun
Hawthorne Press Tribune
Inglewood News • Latundale News

EL SEGUNDO OFFICE • 312 E. Imperial Ave • El Segundo • CA • 90245
Phone: (310) 322-1830 • Fax: (310) 322-2787
www.heraldpublications.com
*Our papers are legally recognized and adjudicated newspapers of general circulation

<p>Herald Publications Board Members</p> <p>Chairman.....John VanHook Jr. CEO and President.....Heidi Maerker Publisher.....Richard Van Vranken Vice President.....William T. Mason II</p> <p>Herald Publications Staff</p> <p>Editor-in-Chief.....Heidi Maerker Production Manager/Creative Director.....Keri Suffolettapressrelease@heraldpublications.com Graphic Artist.....Rob Fioreads@heraldpublications.com Display Advertising.....Norma Catania E-mail: advertising@heraldpublications.com Real Estate Advertising.....legalnotices@heraldpublications.com Legal Advertising.....legalnotices@heraldpublications.com</p>	<p>Classified Advertising.....classifieds@heraldpublications.com Obituaries/Announcements/Letters/Calendarcalendar@heraldpublications.com Press Releases..... pressrelease@heraldpublications.com Production..... graphics@heraldpublications.com Accounting.....Denise Armasaccounting@heraldpublications.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Photographers</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Shelley Kemp</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Chris Barnes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dirk Dewachter</td> <td>Rob Fiore</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Writers</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Karen Russo</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Chris Barnes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>George Harris Jr.</td> <td>Erik Derr</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joe Snyder</td> <td>Cristian Vasquez</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Greg McMullin</td> <td>Evan Ortega</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brian Simon</td> <td>Jan Dennis</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Duane Plank</td> <td>Gerry Chong</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Michelle Lanphere Green</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Shelley Kemp	Chris Barnes	Dirk Dewachter	Rob Fiore	Karen Russo	Chris Barnes	George Harris Jr.	Erik Derr	Joe Snyder	Cristian Vasquez	Greg McMullin	Evan Ortega	Brian Simon	Jan Dennis	Duane Plank	Gerry Chong	Michelle Lanphere Green	
Shelley Kemp	Chris Barnes																		
Dirk Dewachter	Rob Fiore																		
Karen Russo	Chris Barnes																		
George Harris Jr.	Erik Derr																		
Joe Snyder	Cristian Vasquez																		
Greg McMullin	Evan Ortega																		
Brian Simon	Jan Dennis																		
Duane Plank	Gerry Chong																		
Michelle Lanphere Green																			