



Established 1971 To preserve and enhance the unique village character of Laguna Beach

July/August 2023 newsletter

Annual Picnic Set for August 28

Save the date for the annual picnic on Monday, August 28, at 6 p.m. at Alta Laguna Park. We'll provide ham and water. Bring a side dish or dessert that will serve 6–8, your own plates and utensils, and something to sit on.

School District's Master Plan Undergoing Close Scrutiny

At our July meeting, we heard from representatives of SensibleLaguna about the school district's master plan, whose potential impacts are, through their efforts, now being closely examined. Steve McIntosh, Gary Kasik, and Steve Brown presented a Power Point showing the original plan for the area around the high school, with its two big pools, its two parking structures, its rooftop tennis courts, and its big new administrative buildings (see www.sensiblelaguna.org) and pointed out the areas for which, as a result of community input, the

district has begun discussing modifications. SensibleLaguna's summary of the highlights of a study session the following night suggests that the project may be reduced significantly (no parking structures, no change to the existing tennis courts, scaling down of administrative spaces, a single though larger pool in the existing location). Further discussion will probably occur at the July 27 meeting of the board, which would like to start preparing a bond issue to support the project for a vote in 2024.

Council Rezones Prop. 12 Land Permanent Open Space

More than 300 acres of land purchased over the years with funds from the state's 2000 parks bond act, Proposition 12, will become permanently protected open space this month when the Council rezones them from "Residential Hillside Protection" or "Residential Low Density" to "Open Space/Passive." Most of the 26 parcels in question are in Laguna Canyon.

Via Zoom

August Board Meeting

Saturday, August 5, 9 a.m.

In Person

Annual Picnic

Monday, August 28, 6 p.m.
Alta Laguna Park



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Planning Commission Reviews Promenade Proposals

The Planning Commission took a first look at the proposals for a permanent Promenade on Forest Avenue on July 5 and found them wanting. In the first place, instead of the two versions that the Council had asked for, one permanent (removing curbs and gutters) and the other reversible, both of the consultants' versions were permanent. Apparently the Public Works staff had interpreted the reversible option as something less expensive and, on recognizing that it wouldn't be cheaper, abandoned the idea and had the consultants draw up a second permanent version. Commissioner Kellenberg argued that the Council's direction required a version that could accommodate, for example,

use as a street during the week and opening as a gathering place on weekends. He pointed out that 90 percent of the country's street closures have failed because of their negative effects on businesses. In addition, commissioners were critical of what they saw as the "mall-like" or "planned-community" appearance of the proposals, pointing in particular to the elaborate brick paving and the almost total removal of the street's characteristic trees. They also noted the misleading absence from the drawings of the fencing around areas for alcohol service that will be required and said that details of this kind need to be worked out in advance. The consensus was that the proposals needed a lot of work, and commissioners ended up recommending Option B for further study in the light of their comments.