

The

BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

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www.basslakeaction.org

BLAC RECEPTION FOR ASSEMBLY LEADER DAVE COX

In early October the Bass Lake Action Committee hosted an evening reception for Assemblyman Dave Cox at the home of Fran and John Thomson in El Dorado Hills. Mr Cox is currently the Republican Minority Assembly Leader and holds Assembly District 5, serving Citrus Heights, Folsom, Sacramento, Carmichael, and Granite Bay.

Assemblyman Cox has declared his intention to run for Rico Oller's State Senate District 1 seat in next year's election, since Oller has decided to run for Congress.

After mutual introductions, Mr Cox addressed the group, offering his insight on current issues before the legislature and on Sacramento politics. Topics ranged from the budget crisis to the then-undecided gubernatorial recall election, sparking spirited discussions.

Assemblyman Cox's formal remarks were followed by cocktails and conversation, and attendees were able to discuss local issues with both him and his chief of staff, Kevin Bassett.

"The evening was a complete success," said BLAC president Kathy Prevost. "We certainly enjoyed having Assemblyman Cox here, and I am sure that it was a great opportunity for him to get to know people from our community." ✍

PARK SCOPING ISSUES DRAFT REPORT OUT

BLAC has obtained from the county a draft report listing the community's responses to the county's scoping process for Bass

Lake Park. The report lists the issues that residents asked the county to consider when designing and building the park, and briefly discusses how each issue may be treated in the draft environmental impact report.

The report was prepared by the county's consultants, Environmental Stewardship & Planning, and includes draft responses to both written comments and those comments voiced at the scoping meetings. The majority of issues addressed in the report are ones brought up by BLAC's earlier letter to the Parks Commission in response to the county's Notice of Preparation of EIR. The county's report comments on sixteen general issues and twelve specific design modification suggestions, for a total of twenty-eight topics.

Traffic on Bass Lake Road heads the list, with nearly all comments expressing concern about the state of the road and asking that the park not be developed until the road is fixed. The recommended county response is to incorporate the findings of the traffic study in the EIR.

Next is lighted ball fields, with comments split between those who want lights for youth play and those who do not want lights because of

light pollution, noise, and safety concerns. The recommended response is to develop a lighting plan that will quantify the light intensity, light spill, and other lighting parameters, and to address each concern based on the lighting study. Despite the fact that the county already has a lighting ordinance governing outdoor lighting, the report suggests that the county use the ordinance adopted by the City of Seattle to set lighting standards for the park. This seems strange, because the Seattle lighting policy has a specific section on school athletic fields, but not on athletic fields in recreation parks. A copy of the El Dorado County Lighting Ordinance is attached to the report, which states (in part) that "It is the policy of the County that the creation of artificial light and glare be controlled to the extent that unnecessary and unwarranted illumination of an adjacent property be prohibited."

Also mentioned is the problem of serpentine rock and naturally-occurring asbestos. The report recommends that the consultant and the county parks department work with the county environmental agency to formulate a plan of mitigation.

(continued)

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A number of other comments are listed and discussed, including noise, pedestrian access, water quality (park runoff into the lake), wetlands (wildlife), crime (vandalism and loitering), parking (overflow into surrounding neighborhood), and alcohol (rowdiness and underage drinking).

BLAC is grateful to Mike Gray at the El Dorado County Parks Department for a copy of the report. See www.basslakeaction.org for a complete copy of the draft report. ✍

BLAC ADDRESSES YOUTH PLAYING FIELD SHORTAGE

Members of BLAC's steering committee have been hard at work looking into the alleged shortage of youth ball fields in El Dorado County and the Bass Lake area. As a result of persistent inquiries by Joe D'Amico, it was discovered that there are a number of both new and disused fields, some with lights installed, that could be available for youth play.

For example, three new ball fields were just completed at the new middle school on Green Valley Road. There is also a disused field at Green Valley Elementary School, and in Placerville there are two lighted ball fields at the fairgrounds, which have been reportedly rendered unusable because cars are parked on them during the car races.

School representatives at the Green Valley Middle school say that the fields are certainly available after school hours for youth sports, subject to the normal insurance requirements and booking them in advance. The field at Green Valley elementary school has fallen into disrepair but would be available if it is refurbished.

"Certainly a group of volunteers from the local youth sports community could fix it up in no time, if they wanted to," said David Glazier, one of the investigators.

The two fields with lights at the county fairgrounds in Placerville have

been damaged by the cars that are allowed to park on it when car races are held at the fairgrounds.

Fairgrounds manager Jody Gray told a recent Parks Commission meeting that the two fields could be refurbished and used if the offending cars could be parked in another part of the fairgrounds. She said that the other spot for the cars to park could be available if the alternative parking lot were to be improved.

In addition, BLAC is working with the county Parks Commission to locate and identify other underutilized ball fields in the county that could be available for youth play. ✍

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The balmy days and cool crisp evenings of fall remind us that the holidays are not far off. It's hard to believe that Halloween jack-o-lanterns, followed by Thanksgiving turkeys, and then Christmas trees, are just around the corner! How time flies!

We anticipate the Draft Environmental Report for Bass Lake Park will be released late in December, which was the original time schedule introduced at the June 4 Scoping meeting at the EDH firehouse. We will post the Draft EIR document on our website as soon as it becomes available to the public. Once the Draft EIR is released, the public will be allowed only a 45-day comment period, so it is important that everyone expresses their concerns with the document within that allotted time frame.

If you have not had an opportunity to read the Summary of Scoping Comments and Issues already posted to the website, I would suggest you take the time to do so. It is most informative. Be sure to keep monitoring our website to be assured that you have the most up to date information available.

We have talked to the California Highway Patrol, and have contacted

Matt Boyer, Director of the county Department of Transportation, to request that the CHP monitor Bass Lake Road more closely, and ask the DOT to come up with additional solutions to make BLR a safer road. Something must be done to prevent more accidents from happening until the time the road is improved and realigned over the next two years.

The CHP has promised to run additional patrols to try to ensure that drivers do not speed or pass inappropriately. Matt Boyer said that the DOT believes they have done all they can, and referred our email to the traffic department for review.

Our Steering Committee meets on a regular basis, and we appreciate the many phone calls and emails of support we have received from other concerned homeowners. We will continue to work with the county to have a voice in the planning of the proposed Bass Lake Regional Park!

— Kathy Prevost

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"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have."

— Margaret Mead

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The Bass Lake Action Committee is a group of concerned homeowners from the communities immediately adjoining the proposed Bass Lake Regional Park. Our purpose is to provide a voice for Bass Lake community homeowners in dealing with the county and other community agencies.

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For information, see our website

www.basslakeaction.org

or call

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