



Publisher's Perspective

Fox Vote Provokes Anger, Suspicion

By providing the vote to kill the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park, Councilmember Melissa Fox either switched her long-held public position supporting the Veterans Cemetery without offering any good reason — or she has lied about her position all along. Either way, she deserves an angry rebuke from this newspaper, from all those who voted for her, and from the veterans who will soon need a burial plot.

In an interview reported in our August 26, 2014 issue of *ICNV*, when she was first running for City Council, candidate Melissa Fox said: "I'm going to make very sure that a Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery is actually created in the Great Park." In 2016, throughout her second try for Council, Fox maintained this position. It was a major reason this newspaper endorsed her in both 2014 and 2016.

Yet, at a June 6th "special meeting" of the City Council, Councilmember Melissa Fox provided the vote needed by developer FivePoint Communities to kill the previously approved, fully-funded, "shovel-ready" Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park. Instead, she voted to accept a dubious "offer" from developer FivePoint — with no specifics, no surveys, no appraisals no environmental documents, and no City staff work — to swap the 125-acre Veterans Cemetery site in the Great Park to FivePoint, along with massive commercial development rights.

We join many others in wondering what influenced Melissa Fox to change her vote from a sure-thing Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park — as planned and approved by the City, State, and Federal government — to an uncertain and even unsuitable FivePoint land-site alongside the I-5 and I-405 freeways, far outside the Great Park.

Council Votes 3-to-2 for "Land-Swap"

Veterans Cemetery Delayed Indefinitely



The FivePoint Threesome. Mayor Donald Wagner, flanked by Councilmembers Melissa Fox (left) and Christina Shea (right), voted to abandon the Great Park site for the Veterans Cemetery. The three voted, instead, to embrace developer FivePoint Communities' "land-swap" scheme.

Fox switches sides to team-up with Wagner and Shea in taking last-minute action to halt funding and construction of the Veterans Cemetery, while approving a "giveaway" of the 125-acre Great Park site to FivePoint for massive commercial and residential development.

Since 2013, City leaders — both on the City Council and off — doggedly pursued the dream of creating a 125-acre state-funded and state-maintained Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery in the Great Park.

Flash forward from 2013 to early June, 2017. The City had secured all necessary State and Federal approvals for the Veterans Cemetery. And the Legislature and Governor had just put a \$30 million special funding appropriation in the pending 2017-2018 State Budget to begin immediate construction of the long-awaited Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park.

Under these circumstances, the two regularly scheduled June meetings of the Irvine City Council should have been joyous occasions, with items on the business agenda celebrating the City's success in finally turning the dream into an on-the-ground reality — the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery in the Great Park that would now be built and operational within two years.

But, in a surprise move, Irvine Mayor Donald

Wagner and Councilmember Melissa Fox sent a joint memo to the City Manager and City Council calling for an urgent "special meeting" of the Council for the sole purpose of telling the State that the City was abandoning the project to put the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park. Wagner and Fox, instead, urged adoption of an emergency resolution of intent — to reject the \$30 million in State funding and pursue a complicated "land-swap" with developer FivePoint Communities to re-locate the Veterans Cemetery miles away from the Great Park, on FivePoint property alongside the freeway where the I-5 and I-405 converge at the El Toro "Y."

Citizens Speak Out

With just 24-hours notice, the June 6th afternoon "special meeting" of the Irvine City Council nevertheless attracted a full house, with 100 - 150 Irvine residents on hand. Most were there to protest the FivePoint land-swap.

Turtle Rock resident and business attorney,

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Franklin J. Lunding

Franklin J. Lunding, Publisher and Editor



→ continued from page 1 → **Veterans Cemetery Delayed Indefinitely**

Rick Baran, warned that abandoning the Great Park Veterans Cemetery project in favor of the FivePoint freeway site would, realistically, “move the timeline for a working Cemetery backwards at least two to three years.”

Dr. Harvey Liss, a licensed civil engineer and 41-year Irvine resident, underscored the same point by noting that the Irvine City staff had reported that site cleanup and construction of the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park could, with Council approval, “start immediately.” He said, “What can possibly be quicker than starting immediately?”

Speaking directly to Fox, who had previously championed and campaigned for the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park, Dr. Liss added: “You’ve betrayed us. Thousands of voters...you’ve betrayed us. How can you do that?” Then, apparently referring to estimates that the “land-swap” favored

Councilmembers Jeff Lalloway and Lynn Schott spoke against the land-swap favored by Wagner, Fox, and Shea. Schott said, “We’re stewards of the land in the Great Park.” Referring to the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park as “hallowed ground” and “a wonderful centerpiece of our Great Park,” she added, “We’re seeing the giveaway of our Great Park. I, for one, do not want to facilitate that.”

Councilmember Jeff Lalloway repeatedly decried the rush to embrace a land-swap — calling it “the biggest land transaction in City history” — with no appraisals, no environmental studies, and no staff analysis of the impacts that FivePoint commercial development of the 125-acre Great Park property would bring to north Irvine, including an estimated additional 10,000 cars per day on Irvine Boulevard, Sand Canyon, and Trabuco.

Four hours after the meeting began, it ended abruptly — with a 3-to-2 vote for the Wagner-Fox-Shea land-swap resolution.



Councilmembers Jeff Lalloway and Lynn Schott opposed the FivePoint land-swap — warning it would delay the Veterans Cemetery indefinitely, and result in the permanent giveaway of 125 acres of the Great Park to FivePoint, bringing massive office, commercial, and residential development...and traffic congestion.

“We’re seeing the giveaway of our Great Park. I, for one, do not want to facilitate that.”
— Councilmember Lynn Schott

Fast-Track the Land-Swap, Slow-Walk the Veterans Cemetery

Pushed by FivePoint and the Wagner-Fox-Shea majority, the City Manager and City Attorney followed up the June 6th meeting with a memo laying out a 90-day schedule for the City to surrender ownership of the 125-acre Great Park site to FivePoint, along with a grant of zoning for FivePoint to commence intensive office, commercial, and residential development on the property.

The fast-track land-swap — unprecedented for a project of this magnitude — doesn’t appear to allow time for “due diligence,” including careful analysis of independent property appraisals, environmental studies, testing for toxics, and public participation in the process.

According to one City Hall staffer close to the project, “At this point, City staff is basically working not for the public but for FivePoint, rushing through the biggest land giveaway in Irvine history.” Another City Hall source, speaking on condition of anonymity, put it this way: “I hate to admit it, but from the Council on down, we’ve become lapdogs for FivePoint, not watchdogs for the public.”

While the land-swap is being rushed along, and may be approved by the Council as soon as September, according to Irvine planners, the path forward for the Veterans Cemetery at the FivePoint freeway site will be “slow-walked” — likely taking years for planning, design, environmental studies, and all the necessary approvals by City, State and Federal officials before construction can begin. [ICNV](#)



The original Veterans Cemetery, which has been approved by the City, State, and Federal governments, is pictured here in diagonally-hatched, light-green, as part of the Great Park. The FivePoint land-swap property is pictured here (lower right corner) as the vertically-hatched, orange site near the convergence of the I-5 and I-405 freeways, known as the El Toro “Y.”

by Wagner, Fox and Shea will net FivePoint an estimated \$500 million in quick profits, he added, “FivePoint Communities represents profits and only profits. They have no other interest.”

A number of speakers recalled that developer FivePoint had organized and spent an astounding \$1.5 million to elect Wagner as Mayor and re-elect Christina Shea to the City Council in November, 2016. Apparently directing her remarks to Melissa Fox, Irvine resident Jean Miller said a vote for the FivePoint land-swap “will designate Irvine as a company town . . . a betrayal that carries an unending shame.”

Mayor and Councilmembers Have the Last Word

Seeking to defend himself, as well as Fox, Shea and FivePoint, Mayor Wagner said, “FivePoint is going to make some money off of this. Yep. Yep. Probably. I wouldn’t expect them to be doing it otherwise. So what! Here in Irvine we actually encourage our businesses to make money.”

But, at whose expense? In several rounds of Council comments,



CityWatch by Larry Agran*
A Shameful Giveaway of Our Great Park

Like so many others in Irvine, I say: “Shame on the Irvine City Council!” On June 6th, in a hastily called “special meeting,” the City Council voted 3-to-2 to express its “preference” for moving the Veterans Cemetery from the previously designated Great Park site, putting the Cemetery instead on property owned by developer FivePoint Communities along the I-5 and I-405 freeways.

When the three-member majority of the City Council (Mayor Don Wagner and Councilmembers Christina Shea and Melissa Fox) adopted their resolution, the trio embarked on a massive giveaway of 125 acres of our City-owned Great Park for FivePoint commercial development — even though the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park had already received all the necessary City, State and Federal approvals. In fact, the project was deemed “shovel-ready” and, on June 6th, was within 9 days of receiving \$30 million of construction funding in the 2017-18 State budget.

At the behest of FivePoint Communities, Wagner, Shea and Fox have parroted the developer’s talking points, no matter how fallacious. **Because this fight is not**

over, it’s important to put the developer talking points in front of us, and expose their fallacies.

FivePoint Fallacy No. 1. The freeway site is a better site for the Veterans Cemetery.

This is false. In fact, the freeway site is a very poor site. It’s located 2 miles away from the Great Park, at the convergence of the I-5 and I-405 freeways — with endless noise, traffic and localized air pollution. The freeway site lacks the peace, quiet, privacy, dignity, and historic significance that the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park offers. Because of its location in the Great Park, the Great Park site has been described repeatedly, by veterans and non-veterans alike, as the “perfect location” for the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery.

FivePoint Fallacy No. 2. The freeway site is “free.”

This is complete nonsense. In fact, FivePoint is demanding — and three members of the Council appear ready to comply — that the City “swap” the 125-acre Great Park Veterans Cemetery site, worth hundreds of millions of dollars, so FivePoint can take ownership of the land and develop it with mixed-use commercial,

office, and residential projects. This would be the biggest giveaway of public land — 10 percent of the entire Great Park — in Orange County history. It would enable FivePoint to quickly net as much as \$500 million in profit on the land acquisition and development, while saddling Irvine residents with the very real cost of yet more traffic congestion caused by 10,000 (or more) additional daily automobile trips on Irvine Boulevard.

FivePoint Fallacy No. 3. The Veterans Cemetery can be built and operational much faster at the freeway site than in the Great Park.

This is not only false, it’s an outright lie. It would likely take 5 years, or more, for the FivePoint Freeway site to receive all necessary City, State and Federal approvals for construction and operation of a Veterans Cemetery, if the site, in fact, receives the approvals at all. Meanwhile, the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park has — beginning in 2014 — secured all State and Federal approvals. Officials have declared the project “shovel-ready” for demolition, preliminary site preparation, and construction; this means the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery in the Great Park could be operational in just 2 years.



The Great Park: A Veterans Cemetery or Massive Development? [1] This is an aerial view of the 125-acre site (the “ARDA” site within the Great Park) that was designated in 2014 by the City of Irvine and the State of California to become a Veterans Cemetery — to be built, operated and maintained by the State of California. [2] With all approvals in hand, the project was deemed “shovel ready” this year — to commence demolition, site preparation and construction of the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park. [3] Instead, on June 6th, the Irvine City Council, on a 3-to-2 vote, expressed its intention to give the 125 acres to developer FivePoint Communities to build a mixed-use office, commercial and, later, residential development — bringing an estimated 10,000 additional daily auto trips to Irvine Boulevard.

*Larry Agran is a former Irvine City Councilmember and a public interest attorney. He served as Mayor of Irvine for six years in the 1980s and, again, from 2000-2004. Agran led the City in establishing — and protecting — Irvine’s Open Space Preservation Plan.



Published Monthly
Vol. 4, No. 7 • July 2017

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A California Limited Liability Company
www.IrvineCommunityNews.org

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Community Calendar

July/August 2017



SIZZLIN' SUMMER CONCERT SUNDAYS

Grab your lawn chairs, picnic baskets and dancing shoes for an evening of music in the park. Gourmet food trucks will also be onsite, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee and other Irvine nonprofit organizations.

For more information and complete concert series lineup, please visit cityofirvine.org/specialevents or call 949-724-6606.



DUSK TILL DAWN EXHIBIT

The Irvine Museum Collection at UCI

The Irvine Museum Collection at the University of California, Irvine presents "Dusk Till Dawn," an exhibition that goes against the grain of what we typically think of as landscape painting. Usually, an artist will paint a beautiful landscape bursting in bright sunlight with colorful trees and flowers, things one would expect to see during the day. This exhibition is different as the paintings on display show those same subjects but at night or at the outer edges of the day, when the sun is setting or when it is rising.

The exhibit runs now through September 28, 2017.
Info: 949-476-0294

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 JULY Farmers Market. OC Great Park. 10-2pm. Weather Permitting. Info: 866-829-3829 	3 Lecture on Healthy Brain Aging. Lakeview Senior Center. 10-11:30am. Info: 949-724-6900 	4 Independence Day. 	5 Animal Show. Katie Wheeler Library. 10:30-11:30am. Info: 714-669-8753 	6 Hollywood Stones and Jelly of the Month Club OC Park Summer Concert Series. Mason Regional Park in Irvine. 6-8pm. Free. Info: 949-923-2220 	7 Lego Block Party. 3:30-4:30pm. Free. Info: 949-786-4001 	8 Seasoned Chefs: Tomato Palooza. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 10-11am. Free/Ages 16+ Info: 866-829-3829 
9 Farmers Market Yoga. OC Great Park. 9:30-10:30am. \$9/Ages 13+ Info: 949-724-6247 	10 Family Bingo Night. University Park Library. 6pm. Free. Info: 949-786-4001 	11 City Council Meeting.  Irvine City Hall. 4pm. Info: 949-724-6233	12 Stories with a Wink and a Smile. Katie Wheeler Library. 10:30-11:15am. Info: 714-669-8753 	13 Future Care Planning. Trabuco Senior Center. 10-11:30am. Info: 949-724-7300 	14 Sunset Cinema: Moana  William R. Mason Regional Park. 8pm. Free. All Ages. Info: 949-923-2220	15 FIDM's Sew Like A Designer Workshop. FIDM Orange County. 9am-4:30pm. Ages 14+ Info: 800-624-1200 
16 National Ice Cream Day.  Pretend City Children's Museum. Free Ice Cream from 12-1pm. Info: pretendcitymuseum@gmail.com	17 Series on Medicare Essentials. Lakeview Senior Center. 10-11:30am. Info: 949-724-6900 	18 Animal Magic Show. University Park Library. 2-3pm. Free. Info: 949-786-4001 	19 Comedy/Magic Show. Katie Wheeler Library. 10:30-11:30am. Info: 714-669-8753 	20 Pokémon Scavenger Hunt.  Heritage Park Library. 3-5pm. Info: 949-769-6772	21 Sunset Cinema: Ferris Bueller's Day Off. William R. Mason Regional Park. 7-10pm. Free/Movie Rated PG-13. Info: 949-923-2220 	22 Happy Hour at THE RIDE 7D.  Irvine Spectrum. 10pm-11pm. Tickets \$5-\$7 Info: 949-769-6772
23 Pacific Symphony in the Cities. Mike Ward Community Park. 5:30. Free. Info: 949-724-6900 	24 Discover Round Canyon.  Limestone Canyon Nature Preserve. 8:30-11am. Free/Registration Required Info: LetsGoOutside.org	25 City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 4pm. Info: 949-724-6233 	26 Wildlife Explorers – Wonderful Water.  OC Zoo in the Irvine Park. 10-11:15am. Info: 714-973-6846	27 Live Performance from David Skale. Irvine Heritage Park Library. 4-5pm. Free/Space Limited. Info: 949-923-4040 	28 Lawn Games. OC Great Park. 6pm. Every Friday. Info: 866-829-3829 	29 Lemon Grove Market. Woodbury Town Center. 10am-4pm. Info: TheLemonGroveMarket.com 
30 Life-Size Chutes & Ladders Game. University Park Library. 2-3pm. Free. Info: 949-786-4001 	31 Evening Hike. Orchard Hills. 6:30-8:30pm. Free/Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org 	1 AUGUST Bingo. Lakeview Senior Center. 12:15-3:15pm. \$8 for 10 games. Info: 949-724-6900 	2 Mid-Week Hike. Quail Hill. 7am-12pm. Free/Registration Required. Info: LetsGoOutside.org 	3 Lecture on Harm of Prescriptions, Supplements and Herbs. Trabuco Senior Center. 10-11:30am. Info: 949-724-7300 	4 Steve-O at the Irvine Improv. Irvine Spectrum. 7:30pm. Tickets \$25. Info: 949-854-5455 	5 Basic Salsa Lessons. Saddleback Church, Irvine South. 6:45-8:30pm. Free/Registration Required Info: jtpenuela@gmail.com 

Adoptable Pet of the Month

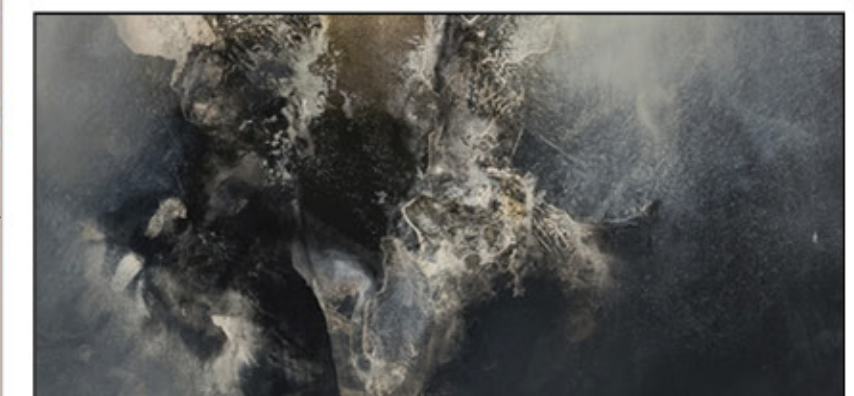
Each issue we feature one "adoptable" pet from the Irvine Animal Care Center.



The Irvine Animal Care Center (IACC) is a progressive and innovative municipal animal shelter that continually strives to strengthen the human-animal bond and improve the welfare of animals by promoting their humane care and treatment. The Center's 3.73 acre, park-like facility cares for thousands of homeless, neglected abused animals every year. All animals in their care receive veterinary care, high-quality food, soft bedding and daily socialization.

"Amber" is a spayed female, brown tabby Domestic Shorthair. She is about 14 years old.

For more information about Amber and other adoptable pets, or the IACC, call 949-724-7740 or email info@irvineshelter.org



YOU HAVE NO SOUND EXHIBIT

You Have No Sound is a solo exhibition by artist Kim Kei, whose complex processes of sculpture, photography, painting, and printmaking are interconnected, yielding beautifully crafted works that evoke the body without depicting the figure as a form. The Irvine Fine Arts Center is located inside Heritage Community Park at 14321 Yale Ave.

Exhibit: Now-August 12
Info: 949-724-6880.





Child Health & Safety by Phyllis Agran, M.D.

June 21st Was ASK Day. Every Day Is ASK Day!

ASK Day? What's that all about? **ASK** stands for **Asking Saves Kids**. The

ASK Campaign is a national partnership between the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence. **The purpose of the partnership is to encourage responsible grownups to ASK if there are guns in the home where their children play. The simple act of asking contributes to keeping kids safe ... and saving lives.**

Here's a true story, an all too common, avoidable tragedy that repeats itself over and over as part of daily life in America. Noah's mother had no idea that he was playing in a house where there were guns. When Noah's friend picked up a gun, aimed it at him, and pulled the trigger, he didn't know there was a bullet in the gun — and that it would kill Noah. askingsaveskids.org

Here are some troubling statistics: One out of three homes with children has guns, many left unlocked or loaded. Eighty percent of unintentional firearm deaths among children under 15 years of age occur in a home. Altogether, 9 children and teens, on average, are shot in gun incidents every day.

In a country with an estimated 300 million guns in private homes, how do we prevent these senseless tragedies? By encouraging parents to ask some commonsense questions. Dr. Judy Schaechter, MD, MBA, and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Miami addresses the issue this way: "Child gun violence is America's most preventable disease. The immediacy and lethality of the risk are high. Prevention can be simple and inexpensive, by keeping guns away from kids in the first place or securely locked up. Everyone — doctors, parents, grandparents — needs to speak up, to ask if there is a gun in a home where

there are children. If so, it's up to the adults to ensure safety."

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that if there are guns in a home, they should be stored unloaded and locked, preferably in a gun safe, with ammunition locked away separately. Hiding guns is not enough, because children will look for them and handle them once they are found.

Preventing access to guns is the key. Simply teaching children to stay away from guns does not help, according to research on gun avoidance programs. In fact, these children — out of curiosity — may actually be more likely to handle a gun.

For more than a decade, the ASK Campaign has partnered with more than 400 grassroots organizations to spread its message in neighborhoods nationwide. Over the years, the Campaign has successfully inspired 19 million households to ASK if there are guns where their children play.

**Phyllis Agran is a practicing Orange County pediatrician, a Professor at the UC Irvine School of Medicine, and Past President of the Orange County Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Agran is a recognized national expert in pediatric injury control and prevention.*



SchoolWatch: Too Much "Screen Time" by Carolyn Inmon

Tech-savvy American kids, increasingly dependent on their electronic devices and screens, are giving up a lot for their technology. They may need better parental and school supervision to change their ways.

Let's face it, parenting has always presented difficult challenges. But in addition to all the traditional challenges of parenting, moms and dads must now figure out how to keep their children from over-using technology. How much "screen time" is okay for children and teenagers? What kind of harm is inflicted by too much screen time? Should there be limits? And, what should those limits be?

Screen time includes watching television, working on a computer, playing video games, and using a smartphone or tablet. Of course, the use of these technologies has skyrocketed, and so has the time most kids spend each day in front of a screen. Many kids (and grownups too) spend nearly half their waking hours in front of a screen.

Children's Health

What kind of harm does this do to children's health? Chief among the physical health problems associated with a screen-dependent, sedentary lifestyle is obesity and related issues stemming from a lack of exercise. Kids sit more, snack more...and exercise less. Other adverse effects include problems with fingers, wrists, neck and back, and eyes too.

Lack of sleep is an additional problem. Sending texts after going to bed is a habit for many teens. Blue light from screens acts like caffeine, keeping children from going to sleep. Bright light leads to decreased melatonin levels, leaving teens sleep-deprived — and the problem has been getting worse.

In-School Screen Time

School teachers and administrators are worried about the dramatic increase in screen time. Students who spend too much time looking at screens are less able to focus and concentrate in class. Too much screen time adversely affects school performance — and excessive screen time is associated with a decline in overall grade point average.

A related question, however, is how much damage the schools themselves are doing as they put children on tablets for much of their in-school work. As a teacher and communications professional, I worry about the social isolation of teenagers as they seem more interested in the images on their screens than the people they are with. Good interpersonal communications — other than through screen time — are essential for good relationships, both at home and at work. Less face-to-face communication means a decrease in the ability to recognize non-verbal social cues as well as less ability to understand the feelings of others.

Quality screen time can bring us a lot that is good. And in recent years, we've largely closed the "digital divide" — bringing the benefits of the new technologies to ever more American children and young adults. But there is plenty that's worrisome, and just plain bad, about too much screen time. We need to deal with that reality.

Next Time: Help for parents who want to limit screen time.

**Carolyn Inmon is a retired Irvine teacher. She taught at virtually every grade level, from K-12, as well as community college.*

Science & Technology A NEW ICNV SERIES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

ICNV is pleased to publish this second in a series on climate change. The first article, in June, illustrated how Irvine's past activism on an issue of global importance — destruction of the atmosphere's ozone layer — helped provoke a solution adopted worldwide. Roger Gloss, the author of this, our second article — "It's Time to Act Locally!" — would welcome any comments at Editor@IrvineCommunityNews.org.

— Harvey H. Liss, Ph.D., ICNV editor for Science and Technology

The Global Climate Crisis: It's Time to Act Locally!

by Roger Gloss

Global climate change seems overwhelming. As ordinary citizens we may feel powerless to do anything about it. So, "think globally, act locally" is an important mindset if we are to make a difference. We can have significant impact on our local officials, showing them that their constituents understand the climate crisis is real and that strong governmental measures are needed to protect our planet.

So let's frame the issue with these statements as premises: **First**, Climate change is real and caused by human industrial activity. **Second**, the potential effects of global warming are devastating over the long term to our accustomed way of life. **Third**, we have a narrow window of time — possibly as little as 10 or 20 years — in which to transform our global economy in order to arrest serious damage to human populations as well as to all forms of biodiversity across the globe.

Those who reject these premises or wish to debate them might choose to read no further. The remainder of this article is a status report of current actions being taken against climate change at the global, national, state, and local levels.

Global

The 2015 Paris Climate Agreement among 195 nations, and the subsequent greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction commitments of most of those nations, represents a milestone at the global level. Previous talks held by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had failed to produce any consensus or agreement. **The Paris talks were the first to achieve global recognition of the climate crisis and the need for all nations to take significant collective action.**

That is the good news. The bad news is that the goal of limiting average global temperature increase to two degrees Celsius by the year 2100 (with an "aspiration" of 1.5 degrees) is insufficient to ward off serious damage across the globe. In addition, the commitments made by signatory nations so far — including commitments by the U.S. under the Obama administration — are not sufficient to achieve the goal of two degrees. Finally, the commitments are non-binding, and no formal monitoring or enforcement mechanism has been put in place.



**Roger Gloss earned a B.S. in Physics from UCLA and is now retired from a career in information technology. He is a citizen-activist against climate change, animal agriculture, and systemic environmental destruction. He has lived in Orange County since 1970 with his wife Linda.*

Roger's 2014 novel, Third Wind, is a pre-apocalyptic story of runaway climate change and failed government. His most recent book, If Pigs Could Talk: The Case for a Plant-Based Diet, is a scathing indictment of factory farming and its destructive effects on natural resources and human health.

National

The national outlook has been dealt a serious setback by the new Trump administration. President Trump appears bent on reversing nearly every climate and environmental policy of the Obama administration; by suspending the Clean Power Plan; "bringing back coal jobs;" green-lighting the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines; defunding and de-staffing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and challenging Obama's proposed fuel economy standards. **Then, on June 1, mere days after the first article in this series went to press, Trump signaled U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.**

California

Meanwhile our own state — the sixth largest economy in the world — continues to provide global leadership in climate action. Most significantly, SB 32, passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Jerry Brown in September 2016, commits the state to 40 percent GHG reduction below 1990 levels by the year 2030.

And while Trump has sent exactly the wrong signal to the rest of the world regarding the U.S. commitment to deal with the climate crisis, Governor Brown has since formed the U.S. **Climate Alliance** with Governors Andrew Cuomo and Jay Inslee, committing California, New York, and Washington to uphold the Paris Agreement. Other states are encouraged to join the alliance, and 10 recently have done so.

At the city level, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, co-founder of the **Mayors National Climate Action Agenda**, issued a statement, now signed by more than 300 mayors, pledging to honor the Paris Agreement. **Regrettably, Irvine Mayor Donald Wagner is not one of them.**

Local

San Diego's ground-breaking, legally binding Climate Action Plan of December 2015 — committing the nation's eighth largest city to 100 percent electricity produced from renewable energy sources by 2035 — provides a model for Orange County cities. **Irvine, in particular, is currently engaged in a comprehensive update of its General Plan, and should be strongly encouraged to develop an Irvine Climate Action Plan that is integrated with the City's General Plan and complies with State goals under SB 32.**

There are real and important possibilities at the local level; however, very little work of this sort has been done so far in the 34 cities in Orange County, including Irvine. **As citizens, we can start taking action right here in Irvine by calling or writing to our City Council (see inset), and please take our poll.**

What Do YOU Think?
As part of its required General Plan update, should the City of Irvine develop a Climate Action Plan committed to 100% electricity produced from renewable energy sources, similar to San Diego's plan?

Take The Renewable Energy Poll:
IrvineCommunityNews.org/RenewableEnergy

Irvine City Council: 949-724-6233
Mayor Donald P. Wagner: donaldwagner@cityofirvine.org
Mayor Pro Tem Lynn Schott: lynnschott@cityofirvine.org
Councilmember Melissa Fox: melissafox@cityofirvine.org
Councilmember Jeffrey Lalloway: jeffreylalloway@cityofirvine.org
Councilwoman Christina L. Shea: christinashea@cityofirvine.org

Climate Change Activist Organizations
 Facebook group: OC for Climate Action (OCCA) or occlimateaction.org
www.CitizensClimateLobby.org

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Franklin J. Lunding
Publisher

First launched in May, our *ICNV* online “Citizens Petition to Build the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park” continues to gain hundreds of Irvine petition-signers — even after the City Council voted at a rushed, June 6th “special meeting” to abandon the fully-approved, fully-funded and “shovel-ready” 125-acre Veterans Cemetery site in the Great Park.

Instead, at the behest of developer FivePoint Communities, the Council voted 3-to-2 for a “land-swap” proposal that would put the Veterans Cemetery by the I-5 and I-405 freeways and give away to FivePoint the 125-acre site in our 1,300-acre Great Park, so the developer could undertake massive, for-

profit development, estimated to net FivePoint \$500 million over the next several years. (Mayor Donald Wagner and Councilmembers Christina Shea and Melissa Fox voted for the FivePoint giveaway; Councilmembers Jeff Lalloway and Lynne Schott voted against it.)

Following the Council’s June 6th hurry-up vote, the Petition for the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park has continued to attract a new surge of signers, adding to the hundreds already on hand. Nearly half of all petition-signers offer comments as well.

Here (below) is the full Appeal to Irvine citizens to sign the Veterans Cemetery Petition, followed by a representative sample of comments and opinions — revealing what your Irvine friends and neighbors are thinking.

— FJL

Sign Our Petition to Build the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park NOW, As Planned.

Please Join Us! VISIT: irvinecommunitynewsandviews.org/VeteransCemeteryPetition
to sign our Great Park Veterans Cemetery petition and voice your support.

To the Irvine Community:

We ask the People of Irvine to join us – to sign our petition calling upon the Irvine City Council to honor our veterans and their families by keeping the sacred promise we made to build the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery in the Great Park, as planned.

Build the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park, Now!

We call upon the City Council to follow through on its original plan and promise — adopted by resolution of the Council in July, 2014; enacted by the State Legislature (AB 1453) in September, 2014; and approved by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in 2016 — to build the Southern California Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery on a dedicated parcel of 125 acres of land in the Great Park.

The City’s generous offer of land to the State of California allows the 125-acre Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery to be built in our 1,300-acre Great Park for an estimated \$77 million (the cost of just one railroad underpass in Irvine). Under State law, our beautiful Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery would be maintained in perpetuity by the State of California and the U.S. Veterans Administration. **This means there would be no maintenance costs to the City of Irvine, ever.**

Reject the “Land-Swap”

We further call upon the Mayor and City Council to reject the so-called “land-swap” proposal being promoted by the FivePoint Communities development company. The land-swap would result in the City’s dismembering and shrinking the Great Park by transferring ownership of the 125-acre Great Park Veterans Cemetery site to FivePoint, and granting FivePoint the right to develop the parkland for commercial and industrial uses, and possibly for 2,000 additional housing units. Meanwhile, the Veterans Cemetery would be banished to a site miles away from the Great Park, near the junction of the I-5 and I-405 Freeways, where FivePoint has made vague promises about building a Veterans Cemetery, with no timeline even offered.

The estimated windfall profit to FivePoint from this land-swap scheme is \$500,000,000 or more, reflecting unconscionable developer greed and disrespect — all at the expense of veterans, veterans’ families, and all Irvine residents.

This is wrong. It’s just plain wrong.

Do The Right Thing

Let’s do the right thing. Let’s honor American veterans and their families by respecting our local and State law and following through on our promise. Let’s build the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park now, as planned, so that by Veterans Day, 2019, the first of many deserving American veterans and their families can be laid to rest, just as we promised, in the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery in the Great Park.

Please Join Us! VISIT: <https://irvinecommunitynewsandviews.org/VeteransCemeteryPetition>
to sign our Great Park Veterans Cemetery petition and voice your support.

Sponsored by: *Irvine Community News & Views* and the Irvine Great Park Veterans Cemetery Committee, a special project of Planning 2020, Inc., a non-profit corporation.

Comments, Notes and Letters

■ Changing the location of the Veterans Cemetery is outrageous, especially at this late date. The original location should be reinstated. I do not support this change of location. Nor do I support building more homes at the Great Park location.

—Charlene Bradley

■ The Veterans Cemetery belongs in the Great Park, not stuck between freeways. FivePoint has bought Irvine City Councilmembers and Mayor Wagner so they can continue to decimate the Great Park for their own benefit. The citizens of Irvine need to put a stop to this by whatever means they can, be that through legal action or through a recall of City Councilmembers and the Mayor.

—Suzanne Seidel

■ The Council is in the pocket of FivePoint. As a Marine Corps veteran and Irvine resident, I think Wagner, Shea and Fox need to be investigated.

—Michael Lewis

■ The Great Park site on the former El Toro air base is the ideal place for the Veterans Cemetery. The strawberry field overlooking two freeways is not.

—Betty L. Long

■ I am ashamed of the City Council for abandoning our veterans. I used to be proud to say I live in Irvine. Not anymore!

—Beverly Holmes

■ I am surprised and very upset about Melissa Fox. She betrayed everyone who worked in her campaign, most of the residents of Irvine, and especially the veterans of Orange County. Apparently, she is now under the FivePoint umbrella of protection.

—John Barbod

■ I have supported the Great Park location for the Veterans Cemetery from the start. It was right for veterans and for the City of Irvine. All was ready to break ground. My thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the Great Park site happen. I now ask that everyone support reversing the recent 3-to-2 Council vote for the FivePoint land-swap.

—Lyle Brakob

■ I’m a veteran who served in the United States Army. I am appalled at the June 6th decision by the City Council. With no costs or other specifics, the Council approved a land-

swap for the Veterans Cemetery — contrary to the approved Great Park plan. I find the Council’s action inappropriate and disrespectful to our veterans.

—Jim Dale

■ Here we go again. Our Irvine City Council is thinking more about money than people...the people they are supposed to listen to and represent. It is more fitting to have a Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery in the Great Park, where the base was, where soldiers may have served — and would continue their legacy.

—Judy Rodriguez

■ Shame on Wagner and Shea, and now Fox. It is obvious POLITICS got in the way of support for veterans and their families.

—S. Robert Radus, USAF (1967-1971)

■ This is all about money! FivePoint obviously wants the land-swap because it wants to develop homes and businesses on the Great Park Veterans Cemetery site. The State and City of Irvine had already approved the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park. Shame on you, Melissa Fox! I supported you because I thought you weren’t like the corporate-minded conservatives we’ve had to deal with on the City Council.

—Kathleen Watanabe

■ The plan for a Veterans Cemetery was to honor our beloved veterans. It was NOT to enhance FivePoint’s bottom line. The land-swap is WRONG. Honor the original plan to build the Veterans Cemetery at the Great Park site. Mayor Wagner and Councilmembers Fox and Shea, you dishonor yourselves as well as our veterans by pushing the FivePoint agenda. Put the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park!

—Deborah Dutra

■ Anyone who voted in favor of FivePoint doesn’t give a damn about veterans. Now our Veterans Cemetery has been pushed back in time even longer!

—Monte Taylor

■ I am a Republican. I think any resting place for those men and women who have faithfully served our country that is not in the Great Park is a joke. These men and women deserve the resting place in the Great Park — their blood, sweat and tears have paid for it. I

don’t care if they walked a post, cooked a meal, nursed a soldier, filed a report, or made coffee — the Great Park was once their home. The veterans make this a truly “Great” park. Give them the right to rest in peace there, not by a freeway. All gave some, some gave ALL, and we need to give a little back to them!

—Gerald Julius

■ FivePoint and the City Councilmembers supporting the land-swap should be ashamed of themselves. The Veterans Cemetery already has City, State and Federal approval and should remain at the Great Park site.

—Mary Jo Donofrio

■ City Councilmembers: Honor your original promise, deny greed, and do what is right for the citizens of Irvine and surrounding cities.

—Linda Shepard

■ Don’t trust developer FivePoint! Put people before profits and erect the Veterans Cemetery where it was originally to be built, in the Great Park.

—Dillon Scott

■ Please do what is best for the people of Irvine, and not what will benefit the developer. Money should not be the final deciding factor. The developers should not be allowed to build more high-density housing — bringing people and traffic congestion and pollution. Do the right thing!

—Nora Moses

■ Please stop the land swap and honor veterans with a cemetery in the Great Park.

—Corliss Houston

■ Stand up for our veterans, not FivePoint!

—Don Barrie

■ Stop favoring the developers over residents.

—Annette Bork

■ Keep the promise of building the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery at the Great Park. FivePoint is ruining the Master Plan!

—Benjamin Favis

■ We voted for Melissa Fox so that she would support the construction of the Veterans Cemetery at the Great Park location. It makes no sense to build it at the FivePoint location, which would only serve to put more money in their pockets and worsen Irvine’s horrible traffic.

—Maria de la Maza

Letters to the editor are welcome. Please include your name and ZIP code. Letters for publication must be addressed to Editor, 4199 Campus Drive, Suite 550, Irvine, CA 92612 or email Editor@IrvineCommunityNews.org. Letters may be edited for publication. Unpublished letters will not be acknowledged or returned.

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We, the undersigned, have signed the petition to build the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park now, as planned.

Please Join Us!

VISIT: Irvinecommunitynewsandviews.org/VeteransCemeteryPetition
 to sign the petition and voice your support.

- Aaron M. DeGrood ▪ Agapito Soto ▪ Aggie Piampiano ▪ Alejandra Jimenez ▪ Alexandra Melchi ▪ Allen Fuller ▪ Alysia Wagner ▪ Amy Mullay ▪ Andrea Swanson ▪ Angela Godfrey ▪ Angeline Schroeder ▪ Annette Bork ▪ April Rulon ▪ Arthur Strauss ▪ Ausra Bagdonas ▪ Avram Grossman ▪ Barbara Banasiak ▪ Barbara Behrens ▪ Barbara Bohlig ▪ Barbara Rush ▪ Ben Gertsberg ▪ Benjamin Favis ▪ Benjamin Leos ▪ Bert Ramirez ▪ Betty L. Long ▪ Beverly Holmes ▪ Bey Asada ▪ Bill Beacham ▪ Blanca Gettys ▪ Brian Jones ▪ Bronwynn Jones ▪ Capt Peter S. 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Sponsored by: Irvine Community News & Views and the Irvine Great Park Veterans Cemetery Committee, a special project of Planning 2020, Inc., a non-profit corporation.