



PUBLIC COMMENT
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

Item No.	Agenda Item Description	Distributor	Document
1	General Public Comment	Jim Fenske	Email to Commission

From: jim fenske <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 2:42 PM
To: PWC Public Comments
Subject: A Pocket Park on Elkins Avenue near Hanscom Drive?!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the City of South Pasadena Public Works Commission

The Southwest Monterey Hills is sorely lacking in community space and is especially lacking in parks. This is due in part to the steep terrain but also the poor planning and years of no attention by the Public Works and Planning Departments of South Pasadena.

At one point, I made a proposal for turning this unbuilt area (it's designated "Open Space" in the zoning code) , in its entirety, into a park but was rebuffed by Rafael (a past Public Works official): "What about those poor people who own property in the middle of that area?"

Councilman Cacciotti and I traversed this open area with our dogs many years ago and, as a result, the City Council had a flora and fauna biological review done by a certified consultant. This is still available for review.

As I've been building my ADU and using Elkins to bring material to my property, I've been in close contact with Public Works. (Permits are an important part of any construction project and Public Works is making sure to follow my every move.) When my work is finished I will be restoring Elkins so it resembles what was there before: a small dirt trail accessing the other trails that lead to Elephant Hill. All of the Toyons, Oaks, the lone Olive tree, as well as the Elderberries, and Catalina Cherries all remain in good shape and will a part of that restored trail. A less steep, more accessible trail would be a better way to go. Maybe with stairs. Few people go down this trail but more would come if it was passable by vehicle. The vehicular access would be a welcome tool for the fire department to access the brush in the open space. Currently, the only vehicles going up and down are my skid steer and excavator. With just a little tweaking, a four wheel drive vehicle could go down and access the area I'm hoping could be a pocket park.

The city owned property west of my own property at 111 Peterson has recently been given a thorough "hair cut", a lot of brush was removed which made for a very nice, future pocket park. All we need to do is claim it for the neighborhood! Well, there may be a few hurdles which is why I'm writing to you, the Public Works Commission.

Some of the issues that the "powers that be" have are allowing the general public down into an area that is a fire hazard. The fire department inspectors have walked this area and it's likely that the recent "hair cut" was a result of that. Now, the area to the south

of Elkins, also over grown, has been pointed out as needing brush clearance as well. I've offered my services to clear this area but to date have not heard back. The last time this area was cleared was when the goats spent a few weeks there doing their best to eat down all the vegetation, living or not.

Please take a look at this area and consider making this an agenda item. The Southwest Monterey hills needs a new park! It's not just we "hill folk" that want the park. Parks benefit everyone.

Jim Fenske
jfenske architecture



South Pasadena, Ca. 91030

