

# Santiago Hills Assessment District

## Community Landscape Meeting



Chapman Hills Elementary School

April 11, 2018

### Summary Report

On Wednesday, April 11, 2018, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, the City of Orange Community Services Department conducted a Community Meeting at Chapman Hills Elementary School to discuss landscape maintenance and renovations in the Santiago Hills Assessment District (SHAD). The purpose of the meeting was to A) provide the status of existing landscape efforts; B) review the budget; and C) discuss the future landscape plan.

SHAD residents were notified of the community meeting through mailings sent to 1,574 properties, online postings on the Nextdoor social media site and the City of Orange website, and emailed meeting notice flyers.

#### **Meeting Format**

Meeting agendas were provided to all attendees as well as informational packets with the tree palette and the proposed budget (available on the website). Twenty-eight individuals signed in and attended the meeting. The meeting was initiated with a welcome and introductions by Bonnie Hagan, the Community Services Director. Dana Robertson, Parks and Facilities Manager, gave a brief status of the renovations at Trails End and Skylark, on plant removals and overall landscape maintenance, and discussed increased tree trimming efforts. Barbara Messick, Assistant Community Services Director, provided an overview of the budget process and the proposed 18-19 budget. Following, Dana Robertson discussed the future landscape plan, focusing on the tree palette for the district. Attached is a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. Following the presentation, the audience participated in a 'Moderated Question and Answer' and Comment session.

#### **Community Input and Feedback**

The following priorities, wish lists, issues, concerns and desires were recorded during the interactive discussion with meeting attendees:

- There was a brief discussion related to the proposed budget and the previous year's budget. There were inquiries related to how staff time is charged to the District. The amount set aside for capital projects and the increase to the tree trimming services were also brought up.
- Several individuals expressed their satisfaction with the Skylark renovation, specifically noting the turf and the new plant palette.
- Irrigation was briefly discussed, with an inquiry related to if Trails End's irrigation system could be reused should it be renovated. Staff confirmed that the irrigation system would not be suitable for turf-heavy areas and is not reusable.

- Some individuals expressed concerns of coyotes being present in the community and asked that staff keep this in mind with future landscape plans, particularly with large hedges where coyotes can hide.
- There was inquiry about the amount of water use at Skylark and if there was a significant difference from Trails End and the previous landscape. Staff commented that a comparison will be available after Skylark has been established for six months.
- Individuals asked about the resiliency of the turf at Skylark, particularly during the summer months. Staff anticipates it to perform well.
- Many individuals commended the mulch and plant replacement efforts occurring in various areas within the District look nice.
- Landscape maintenance was discussed. Concerns related to frequency of service and weed abatement were mentioned.
- Various questions related to specific tree removals were asked to clarify the reason behind removal and the plan for replacement.
- There was a request for tree trimming to take place during the fall and winter season to ensure the health of the trees in the District. Along with this request, it was also asked of staff to take care in selecting healthy young trees and to plan for extra watering when replacing trees.

Meeting attendees were asked to sign in and provide their contact information so they may be notified and engaged regarding the District landscape, updates, and for any potential future workshops or information.

#### **Next Steps**

- The City will track water consumption at both Skylark and Trails End to provide the District with water impacts for each type of renovation project. The District can then move forward with providing feedback for future landscape renovation projects and priorities.
- City staff will continue to ensure compliance with all specifications in the existing maintenance contract and will adjust maintenance levels according to the needs of the District.