

NON-PROFIT GROUP SECURES LAND DONATION FOR ICE SKATING ARENA AT GIRSH PARK IN GOLETA

Greater Santa Barbara Ice Skating Association (GSBISA) thanks Mark Linehan, Kimberly Schizas and Wynmark Company for their generous donation of land worth \$1.3 Million. NHL Hall of Famer and GSBISA Advisory Board Member Luc Robitaille says project is a winner.

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GOLETA, CA - **A destination for cool recreation is coming to the South Coast!** The community group building a permanent ice skating rink in Goleta has entered into a formal agreement with the developer of both the Camino Real Marketplace and Girsh Park. The accord provides a 1.3 acre site to the Greater Santa Barbara Ice Skating Association (GSBISA), and moves the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization closer to the goal of 100% owned land and building. With over \$2.2 million already raised, ground breaking will commence at the \$6 million benchmark. Mark Linehan and Kimberly Schizas, principals of Wynmark Company, have agreed to contribute the land necessary to build a 44,000 square foot ice arena, which GSBISA aims to have open by late 2011.

On Friday March 5th at noon, a ceremony acknowledging this gift will be held on the site at Girsh Park in Goleta. Remarks will be made by Goleta Mayor Eric Onnen, Mark Linehan of Wynmark, and GSBISA President Kathy Mintzer. National Hockey League Hall-of-Fame and GSBISA advisory board member Luc Robitaille will also be speaking.

"Ice Skating will provide safe year-round fun for people of all ages," said Kathy Mintzer of GSBISA, "Mark Linehan and Kimberly Schizas of Wynmark Company have made a generous donation to the community, with benchmarks along the way to raise the capital needed. Let's make sure that our children, teenagers, adults and families receive the benefit of this generous gift. Now is the time to get involved and help complete fund-raising and construction of the arena."

Over the past few years, GSBISA members working behind the scenes commissioned a feasibility study and conducted research to develop a workable financial model for the project. This will be a permanent asset within the community for generations to come, with user fees covering operating expenses. Plans include creating a scholarship program for underprivileged children. Many close ties with youth service organizations have been developed. Surprisingly, the Santa Barbara area already has many citizens who ice skate and play hockey out-of-town on a regular basis. Once open, Ice in Paradise will be the only ice skating arena on the coast between Oxnard and San Jose.

Plans have been developed for a state-of-the-art facility with two ice surfaces. The main ice surface is designed for public skating sessions, figure skating, ice dancing, and ice hockey, competitions, tournaments, and large events. A smaller second ice surface will be perfect for lessons, individualized training, parties, youth hockey, and small groups. Conceptual renderings include a skate shop, skate rental, limited spectator seating, locker and training rooms, and a snack shop. The site is located adjacent to the soccer fields at Girsh Park, on Santa Felicia Drive, behind the Camino Real Marketplace in Goleta, near UCSB and the 101 freeway.

"Recreational resources for both children and adults are very important for our communities," said Luc Robitaille, who is deeply involved in the Southern California ice skating community in his role as President of Business Operations for the Los Angeles Kings. "I'm impressed that a developer and a community group got together and figured out how a permanent public ice rink can be built and operated successfully here. I think this project is an absolute winner."

Robitaille continued, "From the standpoint of my role with the Kings, it was easy to get involved here in the Santa Barbara area because you already have many locals who love hockey and ice skating. It will be great when this rink is open and people can enjoy everything that the ice rink has to offer in their home town!"

GSBISA President Kathy Mintzer added, "An ice skating arena is a place for supervised, wholesome fun for everyone to enjoy. It will also be a place for group and school events, skating lessons, birthday parties, dates, family outings, and good times... the kind of place I'd like my children and their friends to have in the town where they are growing up."

The **Greater Santa Barbara Ice Skating Association (GSBISA)** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization developing a permanent public ice skating arena at Girsh Park in Goleta, California. Formed by a group of volunteers, contributions to GSBISA are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For information, please call GSBISA at 805-879-1550, or visit www.iceinparadise.com.

Luc Robitaille was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame on November 9, 2009 and is the highest scoring left wing in National Hockey League history and the all-time Los Angeles Kings leader in goals scored. In his current role, Robitaille is President of Business Operations for the Kings. One of the greatest players in NHL history, Robitaille played 19 seasons in the NHL with the Kings, Detroit Red Wings, New York Rangers and Pittsburgh Penguins, also appearing in 159 playoff games, and won the Stanley Cup with Detroit in 2002. He was honored with several awards and he set numerous records throughout his long and distinguished career. An eight-time NHL All Star, Robitaille has also immersed himself into the Southern California community, including serving on the Advisory Board of the Greater Santa Barbara Ice Skating Association. Luc and his wife Stacia have two sons, Steven and Jesse.

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