

Conservation Committee Minutes—November 3, 2015 - FINAL

Attendees: John Parker, Cherry Payne, Mary Clark, Mark Young, Tom Bredenberg, Rob Egemier, Jerry Gulseth, Tom Brimacombe

1. Guests: None

2. October minutes: The minutes were reviewed. Jerry moved the minutes be accepted and John seconded. All voted aye.

3. Final Discussion about Nov. 7th workday: This is scheduled for Saturday.

Participants should meet at ECIA at 8:30, prepared to be out until 3:30 or so. The work will be on Trail 101 between 1C and 1D, and 1E and 1F. What is accomplished will depend upon the turnout. There was a discussion about the need for rock and where it could be dumped, as well as access. Jim will talk with the interim GM to see if we could use one of the ECIA maintenance workers to help us on Saturday to move rock with the Kubota. If okayed, Mark will order the rock. If we are not successful, we will look for materials on site. There was an extensive discussion about logistics. Mark and Jim will assess tomorrow.

4. Status of Greenbelt work between VGPL and Railtrail: Steve Griego was going to report back on the county's plans after our meeting last month. We have not heard any update. There are a couple of factions within the county that have differing philosophies about who can do work. Mark did talk to Dag about approaching the county to see if we could get permission to do the work, but we have not heard back.

5. Update on PNM Easement: No report. Mark will send an email again to the Board.

6. Salt Cedar Remediation on 200 Series Trails: Tom Brimacombe assessed the salt cedar in the wash and estimates that there is a need of about 4 work hours of work. There was a discussion about cutting and treating the stumps. Tom says the USDA recommends grubbing and digging as mechanical means or to use garlon after cutting as a chemical application. (This is the same chemical that was used in Everglades National Park to control non-natives and is safe in wetlands.) We will talk with Jan Willem about this.

7. Report on Progress of Remaining 3 Trail Junction Signs: all signs have been installed.

8. Report on Development of New Trail Junction Signs for 100 series Trails: Cherry has assessed all trail junction signs in the 100 trails and will meet with Andrea Sharon to engage her to make new sign files later this week. Eight junction signs need to be replaced. Depending upon our budget balance, we may wait until next year for fabrication.

9. Discussion of Incorrect Greenbelt Access on Monte Alto Way: The current access to the Greenbelt is on private property. We are awaiting to hear back from Greg Colello to set up a meeting with the property owner and Greg to do an on-site assessment. It may be as easy as relocating the green stake to mark the trail head in the correct location. We then had a discussion about access to the Greenbelt from Cuesta Lane.

10. Report on COLTPAC Meeting: No work has begun for the next phase of the Rail Trail work. There was supposed to be a ribbon cutting for the completed section which will coincide with the on-set of the next phase of work (between Ave. Vista Grande and Eldorado).

11. Status of Budget Expenditures YTD: The committee has still been billed for the Sponholz's work without giving us the extra \$5000 that we requested and that the Board approved for the work. We have \$2446 left, with an estimated \$2000 in outstanding bills. We tried to get this corrected in July by contacting the former GM. Cherry will email the interim GM to correct the problem.

12. Other Business:

a) There was zoning effort by the County and the Preserve is now zoned as a protected area.

b) Cherry mentioned the web-based bulletin board NextDoor and will invite committee members to join.

c) Trail camera update: Tom Brimacombe has been monitoring it; a hiker apparently found it because we had a close up shot of a face looking at it. He has relocated it to another site and continues to hope for a photo of a mountain lion.

d) We did not request funds for signage in the 2016 budget. After looking at the trail junction signs, they are beginning to look faded and worn, and some have been vandalized. Cherry suggested we consider a multi-phased effort to design and fabricate new trail junction signs over the next few years. The Trail 100 series would be this year or next, then the Trail 300 series, and finally, the 200 and 400 series trails. Cherry will include a request for an additional \$1000 for this effort when she emails the interim GM about the billing error.

e) We decided to keep with tradition and skip the conservation committee meeting in December. Happy holidays!

13. Adjournment: John moved we adjourn, Rob seconded and all voted to adjourn at 8:35.

Next Meeting: January 5, 2016 at 7:00 pm