

## **Conservation Committee Minutes— February 3, 2015**

Attendees: Jim Daniel, Michael O'Farrell, Mary Clark, Gershon Siegel (standing in for David Yard), Jerry Gulseth, Tom Bredenberg, Tom Brimacombe, Mark Young, John Cannella, John Parker

Guests: Rob Egemeier (membership pending board action), Jim Olsen

January minutes: reviewed and approved unanimously

New Business: Jim Olsen asked the committee if there were any interest in placing Blue-bird nest boxes in the preserve? He explained that he had materials to make bird boxes and wanted to place them where wild birds could use them. He stated that he makes them in such a manner that they can be easily cleaned. Previous efforts were discussed as well as opposition from some residents. The committee unanimously decided that it would be ok as there were only 5 or 6 boxes to be made. Placement decisions, including possibly the greenbelt, will be made later.

Status of New Preserve Trailhead Signs: Mark stated that he had received the small directional signs and that ECIA staff had placed them at the desired locations in the Preserve. Five large signs are still not received, pending minor changes requested after reviewing latest draft.

Update on Goat Remediation Dispute: Committee was given an update regarding claim by Thorpe's of unpaid work for ECIA. Dag Ryan will address any concerns or claims brought by the Thorpes. John Parker stated that it really wasn't a Cons. Committee issue at this point so we shouldn't keep it on the agenda. Mike O'Farrell agreed.

Jan-Willem Jansens Work Prioritization: Jim noted that we have insufficient budget for all the work listed in JWJ's proposed workplan. Jim shared a prioritized list of the work for the committee to discuss. He lumped together all the Trail 101 and 105 projects as priority 1. Other work that received high priority status included the maintenance in the Canoncito Wetland and Trail work at Trail Head 3 & 4. Work on Trail 401 will be deferred to next year. Mark will invite JWJ to our next meeting to discuss and finalize plan.

A related discussion transpired regarding trail work in general, including Tom Brimacombe's suggested new trail connecting 101 & 105. Jim stated that we needed to get out with Tom and evaluate the proposed new trail routing. Jim will follow-up with scheduling an outing.

Greenbelt Trail Work: Mark has sent letters to homeowners along the section of greenbelt trail between the railway and Vista Grande Public Library. None of the homeowners reported any opposition to the proposed trail work. Tom, Jim and Steve Griego began working on the project the last Wednesday of January. The work is all by hand, and thus is progressing slowly.

COLTPAC: John Parker reported that the COLTPAC was currently giving feedback to County on plans to upgrade their internet site. Maria Lohmann, SFC Open Space and Parks planner is studying Arc Info to help facilitate the county's inclusion of interactive maps on the webpage. John reported that the rail trail work was suspended for the winter in December of last year and will re-commence in the spring.

Update on Windmills and Dream: Jim sent out new language for us to review concerning the Conservation Committee and the Preserve. He requested feedback at our earliest convenience and in any case no later than the end-of-the-month.

Jared Saums Eagle Scout Ceremony: Committee members were all invited to Jared Saums ceremony to be held at 1:30 PM, Sunday, March 1st at the Fire Station. A number of members remarked that Jared had done a very good job on his trail project in the preserve.

Candidate Rob Egemeir: Mark shared that the board has yet to act on formally approving Mark Egemeir's nomination to the Conservation Committee. Delay due to some technicality regarding the manner in which Rob's property is owned. Vote is slated for February Board meeting.

Cactus "Class": John "Obie" Oberhausen has offered to present a class on cactus and cactus gardening. Some discussion ensued regarding committee's appreciation of Obie's work as well as concerns about possible collection of cactus from the preserve. While this practice was approved in relation to cacti removed as part of trail construction, committee members expressed concern regarding collection of cactus from the preserve exclusive of specific circumstances where approval has been given. The committee agreed to sponsor the proposed class possibly in May. Mark will get back to Obie with go-ahead for class and collecting concerns.

Annual Report: Jim sent out a draft for members review and comment. Tom Brimacombe suggested a few revisions. Committee members expressed their agreement with the proposed changes. Jim will revise and re-distribute before finalization.

Other Business: Mark reported that he had met with Arnold Atkins to evaluate proposed erosion control measures and materials placement locations. Jim and John Parker were present at the meeting in the field. Materials will be delivered sometime later in the winter or spring.

Jim reminded us that work will be happening on the green-belt trail every Wednesday and all members are invited.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50, with all members unanimously voting to do so.

Next meeting: March 3, 2015 at 7:00 pm.