

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes June 4, 2019

Attending: Carol Beidleman, Paul Butt, Thomas Bredenberg, Tom Brimacombe (Vice Chair), Jim Daniel, John Parker (Chair), Elizabeth Maclaren (ECIA Liaison), Mark Young (HOAMCO representative)

- Approval of agenda; Tom Bredenberg motion to approve, Jim Daniel 2nd
- Appointment of recording secretary: Tom Bredenberg
- Approval of the May minutes: approved with final changes 05-11-2019 Motion Jim Daniel 2nd Carol Beidleman
- Excused absences: Mary Clark, Introduction of guests: John Oberhausen, John Reynolds
- Report from the Board Liaison; Elizabeth reported that the ECIA now has a full board with the seating of Nancy Sulzberg. Ad hoc committees and task forces are reviewing by-laws, environmental stewardship committee., welcome packet, fire mitigation, drone policy task force, dark skies, accessory dwelling. The stable water system replacement will be expensive. Finance committee reports that ECIA will need to replenish its reserves, assessment increase likely. Committee budgets are due in August
- HOAMCO report — report on drone task force, educational component, designated area, Compadres Park, e.g., vandalism at Compadres Park. Pool renovation is progressing slowly. Due to commitments to these task forces Mark Young will no longer be our rep and Mike Rogers will be attending our next meeting.
- Open Forum, John Oberhausen (Obie) of the Cactus Rescue Project wants to remove the cages on SF cholla project (last year's planting off 101) with the State Botanist on 06-25-2019. Seeking our permission, will also get permission from Ms. Chapman to drive through her property. Cages currently not visible due to vegetation growth. Jim Daniel motion to allow, Paul Butt 2nd with assurance they will not to drive on the Preserve when it is muddy. They will also start the Eldorado garden tour again, 1st year only cactus gardens, scheduled for 06-05-2020. Is seeking Conservation Committee's support for first year only, which we will. On 06-25-2019 at 6:00 there will be the first meeting at the ECIA conference room to begin planning next year's cactus garden tour.
- Library Trail completion: see attached map. Paul Butt, mowing done and mowing flags removed, 2 spots need blade work east of the dam. Parker will follow up with Julie. SW Mountain surveys will finish the surveying west of the dam and we need to be present to document the locations on GPS and PVC pipe markers. Social trails trespassing Valencia Loop, Mariano Road area. \$5K budgeted for the survey, cost will be \$2K. Schedule survey and HOAMCO for August. Notify all lot owners prior. Post closed for restoration signs. John Reynolds cautioned to keep social trails open until permanent trail is firmly established. Paul Butt will draft action plan for communication with lot owners with feedback to Mark. Should be a win-win for all concerned. Tom Brimacombe reported the Melado trail has also been mowed.
- Review and discussion of Landscape Practices Document: Obie will circulate and provide his group's feedback. Mark will follow up with Karen Murray. John Parker got some feedback from Cheri Payne.
- Holian Ranch Tour 05-16-2019: We visited several areas on the ranch that had been restored using rock structures, with which we are familiar, and palisade dam/branch mat restoration (see 404 below), filter dams, and log step downs.

Preserve Trail work schedule JWW projects and committee work days

- 401 head cut remediation project status: We contacted PNM and the easement agreement is in force for two more years. Need to hire equipment contractors, \$5K maximum without going through the procurement process, schedule this work for autumn.

- 404 meadow head cut project: (See JW's Trail 404 Gully and Meadow Treatment Plans, attached) Oscar's has the best posts for palisades, 26 x 6' and 5', Paul will work it out with Julie and he and John Parker will check out the posts, buy and store at ECIA. Upstream brush mats should be laid prior to palisades, rock rundowns. Member recon, scheduled for 06-21-19 and volunteer day 06-22-19. Publicity will be released 06-14-2019 (Next door, email blast, marquee). 08-10-2019 volunteer day with JW, late July 07-19, or 08-05 preliminary Committee members only

- New Business; Trail width maintenance safety v. fire mitigation in the greenbelts, particularly Gallina, Los Alamos Park, Library Trail. New hires for lifeguards (pool attendants) could work clearing trails with committee supervision, Mike Rogers has trail building experience. Fire mitigation is a bigger topic. Standing dead and tumble weeds on fence lines could be a problem later in the summer. We must be honest about our limitations as a committee; control burns are out, goats are out. Sparks from gas powered mowers and trimmers limit their use in the greenbelts. We do not have the resources to do more than make recommendations based on current literature. We need to have some more informed discussions, maybe contract it out to someone with an ecological perspective.
- Adjournment: next meeting Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at 7:00 PM.