

Conservation Committee Minutes—September 1, 2015 Final

Attendees: Jim Daniel, John Parker, Cherry Payne, Mary Clark, Mark Young, Tom Bredenberg, Rob Egemeier, Tom Brimacombe, Greg Colello (Board Liaison)

1. **Guests:** Jan-Willem Jansens

2. **August minutes:** John Parker moved to approve, Jim Daniel seconded. Approved unanimously.

3. **Additional Project for this year (2015 budget):** Because we have been relieved of reporting requirements by the USACE, we have some extra money to do trail work on Trail 101 between C and D (\$450). Tom Brimacombe has done some work, but some structures have silted in and there are still features that will help to protect and stabilize the trail. Jan-Willem has proposed we work on Nov. 7 and that we could get the work done in a half day. There was a discussion that the trail might need to be realigned rather than the maintenance work that Jan-Willem proposes, especially entering and exiting two arroyos that the trail crosses. Jim suggested that we plan our maintenance day and combine that with an assessment of options. The work can probably be done with 12-15 people. Mark will send an email out to our volunteer list. Meet at the Clubhouse at 8:30 am - 1:00 pm, Saturday, Nov. 7.

4. **Budget development for 2016:** There was a discussion about several potential projects, including projects that we would assess in 2016, prioritize, and then complete in 2016 if the budget allows, as well as budget others for 2017 and beyond. It will include items that require ECIA staff work. The budget proposal is an attachment to these minutes.

5. **Greenbelt work between VGPL and the Rail Trail:** there was a meeting today with the county (Mark Hansen) regarding the work that we are hoping that they will do on their lands. The county has suggested some alternative routes to allow users to access the Senior Center. The project is working its way through the county bureaucracy. To get rid of the cholla, we need about 3 hours of Kubota work on this trail.

6. **PNM Easement agreement (Trail 401-403):** a draft has been sent to the Board.

7. **Update on Eagle Scout project on Trail 101:** Jan-Willem has met with the Scouts on-site and they flagged the trail. The work is to take place on Oct. 17th as part of one of our workdays.

8. **Update on erosion control work along the Greenbelt Pilot Trail:** the structures are working and collecting sediment. There is still rock available there.

9. **Report on site visit to Los Alamos Park Greenbelt:** there is some disagreement among committee members as to how pervasive the cholla in the trail is, especially relative to other trails in the Greenbelt. One management strategy would be to remove cholla within a certain distance of a trail. The cupped trails contribute to the problem as well. The amount of manual labor required relative to the problem is overwhelming, especially on a Greenbelt-wide basis. Greg has volunteered to address a section of this particular trail.

10. **COLTPAC:** The ribbon-cutting for the completion of the new section of the Rail Trail that ends at Avenida Vista Grande will be in September. John suggests that someone from Eldorado be there. Not date has been set yet.

11. **Report of Progress on remaining Trail Junction signs:** Andrea Sharon has completed a design for us and the files have been given to the sign manufacturer. We await an estimate on when we will receive them.

12. Acceptance of John Cannella's resignation from the committee: John resigned from the committee due to home and work demands, but would like to volunteer on workdays. He was a great addition to the committee; he will be missed.

13. Status of budget expenditures YTD: Mark was unable to get this before the meeting. As of July 23, we have spent \$4238. Since then we have bought grass seed for \$669, \$205 for sign design and an estimated \$200 for the sign manufacturer's time. Tom Brimacombe has given information on cameras that we want to purchase to Mark. Mark will order a camera.

14. Request to Mow Pilot Project Trail: A memo was sent to the Board for their consideration.

15. Other Business: Greg suggested creating plant catalog, with a standard form and protocol for submissions by residents. ECIA has an herbarium collection that was collected years ago by a resident and a UNM professor.

16. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm. John moved to adjourn, Rob seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: October 6th at 7:00 pm