

Conservation Committee Minutes September 2, 2014 FINAL

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

Guests: Paul Drumright, Mike Schneider (Eldorado PTA), Rob Egemeier

August minutes were reviewed, corrected and approved.

Guests:

a) Eldorado Fun Run: Mike Schneider, representing the Eldorado PTA, requested the first 1/4 mile greenbelt trail segment that will be used for the Fun Run (Sept. 27) be mowed, as weeds and vegetation are growing so tall that the trail is almost obliterated. ECIA will do the mowing. The day of the race, the trail will be marked so that runners know the route to follow, but these will be removed after the race. John Cannella moved to allow this, seconded by Tom Brimacombe; it passed unanimously.

b) Paul Drumright attended the meeting to find out more about the Pilot project and to express his great displeasure that the project was done in the wrong place—it should have been built in HIS greenbelt. He used to hike the greenbelt trails all the time, but stopped due to leash law changes; he notes that the trails have deteriorated and enjoyed walking the Pilot trail. He is concerned about the lack of pedestrian access, especially in conjunction with road improvements. He is a member of the Roads Committee and would like to see more collaboration between that committee and the Conservation Committee. John Parker noted that the Facilities and Grounds committee should join into that collaboration, as they oversee the bike paths. John is a member of the COLPAC (County Open Lands, Trails, and Parks Advisory Committee). Tom Bredenberg noted that the county's involvement has complicated issues.

Pilot Project:

a) Mark presented a trail marker prototype, which is a latilla cut with an angled top and a number painted on it. The ECIA staff experimented with different marking methods (burning in the number) which turned out to be time consuming and not very visible. It was agreed that the numbers would be painted with a darker (i.e., black) paint, and then the tops would be sealed. There was a discussion as to how to install the posts to make them more tamper-resistant.

b) Public notification and involvement: notifications were sent several weeks ago to all homeowners whose homes are on the section of the greenbelt where the trail was or is being built.

c) Fall tours of the project: Steve offered to conduct tours but no one showed up. On Oct. 11, the committee will again offer a tour of the new trail and would like for the Board to be there. It would be good for the Board to see the trail and/or for the committee to get their okay before we continue with grading the last section. It was also decided to postpone any Kubota work until after the community forum.

d) The county permit was approved on Sept. 2 and will be picked up on the 3rd.

e) Work days are continuing on Wednesdays, generally meeting at 8:45 am at the Vista Grande parking area.

Status of New Greenbelt Trail Map: The draft is complete and an estimate has been received (\$962.32 + \$84.12 tax). Mark will contact the printer to give them the go-ahead. A notification about the availability of the maps will be put onto the web site as well as a PDF of the brochure.

The Town Hall Open Forum will be held on Sept. 8: there was a discussion as to whether or not the committee needs to make a statement there. If so, Cherry will do it.

Trail 201 Workday: it is scheduled for Sept. 20. The rock has been delivered and staged. Jan-Willem Jansens will lead the work day. Mark will solicit more volunteers from the community.

Trespass issue: some Preserve users have been trespassing onto private land to access the Preserve rather than using established trailheads. At an earlier meeting, it was decided that ECIA should advise that landowner to post their land; we never heard back from them. A notice will be put onto the ECIA website advising residents that accessing the Preserve through this person's property constitutes trespass. Dag is the lead on this.

Other business: On Sat, Sept. 13 there will be International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) Land Manager training at the Ski Basin; Tom Brimacombe is signed up to participate.

On Sept. 27 in Galisteo Basin there will be a work day to build a new trail on the west side of the Basin. Those interested in helping should meet at the Cottonwood Trailhead (the southern-most one).

John Parker will be attending the COLPAC meeting tomorrow night.

There was a discussion of the Rail Trail from Rabbit Road to the Spur Trail. Every twenty feet there is a ditch across the trail about 10" deep. The base course and pea gravel that have been applied to the trail makes it not conducive to mountain biking.

Mark brought up the issue of a hike/bike trail along Azul Road.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.