

September 6, 2016 Conservation Committee Meeting

Attendees: Jim Daniel (Chair), Gerry Gulseth, John Parker (Meeting Secretary), Tom Brimacombe, Greg Colello, Mark Young, John Reynolds, Rob Egemeier, David Yard - Board Liaison.

1. Approval of July Minutes – Motion to approve made by Jerry Gulseth, seconded by John Reynolds. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Guests - Jan-Willem Jansens in attendance to discuss scheduling of workdays.
Cecil Rich introduced himself to the committee. He stated that he wanted to sit in on a few meetings to see if his background in biology might be a good fit. He is new to the community.
Lee Onstott introduced himself to the committee. He is a long-term resident of Eldorado that enjoys the Preserve trails. He came to express his disapproval of the new “No Trespassing” signs on the backside of Vista Grande Peak. He hikes to the top of VG Peak on the marked trail and prefers to go off the backside to continue his walk. He thinks the placement of signs on the social trail is not going to stop erosion. John Parker and Tom Brimacombe responded to his assertions and suggested he use only signed trails - erosion is a problem in this area.
3. Survey of 300 and 400 Trails - Jim Daniel opened discussion of surveys performed by himself, other committee members and JW Jansens. Discussions centered on several sections of trail most in need of work. These areas include the southern end of Trail 301, the northeast portion of Trail 401, and a re-route of Trail 401 before the intersection with Trail 403. JWJ also mentioned his concern over erosion in a meadow area perched on the slopes adjacent to Trail 302.
4. JWJ presented potential candidate sites for fall work projects. These centered on those areas discussed in the previous item. Consensus was reached on two projects; Trail 301 between markers 3D and 3C, & Trail 401 near the intersection of 403. Dates of October 22nd and November 5th were agreed upon. An additional project may be scheduled for October 29th - possibly on the northeast section of Trail 401.
5. Best Landscaping Practices Committee - Gerry reported that he had been in contact with JWJ who has reviewed the draft booklet and suggested sources of information that might be included. Gerry hopes to revise the document before the November meeting.
6. Greenbelt Trail Standards - the Board has not discussed the proposed standards yet. David Yard suggested that these be brought up after the special election, and further suggested that a committee member be present.
7. Trash and possible Poaching at TH 400 - former committee member SueAnne Armstrong reported smelling rotting flesh on a walk up a canyon off Trail 403. She found a pile of trash in the TH 400 parking lot. Amongst the trash was an empty package of arrow heads. Several committee members walked through the area based on SueAnn’s description but found (and smelled) nothing. The committee discussed concerns with poaching in this remote section of the Preserve.
8. Greenbelt Trail Standards - Jim Daniel will request the ECIA board consider the Greenbelt document at their next meeting.

9. COLTPAC - John Parker gave us an update on COLTPAC activities. Members noted the county had occupied the parking area by the Rail Trail at Avenida Vista Grande. Work is now progressing on Phase 3 of the Rail Trail.

10. Survey of Greenbelt access at Cuesta Road - Survey was completed which showed encroachment of driveway and semi-permanent landscaping into the access tract. The Reverend Virginia Grey, who owns the property at 12 Cuesta Road, stated that she had verbal permission to place the drive and features in the tract. Her "Church of the Calling Stones" holds services in the Greenbelt.

11. Old Business - PNM Agreement – ECIA has received the signed agreement from PNM. It is awaiting signature from Board President Dag Ryan.

12. Next meeting – October 4, 2016. John Reynolds will be Secretary.

13. Meeting adjourned at 9:150. Rob Egemeier made motion to adjourn, Jerry Gulseth seconded.