

ECIA Conservation Committee Minutes

January 4 2022

1. Call to Order: Paul Butt (Chair) at 7:01 pm.
2. Roll call of members & determination of quorum: Present were Paul Butt (Chair), Carol Beidleman, Susan Will, Jürgen Lehman, Thom Bredenberg, John Parker, Tom Brimacombe. Quorum established. Board Liaisons: Carol Sanguinetti and Jonathan Turkle. Guests: Mike Schneider, Paul Fink, Ashton Thornhill, John McDermon, and Karen Ebler.
3. Appointment of Recording Secretary: Susan Will (Susan Will for February, Carol Beidleman for March).
4. Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved with motion to table discussion of possible new covenant(s) issue concerning tall weeds on lots and defensible space in greenbelts until Mark Young can be available by Carol Beidleman; motion to approve by Thom Bredenberg; seconded by Susan Will; motion carried. Comments to be made by Mike Schneider on the issue were moved to Open Forum.
5. Announcements:
Meeting is live and streamed on ZOOM with the following rules:
Guests are muted until recognized.
Guests should type in name and full address. If you wish

to speak during the OPEN FORUM, please state your topic. Residents will be recognized on a first come, first served basis.

Private messaging during the meeting is disabled.

An audio recording of the Zoom meeting will be made, and will be available after the meeting upon request to conservationchair@gmail.com

6. Approval of November minutes with Carol Beidleman's change of car stickers item to note that the decision was not unanimous but the discussion was informative. Thom Bredenberg moved to approve; Susan Will seconded; motion carried.
7. Board Liaison report by Jonathan Turkle: 1) ECIA has a new communication director - Pamela Villars - contact her for VISTAS articles and other communications. 2) A request was made to again remove our trails in the Preserve from AllTrails. AllTrails are taking the info from a wiki (not given to us- Open Street Maps) and it has all of our trails on it. Can go in and remove them but may show up again. Jonathan is requesting to delay that until he finds out if we can import their data to our GIS. Will keep us updated. 3) Board approved setup an ARCGIS committee for Eldorado that will be used across committees. 4) Paul, Susan, Jonathan, and met on using ARCGIS for the Pueblo Canyon Park boundaries. 5) Will await proceeding as we are moving from Earth Analytics to a company out of Denver for the work because they are more responsive.

8. HOAMCO report: Mike Rogers is out on approved leave. Paul Butt: Mike, HOAMCO crew members, and Paul worked on the SE corner of the Preserve where fence line was cut in two places and cattle (which are now gone) had entered the Preserve along the TR 403 (showed photos). Repaired both locations and put in extra posts. All repairs since 2019 use wildlife-friendly practices - smooth wire top and bottom, using recommended slope and height guidelines, and flagging. Need to institutionalize that our procedure is to use the guide.

9. Open Forum

- Mike Schneider: Pursuant to the Boulder, CO fire, he feels we need a controlled burn in Gallinas Park and need to address fire threats in Eldorado. Leadership needs to start at the top by addressing the threats to public spaces in Eldorado. Seven to eight years ago he spoke with Santa Fe Co. who oversees Eldorado Fire and Rescue and thinks we should start some experimenting with cutting, burn, etc. Has experience with controlled burns from past, it's a regular process and can be carefully applied. Committee members appreciated his comments but felt we need to move forward carefully with this process as it is very hard to do a controlled burn in such small areas with tight housing adjacent and it is beyond our capacities. More entities need to be involved in this discussion and all options need to be

looked at in terms of risk mitigation.

- Review of Greenbelt/Preserve Pet leash/voice control rule. Paul Butt: distressing number of posts and emails about dogs off-leash, biting other dogs, etc. Karen Ebler: Concerned about pro-violence NextDoor posts and do not feel safe walking dogs off-leash in Preserve. Called Animal Control and verified that there is no leash law in Santa Fe Co. They cannot issue any fines or summons if activity takes place on a trail that is not county-maintained. Would like to work it out but not sure how. Paul Butt: Can observe, try to find some truth, but are not obligated to respond. Questionable truth in reports of aggressive animals but there is truth in what comes in to committees. Cannot anticipate enforcement authority. Problem with owners not having voice control. Perhaps this is an avenue for education. "Pets must be on leash or under voice control for the sake of wildlife and other hikers".

10. Project status updates:

- 401 N steps re-route: John Parker: In December they got the cutting and brush removed the first day and placed the rock and finished the tread on the second day. Since then have seen tracks on tread and it's getting compacted. Paul Butt: Saw it before snow and it looks good on approach before snow and will

see what happens after winter. Big improvement over old trail. Will get with HOAMCO to remove old bars and rebar in spring.

- · 401-S damsite, north gully erosion control project (Paul Butt): Showed before and after photos. Rio Grande Return did a terrific job and the work is done. Everything that was excavated and disturbed on the meadow and roadway was reseeded with native grass mix and wild sage has come in. We will watch the berm and, if needed, armor it because there is a side arroyo that is below the treatment area. Also need to reseed on the little reroute.
- · Tamarisk control in Trail 211 wetlands restoration area - Paul Butt: Had problems with treatment because of tamarisk toughness, will try again in warmer weather, used less than a pint of the treatment and will monitor to see how it work on the one clump treated.
- · Graffiti cleanup on Tr 201 Paul Butt: ordered and received two different brands of graffiti removal (“elephant snot” and “taginator”) but it works far better when material to be treated is warm so will do a pilot and try it on a back side when the weather warms. If it is successful, then will apply to the more-visible heart. Cannot get the mule into the area

and may ask for equestrian assist. The graffiti was reported to the sheriff's office but they will probably not take any action.

- Vistas article series for spring, "Keep it Natural" (Susan Will) is ready for submission Wednesday, January 5, 2022 with photos. Would like to a follow-up with the next one on trails: access points, established trails, and social trails. Will hold off on having people contact the ECIA if they note anything until future articles. Will start with more introductory information and hope it will open it up to education and conversation initially. Will get Pamela's email and work with her on future articles about the greenbelt.

11. New business:

- Discussion of 2022 projects: Thom Bredenberg: 1) establish kiosk similar to TR 200 educational display at TR 401 meadow restoration. Paul Butt: 2) Use volunteer manual labor on the TR 301 and TR 302 meadow headcut with a palisade; 3) there is federal grant money for private property for habitat improvement and erosion control projects - need to find out what grant categories to try for in Preserve. Carol Beidleman: 4) Need to monitor the Preserve boundary and need fencing and 5) keep funding for trail emergency issues that arise like

erosion areas - need to identify the potential and use a “placeholder” for maintenance funds when we need them. Paul Butt: Suggest we concentrate on the first mile because that is where most of the traffic and a lot of the damage is. We need to make site visits to some of those first miles as a good way to line out work days. John Parker: 6) The well near Apache Spring could use a committee reconnaissance, along with the wetland below to monitor the arroyo below. This would keep us aware of that situation and any action that might be needed before any development takes place. We should monitor it and maintain some water level data before any development activity in the area takes place and see if spring is still flowing. Jürgen Lehman: 7) 300m S of TR 300D junction there is a deep headcut 10M from the 301 trail - is it too big to for us to stabilize? Paul Butt: No, we can do it. Let's make a list for the February meeting and then start doing reconnaissance hikes to assess these projects.

- · Election of a new Chair for the Conservation Committee. Paul Butt: Started in Feb. of 2020 and needs to resign chair duties tonight due to other obligations. Main topics brought up during the ensuing discussion were:
 - 1) The committee definitely needs a chair. The role, responsibilities, term, and workload are the issue. The chair's role is very important to the committee

but the administrative workload has become excessive. We need to explore ways to remain instructive and effective but alleviate this situation. Theoretically, the chair duties required by the charter could be done in a few hours a week if the workload were distributed more evenly throughout the committee.

- 2) Suggest we make better use of our paid support to do this, e.g., Mark Young does the administrative work for the Architecture Committee and we aren't asking HOAMCO to do that much. Need to continue the discussion with Mike Rogers and the Board.
- 3) Membership on the committee should perhaps be contingent on doing assignments. The suggestions were made to use project leaders or subcommittees for different projects or subcommittees for budget, annual report, education, delegated projects, etc. Also need recruitment for more members with a clear explanation of what volunteer expectations are for the committee.
- 3) Need to rewrite the charter that is due this year. Also need an orderly system for knowledge transfer and preservation of committee memory, particularly if the roles become short-term.
- 4) We need more HOAMCO assistance as we go forward. Paul will have this discussion with the

Board (with support from Jonathan Turkle) for more paid labor support at the next board mtg. Examples would be to have HOAMCO do the public notification of greenbelt work, provide meeting notes, and more of the administrative requirements.

- We need to restructure and learn how other committees are operating. It was concluded that everyone needs to contribute options. Thom Bredenberg volunteered to write the agenda and chair the February meeting. Provide comments with plan to the Board (primarily with what sort of help we need from HOAMCO) to Paul and items for the February meeting to Thom. The conservation email account will be made accessible to Thom and Paul will talk to Julie Navarro about having HOAMCO monitor the account and respond to administrative or routine comments and/or forward others to the chair. The existing HOAMCO staff consistently does a good job and we need to take advantage of their expertise. Thom and Paul will work out how to hand off the duties. We will discuss the committee organization ideas at the February meeting.
- Thom Bredenberg: Let the minutes reflect that we greatly appreciate the incredibly good job Paul Butt has done as our Chair.

12. Old Business: None.

13. Adjournment: Motion by John Parker to adjourn; seconded by Susan Will; motion carried. Adjourned at 9:18 pm