

ECIA Conservation Committee Zoom Meeting March 7, 2023 MINUTES
7 - 9 pm

1. Call to Order by Acting Chair, Thomas Bredenberg at 7:00 pm.
2. Attendees: Roll call of members and determination of quorum:

Carol Beidleman
Thomas Bredenberg
Tom Brimacombe
Paul Butt
John Parker

Quorum status: Yes

Liaisons:
Jonathan Turkle (Board Liaison)
Mike Rogers (HOAMCO Liaison)
Meeting Assistance: Niamh Walsh (HOAMCO Staff)

Guests: Paul and Andra Fink; Jeff Iasilli; Darrel Owen; Jim Brown

3. Appointment of recording secretary: Carol Beidleman

For May 9 meeting (changed from May 2): Thom Bredenberg

Chair for May 9 meeting (changed from May 2): Paul Butt

4. Approval of Agenda: Motion by: Paul Butt; 2nd by: John Parker

Vote: Unanimous

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. Guests are limited to three minutes of discussion. For longer discussions, guests must notify the Committee Chair no later than seven days in advance of the Committee meeting, and the item will be placed on the agenda.

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 January Minutes: Motion by: Carol Beidleman; 2nd by: John Parker

Vote: Unanimous

7. Board Liaison Report by Jonathan Turkle, motion status

Fuels Reduction in Greenbelts, Policy & SOP

Board felt needed more comment from membership so put up on website with link for direct comment; will put out eBlast for comments tomorrow. Will come before Board at this month's meeting, which Thom Bredenberg will attend (will ask Committee members for input prior).

Committee Charter Changes

Approved by Board, not sure if updated on web; Jonathan Turkle will check tomorrow. Thom said current charter up on web is signed; Paul said needs to be signed by ECIA President and Chair of Conservation Committee. Jonathan asked if role needs to be identified, rather than individuals, since Chair positions are changing.

T201 doggie station is in place down by the kiosk; fence has been repaired.

8. HOAMCO Report by Mike Rogers

Re downed trees on trails, maintenance crew and Mike went on 301 trail to clear three trees. Still downed trees on 405, 404, and 101, and they will get out to take care of that. John asked about lop and scatter; Paul suggested a light touch. A different situation if falling hazard or if starts to accumulate. Gratitude to HOAMCO for taking care of these downed trees.

Re Herrada Terrace Greenbelt Access trail, will channel it down this week. The bench cut looks really good. Where did new trail on Greenbelt, where it went down to private property, everything had been cleared off trail with all the brushing gone, so somebody went down to clear this where it says no trespassing. HOAMCO will brush again and put up sign area is closed as leads to private property. Paul asked Mike to do eBlast after have brushed, that this is an action ECIA approved to prevent trespass on private property with a reroute put in place and we ask we people to use it. Paul can work with Mike next week for a sketch map.

John said small reroute on Pueblo Canyon Trail and signs have not been disturbed, but signs were meant to be temporary and we need a more permanent visual closure. Need to discuss how to close off areas in Greenbelt like split fence County uses. Paul wants recommendations from Board for sanctions if removal happens again. Thom thinks education is important; Greenbelts are storm sewers not just for recreation. Carol B. recommended May Vistas article; build off Mike's eBlast.

Follow-up on ConservationChair Gmail email acct monitoring: Not in Mike's purview.

9. Administrative issues (Paul Butt)

o Suggested updates to webpage and requests to HOAMCO for assistance per 02-23-2023 Committee Chairs' Meeting (Paul Butt)

Paul talked about desire for more people power for all activities; he'll follow up with Amelia and Carol S. Carol S. thought might be relief when Jessica comes back, as many other committees are receiving that support already. Larger issue is proposal to hire additional HOAMCO staff to manage the conservation workload when outside Committee's expertise or capacity, which was fairly well received as Carol S. said there's precedent w/r/t pool manager, on a seasonal basis (April-September). Could share in volunteer work day efforts, etc. and overall condition of trail system. Paul will develop a first draft of a job description, ready by May after Committee reviews/votes. Paul would prefer paid for under HOAMCO umbrella. There

would be benefits to a dedicated position, but may be hard to find one person with these skill sets or at this pay scale.

- o Update documents and links for webpage (tabled, but need new Preserve map put up now)

10. Project status updates:

- o Trail 302 Meadow erosion control and habitat restoration project

Paul and Jan-Willem Jansens have been sponsoring. Want to pick possible dates to check Jan-Willem's schedule; propose Friday 3/31 or 4/7. Paul will work with HOAMCO for eBlast.

- o 200 Series new sign installation

Thom is working on. 2B sign and directional signs were pulled down but we have them and posts are straight. Ask HOAMCO to resink the posts with concrete. John recommended thinking about where to appropriately place them, including for nuisance. Mike will look at them on Friday with Thom and HOAMCO.

Carol B. suggested we need to place signs "This parking lot is monitored for vandalism" at all trailheads; Sheriff is monitoring these trailheads but that is insufficient. Jonathan will take this before the Board.

Kiosk signs will need addendum sign to update with new wording, and brochure needs insert. We'll roll out changes which were a refinement when needed. Tom Brimacombe is willing to rewrite signs, can make a template. Jonathan will first make sure the new wording has been approved.

- o Trail 201 "first mile" maintenance

Need to use mechanized equipment and go through this gate, through the wetlands/arroyo. Paul will scout end of March then get back with Committee; need to stage gravel there before this year's monsoons.

- o Trail 301, completion of "first mile" maintenance (last 1/3 mi)

Paul suggested Friday, 4/14, then will set 4/21 as contingency date.

- o Trail 401 "steps" repair

Was postponed due to weather. John says it's getting used and is holding up pretty well, but needs an afternoon and 3-4 people to finish. That section gets lot of sun and drains well, so could do anytime. Could use volunteer list, Paul would coordinate getting notice out. John will check his schedule.

- o Camerada Road -Loop, erosion repair in access to Gallina Park

Was postponed due to weather. Need to look at erosion, develop solutions to repair, locate property markers to reroute if necessary, notify neighborhood. Set for 3/29, 9 a.m. at Thom's; bring metal detector.

11. New Business:

- o Further discussion of scouting for possible new Preserve Trail (407) in the southeastern (not south western) part of the 400 Preserve

John's idea was that a lot of this would be following trails already established for maintenance, like fence-fixing or patrols, both for recreation and to monitor fenceline. Location would be south of 404 and east of 403, southeast corner, where currently no trail. Carol B. asked about the "why" for putting in a new trail here, given that it is undisturbed and we can't keep up with maintaining the trail system we already have. Thom asked how this would enhance conservation. Carol B. expressed concern about opening TH4 to horses, which Thom agreed with. The 400 series has had a lot of use since Covid. John suggested a spring recon to look at the area, including Amelia.

- o Equestrian perimeter patrols in the Preserve, previously tabled until March
Talked previously re equestrian perimeter patrols; we are interested in this, and will do an eBlast that horses allowed to be in there.

- o May mowing of social trail in Gallina Greenbelt between Compadres Park and Rail trail
This area got very overgrown with Russian thistle and kochia; dangerous for rattlesnakes. Need to mow it earlier than previously. Will have HOAMCO address at May meeting.

- o Status of Cactus Rescue Project in the Preserve
We're all devastated by the loss of John "Obie" Oberhausen of the Cactus Rescue Project (CRP). CRP had a project in the Preserve several years ago for the endangered Santa Fe Cholla. Thom wants Committee's okay to approach CRP as to whether they are still taking care of it or if it's on its own. Discussion about putting a small sign there, but don't want to advertise the presence of those plants. Could develop brief write-up with appreciation for his contributions to Preserve, and put at TH1. Carol B. suggested write up in Vistas, on our homepage, or at Obie's June 4th Celebration of Life at the Community Cactus Garden. Thom will follow-up with Joe Newman.

12. Old Business:

- o Library Trail
As soon as Camerada Road-Loop erosion repair is done, Thom will adopt this and see to conclusion.

- o Pueblo Canyon survey
Good to keep this on our radar as unfinished business. Paul and Jonathan have been in touch with GIS folks/consultant, to create RFP so can get data and upload into GIS map for ECIA especially regarding boundaries. They will get together in early April.

13. Open Forum: No one asked to speak.

14. Motion to adjourn: Motion by: John Parker; 2nd by: Paul Butt

Vote: Unanimous

Adjournment time: 8:56p.m.