

ECIA Conservation Committee Minutes July 11, 2023

7 - 9 pm

1. Call to Order by Acting Chair, John Parker at 7:04 pm.

2. Attendees:

Roll call of members and determination of quorum:

Carol Beidleman (Present)

Thomas Bredenberg (Present)

Tom Brimacombe (Present)

Paul Butt (Present)

John Parker (Present)

Quorum status: Yes

Liaisons:

Jonathan Turkle (Board Liaison)- Absent

Amelia Adair (Alt. Liaison)- Present

Mike Rogers (HOAMCO Liaison) -Absent

Meeting Assistance: Niamh Walsh (HOAMCO Staff)

Guests:

Darrel Owen, Michael Schneider

3. Recording secretary: HOAMCO Staff

4. Appointment of Chair for September meeting: Changed to September 12th. Thomas Bredenberg will chair.

5. Approval of Agenda: Motion by: Thomas Brendenberg 2nd by: Paul Butt

Vote: Unanimous

6. 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

7. Approval of May Minutes with Carol's edits : Motion by: Thomas Bredenberg 2nd by: Paul Butt Vote: Unanimous

8. No HOAMCO Report by Mike Rogers

9. Board Liaison Report by Amelia Adair:

Reminder that the board and committee chair meeting is Thursday 13th at 5:30 via zoom. Discussed the budget in the finance meeting and asked HOAMCO to go out and get an estimate of the job description that Paul shared. There is a new resident welcome event at 9:00am this Saturday, the 15th at the community center. Paul will be attending the meeting on the 13th.

10. Project status updates:

- Town hall meeting and written comments on draft Greenbelt Fire Risk Management Policy & SOP. Discussion of next steps to be taken to prepare the final draft for Board consideration.

We have been through the process required by Bylaws. At the end of the town hall Amelia requested that the committee consider the comments. In Paul's view he did not see any in those comments that really necessitated changes to the draft under consideration. This was requested by the board. They wanted to see if the conservation committee had seen anything in the comments that they could make changes to. The committee thinks that there need to be no changes based on the comments that they received. Amelia had put in some comments before it was sent out saying that we should label them as Greenbelt and explain what that means. That they are not easements and that is why we cannot build on them. The committee came to a decision that they will let Amelia proceed to make the changes to circulate and then bring it before the board.

Motion to recommend the Greenbelt draft policy updated by Amelia Adair for board consideration on July 18th: Paul Butt 2nd by Carol Beidleman Vote: unanimous.

- Camerada Lp project: Thom Bredenberg will update on project status. Set workdays by HOAMCO maintenance & Mike Rogers + survey services. Set workday for building erosion control structures (once the rock has been staged on-site).

Status as of right now is the new trail has been marked with the red flags. Thomas Bredenberg cleared the section of the dead chollas between the road and the big juniper and up the hill. He will notify the conservation email and the neighbors close when he is going to be weed whacking. The dog station has been approved and ordered and the demark aiding is out there but needs to follow up with Mike to make sure. Pruning needs to be done and then after that we can ask for the rock to be delivered. Scheduled rock day will be sometime in autumn. Thomas will get in contact with Mike to set dates and talk.

- Trail 401 "steps" repair Community workday report and follow up inspection.

There was a very good turnout for this event. Paul helped direct the event. It came together very well. The trail really needed care. John went out and checked on it after the rain and it held up beautifully.

- Trail 201 "first mile" maintenance schedule workday /HOAMCO

Tabled, will pick it back up in September meeting.

11. New Business:

- Further discussion of scouting for possible new Preserve Trail (407) in the southwestern part of the 400 Preserve

The scouting has not happened yet due to scheduling issues. There are some concerns here within the committee. The hope is that we can all arrive to some consensus at least for the primary purpose of trying to get an establish route. The committee is tabling this idea since there is a lot more work that needs to be done and they can't get out there right now due to the heat.

- Greenbelt Trail Definitions matrix." Request by board to develop a 1-page document that defines the different Greenbelt trail categories we commonly use, what kind of maintenance, if any, is needed, and what trail standards apply, if any. Discuss Paul's draft matrix submitted to CC members for review.

Paul presented a draft of the recommendations for standardized Greenbelt trail definitions. It is useful for the board and any other resident that needs clarification on what we are talking about and what it means. The committee needs to update the language on the spreadsheet.

- May mowing of social trail in Gallina Greenbelt between Compadres Park and Rail Trail

One pass with the mower will do it. They want to get in before the monsoons so the mower will not make a mess of things in the mud. The weeds are about a foot high; they are trying to get it down to about a 6-inch height. Thomas Bredenberg is going to get this scheduled with Mike.

- 2024 budget: Discussion of changes to Conservation Committee budget request submitted July 07 (2023 budget request submitted as place holder which will require some revision.)

Paul talked to Julie last week and she stuck in a placeholder amount. Paul has prepared a draft for the 2024 budget. Julie put in a placeholder for \$15,000 which is a little less than last year.

- Open Space Manager job description + qualifications - Paul distributed draft before meeting. Carol had provided detailed comments (email July 5th). The Open Space Manager budget, if approved, should be part of the total budget for HOAMCO not the CC budget.

Board is looking into the overall expenses because they would like to fund this position. Amelia is not sure what is going to happen but it's going to be a long process trying to find a way to fund this position.

- Pest Control Services - Members of the community have expressed concerns about the use of rodenticides by the pest control services here in Eldorado. Question: should the Conservation Committee post recommendations on rodent control much as we've done in the past for weed control?

John is concerned about people hiring these services without knowing the potential ecological downsides. John thinks it will be helpful to have some sort of statement by the committee in terms of how we control rodents and the best practices for it. He proposed we talk with some of the community members to get some input to make a draft to get on the website.

12. Old Business:

- Pueblo Canyon survey

Paul met with Jonathan and the person recommended to him. John Ferrell met him onsite. We talked about what needs to go into the survey. After that Paul drafted the request for quote who is doing the Camerada Loop. Trying to make sure were saying what we want.

13. Open Forum: No one had any comments

14. Motion to adjourn: Motion by: Carol Beidelman- 2nd by: Paul Butt

Vote: Unanimous

Adjournment time: 9:08PM