

ECIA Conservation Committee Minutes **September 18, 2023**

7 - 9 pm

1. Call to Order by Acting Chair, Thomas Bredenberg at 7 pm.

2. Attendees:

Roll call of members and determination of quorum:

Carol Beidleman (Present)

Thomas Bredenberg (Present)

Tom Brimacombe (Present)

Paul Butt (resignation submitted 08-28-2023)

John Parker (Present)

Quorum status: Yes

Liaisons:

Jonathan Turkle (Board Liaison)- Present

Mike Rogers (HOAMCO Liaison)- Present

Meeting Assistance: Niamh Walsh (HOAMCO Staff)- Present

Guests: Jeff & Michelle, Paul & Andra Fink, and Taylor Ward

3. Recording secretary: Niamh Walsh- HOAMCO Staff

4. Appointment of Chair for November meeting, deferred to 11. New Business

5. Approval of Agenda: Motion by: Carol Beidleman 2nd by: Tom Brimacombe

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 July Minutes: Motion by: Tom Brimacombe 2nd by: Carol Beidleman

Vote: Unanimous

8. Board Liaison Report by Jonathan Turkle

- Board retreat meeting, John Parker attended. The Board's direction is doing more outreach with the community, to come up with different policies. They are going to be doing different surveys. They reviewed the Greenbelt policy, and want to come up with a process for determining how any resident can make a request to do fuel mitigation. Having a focus group with members of the Board committee chair and a consultant. Jonathan has been in touch with other resources about how they can help. He's talking with people from many

different organizations for the consultant being brought in. The consultant will be there to guide and aide them. Jonathan sent the GIS survey to John and Paul about the Greenbelt. The Board and the Finance Committee have raised the Conservation Committee budget to \$25,000.

9. HOAMCO Report by Mike Rogers

- Jim Dexter from the US Forest Service went out today in the Preserve doing their forest inventory study, and we will be getting a copy of the findings. He and one other person went out to conduct the survey. Mike will send the findings to the Conservation Committee when he receives them. We got the permits for the new maintenance facility and the Conservation Committee will have a 10 by 15 ft storage area for tools etc. in that facility.

10. Project status updates:

- Camerada Loop project: Thom Bredenberg will update on project status.

The Camerada Loop project is almost complete. The alternate trail was laid down by the arena drag and it has been groomed. Mile Standish came out and helped a lot with the trail. The pile of rocks is being diminished and some of the rock work has been completed.

- Trail 201 "first mile" maintenance, schedule workday/HOAMCO. Special attention to erosion at northern most wetland crossing. Removal of carsonite markers, seasonal tamarisk control.

There are a lot of problems on this trail. Paul was thinking of using mechanized work, and the best way to access the trail with mechanized equipment, letting people come in and make rock structures. The committee needs to follow up with Paul to see what his ideas were for the trail. On October 6th there will be a workday and then on October 29th we will do the planning for the recon for the 201 trails. Thom will follow up with Paul about the Pueblo Canyon park surveys.

11. New Business:

- Status of chair

John attended the Board's retreat meeting. The chair was supposed to be helping with the ECIA strategic planning initiative. It was more of a team building exercise from HOAMCO and ECIA, an ad hoc committee. Our committee will be asked to participate. The chair of the November meeting will be Thom Bredenberg and he will ask for an alternate to attend things that he is not qualified for. Amelia will be doing a presentation at the following Board meeting about the Conservation Committee's role.

- Open Space Manager job description + qualifications - Status.

There is no rush in getting the job description completed since it will not be in the budget until January 2025. It will be going through Finance, and they will discuss it to be passed to the Board in May or June 2024 when Julie works on next year's budget. They are allowing the Conservation Committee budget of \$10,000 for a consultant to come in. This position can also be doing some of the administrative role in the office. Since this is such a big ask, it is going to take a lot of time to have an outcome. If it were to be approved, it might increase the yearly assessments. If this job description is tied to assessments, it will have to wait until 2026 since assessments can only increase every 2 years.

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

This is not a huge priority, and the committee lacks the support for it. It needs a lot more thought and a detailed plan before continuing with it. Parking will also be a huge problem that will need to be talked about. The committee is going to explore this individually and then share with each other what they find.

- 2024 budget

March 2024 is the deadline for the 2025 budget. The committee submitted a budget for \$15,000 and \$10,000 will be added for developing the Open Space Manager/hiring a consultant.

- Possible Vistas article re value of keeping dead and decaying trees and logs in the Preserve and Greenbelts., e.g, nursery trees, soil, water and nutrient conservation, composting in place, habitat and biodiversity, fiscal conservatism, etc. vs. removal due to perceived fire threat.

There have been a lot of comments about dead trees in the Preserve and Greenbelt. The community wants to know whether the committee is going to go out and remove the dead/fallen trees. Paul has mentioned that leaving the fallen/dead trees there as the best way for fire prevention.

- Forest inventory, SF cholla study and restoration, and EWAS/Jacobs Engineering project.

All the researchers have gotten their samples. The restoration will be paused until the summer of 2024. Melissa from the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District contacted Amelia and Julie that Jacobs Engineering has a sustainability committee, and they do a big project every year and asked what we might need help with for 20 volunteers. They decided to make a bench and shade structure near the trailhead near the library. Thom advised them that the committee no longer needs to be involved if they get all of the required permits.

12. Old Business:

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

The Board is still requesting this document, so the community can look at it and have knowledge. There were comments on it but it still needs clarification from the committee. Thom will contact Paul about the status of this document and report back to the committee.

13. Open Forum:

No Comments

Next Meeting will be November 14th.

14. Motion to adjourn: Motion by: John Parker 2nd by: Carol Beidleman

Vote: Unanimous

Adjournment time: 8:55PM