

ECIA Conservation Committee Minutes November 14, 2023

7 - 9 pm

1. Call to Order by Acting Chair, Thomas Bredenberg at 7:02pm.

2. Attendees:

Roll call of members and determination of quorum:

Carol Beidleman (Present)

Thomas Bredenberg (Present)

Tom Brimacombe (Present)

John Parker (Present)

Quorum status: Yes

Liaisons:

Jonathan Turkle (Board Liaison)-Present

Amelia Adair (Board President)-Present

Mike Rogers (HOAMCO Liaison)-Present

Meeting Assistance: Paola Arteaga (HOAMCO Staff)-Present

Guests:

David Rasch, Jeff Lasilli, Paul and Andra Fink

3. Recording secretary: HOAMCO Staff

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

5. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was modified to include two important issues: the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and the meeting with Jan-Willem Jansens on November 8th, which were both included in the Board Liaison report. The Pueblo Canyon survey GIS status has been added to old business.

Motion by: John Parker 2nd by: Carol Beidleman

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 September Minutes pending Carol's review: Motion by: John Parker 2nd by: Carol Beidleman

Vote: Unanimous

8. Board Liaison Report by Jonathan Turkle:

CWPP and meeting with JW Jansens 11-08-2023

Talking to different committees regarding a strategic plan.

Amelia- The volunteer appreciation dinner will be December 6th at 5:30. All volunteers are welcome to come. The annual report is coming up and the material is due February 15th. The committees do an annual report with goals for next year and achievements from this year. Amelia is hoping that each committee will participate in strategic planning for next year. All committees will be engaging in strategic planning. It doesn't have to be done by February 15th but hopefully it will be in place.

Regarding the Open Space Manager position, it was fully shaped and brought in from the Board for the strategic planning. Not many people are eager to join the committee, but having the support from HOAMCO it could be something we would really lean into. The Conservation Committee budget has been updated and more money has been added to help. The Board is getting a consultant to help with the job description, so it's fully put together.

Jonathan- The Board came to the Conservation Committee asking for a Greenbelt policy and then got feedback from the community. The meeting they had with the fire department about fire protection was the highest attended meeting the community has had this year. The Board thought it was a much more prominent issue and warranted looking at the whole community instead of just the Greenbelts. There was a discussion with a few other sources about how to do this. Jan-Willem Jansens from Ecotone Landscape Planning suggested an approach that will take about a year to do. We will work with the fire department, county, and state, and they can grant partial funding of \$25,000 to set this in motion. Amelia, Joseph, and Jan-Willem had a meeting about developing a CWPPs. They are working to create community awareness, to provide preparedness for what to do in an emergency, who to call and to enroll into a much larger plan too. It is much greater than our area, but we will need to get input from outside communities and many different areas. Nothing has been decided but we are looking into a plan. It wouldn't be an ECIA initiative, it would be much broader. Thom will represent the Conservation Committee in this CWPP effort, to ensure a voice for the bobcats (and other wildlife).

9. HOAMCO Report by Mike Rogers:

After the meeting with Jan-Willem, Mike asked for a letter of intent, but hasn't heard anything back from him yet. Mike will get the crew ready next week for the 201 trail repair. The new maintenance facility is coming along; tomorrow the plumber will be out then the rebar will go in. The pour is going to be done in the next week and a half. It is moving along very well. We have also been working with the Tree Samaritans gathering all the trimmings. John Gervers is looking to find a replacement for himself.

10. Project status updates:

- Trail 201 "first mile" maintenance, schedule workday, Thom Bredenberg will update on project status

The materials have already been delivered. We are going to be needing tools and wheelbarrows to complete this. Thom suggested not driving anything in again but to just taking the hand tool and wheel barrels. The committee had agreed to bring the kioti up on the trail to dig. It will start at the 300 trailhead and go up to the 200 trailhead. We'll concentrate on anything the backhoe must do first and then use a second day to do all of the hand work. The workday will be Tuesday November 21st at 9am at Trailhead 3.

- New Resident Welcome Event, 11-04-2023

Thomas Bredenberg was there and set out a card table and met a lot of new residents. Two questions came up, one about a birding club in Eldorado. There is a woman in Eldorado who take people out on bird walks; Carol will provide Thom with this contact information. The second one was someone who really liked the Vistas weed series and is interested in a botanical tour. It could be something to do mid-summer, with timing dependent on weed growth.

11. New Business:

- Status of chair

Thomas Bredenberg will continue as chair for the January 9th meeting.

- Proposed Open Space Manager Position - Status. [See above Board Liaison report]
- Further discussion of scouting for possible new Preserve Trail (407) in the southwestern part of the 400 Preserve

Thom sent out the maps we had at the last meeting. We decided that we can explore on our own and on our own time. We can't seriously think about it until next year. John said we were going to have a group go out, but said this project would be a tall order. I think we need to better define what we're hoping to accomplish and how we can best do that. It would facilitate better surveillance of our fence line.

- 2024 budget

The proposed budget has already been recommended by Finance. The Finance Committee is meeting Thursday to make some judgments, but Conservation was the only committee where we saw increases. The budget is available online on the website. We added \$25,000 for Open Space Management and \$5,000 for Greenbelt Boundary Mapping.

12. Old Business:

- Possible Vistas article

Thom thinks it's important to do this article, related to any work he'll be doing with the CWPP working group. It's a good way of getting the Conservation Committee's position out there about the value of habitat and wildlife, including snakes and dead trees, standing or lying down. Down

trees are less flammable than living trees, so we should leave them alone. Thom will be working on this article during the winter and will pass it on to everyone on the committee to review.

- Pueblo Canyon Survey-GIS status

Paul Butt had something he was going to do but said he couldn't do it. He was concerned that charging for the demarcation on the Camerada was involved. We are trying to find out the status now. The survey never went out and no money was paid. Mike will call Paul and ask him. We need to call in an engineer for that and we will also survey it to see which is community or private land. There was a question as to whether an RFP has to go out before this is set in motion.

- Library Trail

Thom Bredenberg will go out and look at it and report on it next time.

13. Open Forum:

David Rasch, who is a botanist, moved here because of the landscape and two years ago he received a violation about having to remove some branches from his tree and was very upset. He is also upset about the mowing in Greenbelt because he is very against it and would like to know where this is being done so he can monitor it.

14. Motion to adjourn:

- Motion by: Carol Beidleman 2nd by: John Parker
Vote: Unanimous
Adjournment time: 9:09PM