

Friends of Montclair RR Trail
Meeting of the Board
January 5, 2011
US Bank

Present: Lin Barron, Barbara Brochard, Adrienne Bryant, Carol Copperud, Jim Dexter, CheeYan Ong, Henry Schott

Chair Barbara Brochard called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes for the December 1, 2010 meeting were not available in advance for approval. Members were asked to send any corrections by email the next day, and to vote to approve.

Treasurer Henry Schott presented a written report of bank deposits and expenditures, noting that we need a spending plan to draw down on funds before the end of the fiscal year.

Chair Brochard reported that she had received a written resignation from Carolyn Burd. She reported that the Montclair Business Association, in response to FOMRRT's request for funding, has decided that members would rather donate items in kind, rather than donating cash. She asked the Board to create a list of items needed for the trail and for the organization.

Committee Reports

Trail Restoration/Vegetation/Stewardship Committee: L. Barron reported that over 70 plants (including milkweed donated by Mike Pethouoff) were planted in the "east meadow" at the December 18 work party. The planting went quickly, but spreading mulch was a much more difficult task.

L. Barron also reported that Thursdays are volunteer days at the Friends of Sausal Creek Native Plant Nursery, in addition to every other Saturday. Work done by volunteers earns credit toward more free native plants for the trail. She reported that boulders that had tumbled onto the trail were moved by Public Works to the newly planted area, to get them off the trail. She said she will order mulch that can be spread at the Snake Road Bridge entrance which was ripped up by truck traffic, leaving muddy ruts.

The Board approved a motion to allow L. Barron to purchase up to \$50 of California poppy seed (and lupine, if possible), which will be scattered at the January 15 work party.

Public Works: Work is progressing at Tiffany Lane, and seems to be nearing completion. The website text describing Public Works priorities is being reviewed by Mike Petouhoff for accuracy before final posting on the website.

MarComm (Marketing/Communications): C. Ong reported that she and H. Schott would be leading a hike of the Montclair Hiking Club on January 11, and would use that event to recruit new members. They will hand out remaining brochures. While this is an opportunity to revise the brochure, it was noted this is not one of the Board's priorities at the moment. C. Ong also reminded chairs of other committees to forward to her descriptions of their committee's priorities, activities, and needs for volunteers.

Public Safety: A. Bryant has sent photos to the Gang Hotline of the large amounts of graffiti that had appeared over Christmas. The City of Oakland has restored the Problem Solving Officer (PSO) that had been assigned to the area. Any behavioral problems on the trail, such as the appearance of graffiti, should be reported to the PSO via the MSIC (Montclair Safety Improvement Committee) website.

Signs: A. Bryant will follow up on having mileage markers installed.

Old Business

Logo. M. Terry will meet again with the logo artist around January 10.

Work Parties. L. Barron reported that Karl Nichols is not available to help with work party coordination or logistics. She has prepared a list of tasks that need to be done to set up and take down for each work party event. Since there is no one in charge of deciding what work needs to be done at each event, she proposed that the Board make the recommendation. The Board agreed on the following:

- The January work party will work on removing broom along the Corporation Yard spur, planting wild flower seeds in appropriate places along the trail, and cleaning mud off the trail. L. Barron cannot attend the work party, but will deliver shovels and brooms to the work site. Chair Brochard will place signs on the trail announcing the work party.
- The February work party will focus on pulling "broom babies".

C. Ong said she would contact Bishop O'Dowd and Skyline High Schools regarding their volunteer/community service programs, in order to get more workers.

Board members added a collapsible canopy to the wish list (to be forwarded to the Montclair Business Association). The canopy would be set up each work day to provide visibility for the group and shelter from the weather.

New Business

L. Barron reported on her conversation with Chris Clark from the Fire Marshall's office. The Fire Department is piloting an "annual plan" process in Beaconsfield Canyon for fire abatement, and will decide in March whether to expand that process to other groups. She

noted that since FOMRRT is motivated to participate, the Fire Marshall may be inclined to include our trail in the next round of development of these annual plans. Our goals would be to change the contract date for brush clearing and to include the Corporation Yard access trail as well. L. Barron will work with J. Dexter and Chair Brochard on a letter to Chris Clark requesting to be included in the next round of their annual plan process.

Chair Brochard requested that members consider how best to spend current funds, as well as items that could be included in the “wish list” for the Montclair Business Association. Members proposed the following:

- 2 folding tables, approximately \$50 each
- Collapsible canopy (J. Dexter will get the model and price)
- Banners (J. Dexter has a source in Martinez with very good prices)
- Printing costs of more brochures
- Push brooms

J. Dexter will oversee printing of another run of the existing brochure (version 2).

The Board approved a motion to authorize spending up to \$200 for no more than 200 copies of the brochure.

Before the next meeting, committee chairs are to submit to the Chair a list of tasks that volunteers could do. These will be compiled into a letter to be drafted before the next meeting and then sent to the membership. Volunteer requests should also be included on the committees’ webpages.

The next meeting of the Board was scheduled for February 2 at 2:00 pm, at the US Bank.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Copperud
Secretary