

Friends of Montclair RR Trail
Meeting of the Board
September 1, 2010
US Bank

Present: Lin Barron, Barbara Brochard, Carolyn Burd, Adrienne Bryant, Carol Copperud, Jim Dexter, Chee Yan Ong, Mike Petouhoff, Henry Schott, Mel Terry

Chair Lin Barron called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

The minutes of the August 2, 2010 meeting were approved with spelling corrections.

COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS:

Sign Committee: no current activity to report

Public Works Committee: The City has been informed about the damage caused by a fallen tree at Paso Robles. A. Bryant will ask Enrique Orduña to determine if it is susceptible to beetle damage. She will also ask the City to remove a tree that has fallen at the Corporation Yard trail segment. She has repeated a request to patch the remaining section of the Snake Bridge transition, and re-reported graffiti that is on the benches.

Stewardship: Seven volunteers worked on the most recent trail work party. A. Bryant is taking before and after photos, which can be used to compare with the same site after winter rains. L. Barron reported on her walk with Assistant Fire Marshal LeRoy Griffin in preparation for the Fire Department's abatement work scheduled for the first week in September. A botanist will accompany the weed whacking crew in order to identify and preserve native plants. L. Griffin advised creating a year-long plan for work on the trail; funds may even be available to support this work. J. Dexter raised the question of whether we could affect next year's contract by requesting scotch broom be pulled, not cut back.

Public Safety: M. Terry will review the notes made at Police Officer Eddie Simlin's June 29 presentation to the Board and report back on ideas for improved public safety. The Committee could develop a plan even without a proposed plan for the Police Department.

Marketing/Communication: C. Ong sent a request to Google Maps to correct the name of the trail to Montclair Railroad Trail. There was agreement that even though the trail is referred to as "RR Trail", the website can "Railroad Trail" so that it can be more easily found by search engines.

The Board approved latest changes to the brochure: the addition of the website url and directions to the trail. M. Terry has sent comments about the logo to the graphic designer, which generally state that the image of a train should be reduced considerably, to give more sense of the trail. Additional comments on proposed logo will be handled through the Committee, not the Board, until the Committee makes its recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS

To minimize printing/copying expenses, the Board agreed to remove the current logo from the brochure and to print the brochure in black and white on light-colored paper until the new logo has been finalized. At the point, a new printing process will be selected.

ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS AND STRUCTURE

Working from brainstorming ideas submitted between meetings, the Board identified the following as its top priorities for the coming year, noting that several priorities can be pursued simultaneously:

Trail Maintenance: Hardscape

- Fix drainage by Bishop's Court
- Repair the guardrail between Saroni and Paso Robles
- Replace the gate at the Corporation yard with bollards
- Patch the transition between the Snake Road Bridge and the trail

Trail Maintenance: Vegetation

- Develop a plan for native plants in one of the three "meadow" areas, using the SCHA vegetation management plan as a guide and a goal that planting be completed before spring 2011
- Develop a plan for weed removal and control with the Fire Department

Publicity

- Create trail entrance/identification signs at entry points on the trail
- Publicize through email and the website the various committees and their goals, soliciting participation from the community
- Ensure that every residence bordering the trail has been informed of FOMRRT and its activities
- Develop a walking tour of the trail for the public, focusing on the trail's history
- Create a method for renewing memberships after the first year
- Create a schedule of mailings and public announcements
- Form strong relationships with other local groups (SCHA, FOSC, MVA)
- Finalize the logo

Trail Behavior

- Publicize the graffiti phone numbers
- Identify the highest priority public safety issues
- Find the best solution for addressing dog poop problems (several ideas already suggested)

These priorities will be assigned to committees. Priorities that require advocacy with the City will also be identified.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Copperud, Secretary