

Friends of Montclair RR Trail
Meeting of the Board
August 2, 2010
US Bank (formerly Pacific National Bank)

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

Chair Lin Barron called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

The minutes of the April 23, 2010 meeting were approved with one amendment. The phrase “for the fallen guardrails” was inserted as follows: “The Committee will work with the City to include an estimate for the fallen guardrails in the upcoming City’s capital budget.”

It was agreed that the presentations of June 28 and June 29 were not official Board meetings. However, there was a quorum present at the June 29 presentation, so the following actions were approved:

- Authorize B. Brochard to make a request to the Montclair Village Business Association for \$600 to cover start up costs for FOMRRT.
- Authorize L. Barron, as chair, to spend up to \$100 for organizational needs, without having to seek additional approval.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sign Committee: C. Copperud presented a summary of existing signs, categorized by type (informational, rules, directional) and by location on the trail. A. Bryant agreed to take on leadership of this committee.

Public Works: M. Petouhoff and H. Schott reported progress is being made with the City in addressing the drainage problem with the goal being to fix the problem before the rainy season begins. A. Bryant reported that she had sent a note requesting Public Works to finish the repair of the transition points on the Snake Road Bridge. M. Petouhoff agreed to contact the appropriate City staff to see if it is still possible to include the repair of the fallen guardrails in the City’s as-yet-unapproved capital budget. If there is still opportunity, the Public Works Committee will alert the Board to send a request to the FOMRRT mailing list asking them to send letters of support.

Stewardship Committee: This committee may be renamed “Trail Restoration” to better reflect its purpose; however, no vote was taken. L. Barron reported that she and A. Bryant had placed flags and tape around native species to protect them when the City clears brush. The contract for annual vegetation management has gone out, and the City representative (LeRoy Griffin) has assured us that a plant specialist will be present when work is done. J. Dexter noted that whacking scotch broom creates the additional problem of making it impossible to pull the plants out by their roots.

Public Safety Committee: L. Barron reported that Police Officer Eddie Simlin made a presentation to interested Board members on June 29, summarizing ways the trail could be more safe from criminal and nuisance activity. He provided an electronic copy of the powerpoint presentation and said he would develop a trail safety plan. However, that plan has not been completed. C. Copperud will provide notes from the June 29 discussion to M. Terry, which he can use with the committee to develop a trail safety plan.

Marketing/Communication Committee: C. Burd reported on progress she and C. Ong have made on the website. It is now possible to make donations or to join online, using PayPal. Discussion was deferred on whether to add a membership category of “community organization” and whether to pursue the creation of free business cards that could be distributed on the trail. It was also reported that comments about the proposed logo were provided to Sharyn Greyton who is designing the logo for FOMRRT.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

C. Burd and H. Schott presented a proposed process for approving budgets. After discussion the Board voted to support a revised four-point process, as summarized:

- Committees must present budget requests quarterly to the Board for approval.
- Budgets must be approved before expenditures are made. Changes to budgets of more than 10 percent require Board approval.
- Approved expenditures, backed up by receipts, will be refunded by the Treasurer.
- Fixed and ongoing costs should be identified as such, and included and reapproved in each quarterly budget request.

The Treasurer will report cash on hand, as well as encumbered expenses, so as to give a true picture of funds available. The Treasurer reported that we had \$833 in donations and membership dues, with \$320 spent on printing and website expenses, leaving \$504 unencumbered.

ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS AND STRUCTURE - DISCUSSION

Chair L. Barron led the Board in a discussion to prioritize goals of the FOMRRT, with the intent of providing guidance for activities, and associated expenses, for at least the coming year. Priorities relate to the trail itself, and to the building of the FOMRRT organization. After establishing priorities, the Board identified committees related to these goals.

- Maintenance of the trail is the highest priority. It divides into “hardscape” maintenance (improving drainage, repairing guardrails, repairing the Snake Road Bridge transition points, and removing the locked gate and installing bollards instead at the Corporation Yard) and “vegetative restoration” (removing invasive species and introducing native plants.)
- Publicizing the trail and FOMRRT were identified as priority goals.
- Addressing behavioral issues (dogs, bicycles, graffiti, etc.) was the third priority goal.

The Board agreed that at its next meeting members would prepare a more specific list of actions that could be undertaken in the coming year to address these priority goals. If necessary, committees will be added, or existing committees realigned, to achieve these goals.

NEXT STEPS

C. Copperud will poll members for suitable meeting dates and times for the coming several months. Meetings may alternate between afternoons and evenings to accommodate schedules and conflicts.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Copperud
Secretary

Approved with corrections: September 1, 2010