

Friends of Montclair Railroad Trail (FOMRRT)  
Meeting of the Board  
August 14, 2013  
Home of Treasurer Henry Schott  
Present: Lin Barron, Mike Petouhoff, and Henry Schott  
Absent: Barbara Brochard

Secretary Lin Barron called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The minutes for the June 5, 2013 Meeting were approved with one change under Committee Reports/Sign Committee: "No new proposals were made."

Treasurer's Report: showed a balance of \$843.19, but did not include \$127.42 in reimbursement for 2 new tools and the renewal of the Weebly website software.

Chair's Report: None. There are 2 items pending: mileage markers project and OPW bollards at Bishops Ct.

### **Committee Reports**

Vegetation: planning has started for a small native plant demonstration garden at the Cortereal corner. JM Native Nursery has met with Lin and drawn up a preliminary list of plants for the project.

Hardscape: Should plan to plant more along the left bank of the drainage swale at Bishops Ct during the next planting season.

Sign Committee: Mike pointed out that the mileage markers should align with mileage documented in the City of Oakland Bicycle Corridor Master Plan. In that document the "0" mile mark starts from the intersection of Mountain Blvd. and La Salle. This mark is then transposed to the Medau McCaulou's end of the trail.

**Action item**: Mike and Barbara should discuss where the markers should be installed.

Mike recommends we challenge OPW to remove the Corporation Yard swing gate access to trail gate and replace it with bollards. (rather than adding yet another sign) Enlist Councilmember Libby Schaaf to help with a resolution.

### **Old Business**

OFD Update - Mike Petouhoff: The City's fire season compliance for this year is already late; compliance months are June through October and there are still many City parcels uncleared. The August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting with OFD Chief Reed, and tour in Shepherd Canyon, was lengthy and instructive. Lech Naumovich, biologist consultant, Acting Asst. Fire Marshall Kim Catano, and Inspector Enrique Orduna also attended. OFD has pressure to "just get the work done" for this year.

Suggestions from members:

N. Gerow has asked FOMRRT to install a replacement “bridge” over ditch behind homes on Magellan. There had been one there for many years, but rotted away, making it difficult for at least one (elderly) resident to get onto the trail.

Decision: We declined the project based on liability issues and expense (not to mention bureaucracy for permission).

S. Glenn has suggested a pocket park be created at the Cortereal swale/tunnel site. She has several ideas, including a patio area and a picnic table or bench. She is interested in “helping.” Lin will speak with her to formulate a proposal to the board and ask her if she could commit to managing the project once accepted.

The meeting adjourned around 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lin Barron, Secretary

## **New Business**

Renewing the Wildfire Prevention District: We reviewed the amended wording of the Wildfire Prevention District renewal that will appear on this fall's mail-in ballot. Discussion of the new District enhancements ensued.

The (presumably) renewed District for 10 years will collect \$1.9 million per year which equates to \$19million overall. New wording includes annual City planning that addresses both schedule and methodology each year with annual reports and evaluation of the timeliness of clearance to City Council. (This suggests the inclusion of tracking tools.) The renewed District will be a "Community Facilities District" and under Mello-Roos tax law. Any registered voter residing within District boundaries may vote; the vote is not according to property ownership. A 2/3 "yes" vote of the total ballots returned will renew the District.

The City Attorney has said it is legal to pay outside personnel costs from District funds. OFD Chief Reed has opened a position for a Project Manager specifically to manage Vegetation Management activities for the District.

A Master Plan should be key to the success of the new District. A way to start work on such a Master Plan would be to combine the 2006 WFPD Vegetation Mgmt Plan with an example plan for a locale (eg: Karen Paulsell's 2003 Shepherd Canyon Survey and GIS maps). There is need for both a "big S" Schedule per locale, according to an overarching Master Plan, and a "small s" schedule that relies on such methodologies as plant growth cycles of flowering, seeding. Planning should outline stages progressing between the current state and the desired end result.

A Project Manager takes overall responsibility, but can hire ecologist or biologist consultants.

1<sup>st</sup> – Determine what vegetation exists and what site-specific issues there are

2<sup>nd</sup> – Make a Plan – and have agreement with stake-holders

3<sup>rd</sup> – Contract based on Scope of Work

Mike and Lin agreed to organize 2 meetings: first, a core group of representatives from FOSC, Beaconsfield, and Garber Park to introduce the concept of a Master Plan by introducing Karen Paulsell's work and the 2006 WFPD Vegetation Mgmt Plan. Then a broader meeting extended to more volunteer groups.

Mike and Lin will attend the August Citizens' Advisory Board meeting for the District. Henry also planned to attend if possible.

Endorsement of a renewed Wildfire Prevention District:

It was moved and approved that –

“The Friends of Montclair Railroad Trail endorses the renewal of the Fire District as amended in the new wording adopted by Oakland City Council at their special session held August 2, 2013.”