Friends of Montclair Railroad Trail (FOMRRT)
Meeting of the Board
January 15, 2014
Home of Chair Barbara Brochard
Present:  Lin Barron, Barbara Brochard, Mike Petouhoff, and Henry Schott

Guest: Ken Ball

Chair Brochard called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The minutes for the Nov. 20, 2013 Meeting were approved with changes: “Draft” removed and “Chair” to replace “President”.

**Guest**: Ken Ball, Vice Chair of the Keep Oakland Beautiful board. He wanted to inform us of KOB’s activities and plans. Their mission is a beautiful, clean, green city. They are doing a litter survey; they participate in the Great America Clean-up in springtime; they give out daffodil bulbs in the fall for planting around town; they are working on a “We Recycle” information program for selected neighborhoods. KOB is an affiliate of Public Works, Environmental Services.

It was suggested that for Oakland’s woodland areas, planting flowering native plants as alternatives to daffodils would be more appropriate.

Ken offered KOB resources to send out requests for volunteers on the RR Trail. One of his objectives is to build a volunteer database.

The FOMRRT board is reluctant to give Ken our e-mail list; instead, we agreed to distribute KOB notices and information to our e-mail mailing list when he sends us material.

**Treasurer’s Report**: There is a balance of $99.85. Henry reminded Lin to submit the bill for wattles purchase. He explained the fiscal year statement submitted to the board this evening. We will do some fund raising at a Farmers’ Market.

**Chair’s Report**:

Barbara asked Dan Swafford, executive director of the Montclair Business Assn., about FOMRRT having an information table on the La Salle corner during a March Farmer’s Market. He said to request a date to sign-up (it is no longer a first-come, first-served situation).

Barbara will request Sunday, March 23rd.

**Committee Reports**

Vegetation: Winter Solstice planting is complete. A few plants remain that are suitable for shade, and not in Michael Thilgen’s plan, and some grasses for the area near the east meadow. There is a watering schedule setup for Cortereal Corner, using the Pagano’s water. Watering elsewhere on the trail is difficult to almost impossible. We agreed to delay planting the grasses at this location.

Some of these grasses can go to plant around the Bishops Court drainage.

Hardscape: Mike Petouhoff proposed additional work for the Bishops Court drainage around the newly discovered buried pipe. We agreed this would be February’s workday project on the SECOND Saturday, Feb. 8th, due to the school-wide winter break and Presidents’ Day holidays.

Sign Committee:

Mike Petouhoff will develop schematics for graphics, size, materials, etc for signs.

Mike will be ready to present the proposed sign(s) and a proposal for the number and locations of the signs at the next board meeting, March 5th.

Workday: the next workday will be on ivy removal, euc cleanup; if there are lots of volunteers, a group will be sent to the east meadow to spread mulch.

**Next Board Meeting** will be Wednesday March 5th at 6:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lin Barron, Secretary