

Friends of Montclair Railroad Trail (FOMRRT)  
Meeting of the Board  
November 20, 2013  
Home of President Barbara Brochard  
Present: Lin Barron, Barbara Brochard, and Henry Schott  
Absent: Mike Petouhoff  
Guest: Jim Gavin

Chair Brochard called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

The minutes for the Aug. 14, 2013 Meeting were approved.

Guest Jim Gavin: showed us photos of the Mileage Markers installation and thanked FOMRRT for its support of the project. He gave us a stack of trail decals for our use and an extra set of mileage marker signs in case of damage to those on the trail.

**Treasurer's Report**: by the last week of November there would be a balance of \$618.26 after a deposit for a HomeDepot refund.

#### **Chair's Report:**

Bollards: The outcome of a discussion with Martin Matarrese, OPW to install bollards was to drop the issue. He does not like them and said they are not feasible due to logistics of locks & keys.

New Stairs: Discussed with Lisa of Councilperson Schaaf's office about extending the new School Trail stairs to the Holmgren Building installed by Cleary Bros. Landscape. The project has been written up if a presentation to PRAC is deemed necessary. Design would be the same as the new stairs and work done by volunteers.

Montclair Village Assn: Attended the MVA Beautification meeting with Daniel Swafford, Executive Director. Their agenda was discussion of improvements to the area behind the garage. Swafford requested that FOMRRT help by re-planting in the triangular area that is to have a new (short) retaining wall. Mr. Swafford gave permission to mark trees to be removed when MVA contracts work.

#### **Committee Reports**

Vegetation: Barbara and Lin marked many diseased, dead or dying trees behind the garage. The cedar trees in amongst the manzanitas were deemed undesirable by landscape architect Michael Thilgen during his consultation at Cortereal Corner. These were later tagged by Lin for possible removal.

Cortereal Corner Demo Garden project: Permission was granted by FOMRRT officers through e-mail to pay up to 4 hours (or \$520) for a planting design by Michael Thilgen of Four Seasons Landscape Co. A water source was found; the Pagano's next door to the trail will contribute water and the use of their hose bib.

Winter Solstice Planting workday Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>: Lin will write up a blurb and send to Carol Copperud to craft an e-mail announcement. She will ask Carol to notify our e-mail list weekly to find workday volunteers. Lin will put up a temporary sign for the special workday.

Hardscape: see President's report above

An interesting discovery by Bishops Ct. neighbor Corbin Bennett – uphill of the swale there is a (drainage?) broken, corroded metal pipe underground approx. 3 feet deep, its circumference in a cement collar.

Sign Committee:

Mike Petouhoff in an earlier e-mail sent a brief proposal for new signage on the trail itself. We agreed on his recommendations and prefer the brown background with white lettering.

Chair Brochard will communicate with Mike to develop drawings and text for the actual signs and to propose the number and locations for them. These would be submitted for board review.

We agreed the Mike's project of a sign or signs for the Montclair Village is a separate, long term project and outside the scope of the on-trail signs.

### **New Business**

Oakland Wildland Stewards – Lin Barron: Representatives from open space park volunteer groups within WPAD boundaries met and agreed to a coalition called the "OWLS." This is to ensure the groups' interests in good land & vegetation management, native species protections, etc are represented in discussions and planning sessions with the Fire Department Vegetation Management Supervisor and the Citizens' Advisory Committee to the WPAD. Lin was elected to represent the OWLS as a non-voting member at CAC meetings.

FOMRRT Vests: We need some identifiers when we work on the trail. Henry & Lin agreed to both investigate work vests.

The meeting adjourned around 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lin Barron, Secretary