

Inter Canyon League
Minutes of the General Meeting
Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 7:00 PM Silverado Community Center

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 by President Wilson.

II. County Public Works Presentations

a. Proposed “green” ordinance, including tree preservation

Orange County is updating and reformatting its zoning code to comply with state law and to make it more user-friendly and similar to other codes. Sustainability is the goal of no longer requiring driveways to be impervious (so rainfall can be captured), allowing farmers markets and community gardens in residential areas, and regulating solar and electric vehicle power. Additional changes deal with shared parking spaces, sober living facilities, and short-term residential rentals. No changes to site development, Specific Plan, or Planned Community rules are proposed, however.

The new tree ordinance included in the updated code is a “placeholder” intended as a middle ground between language first proposed by Specific Plan advocates and comments from developers. The Foothill-Trabuco Specific Plan (FTSP) oak requirements were used as a baseline; ordinances in other counties, particularly the Los Angeles City and County ordinances, were also examined. Feedback is still welcome before planning staff presents options to the Planning Commission for adoption.

Oaks and three other tree species above a certain size, in certain unincorporated areas, would be protected. Permits would be needed except for trimming and for removal of protected trees due to infection or emergencies. On- or off-site replacement would have priority over paying a fee to remove a protected tree.

Responding to a question about why so little seemed protected, staff said that land parcels smaller than 20,000 square feet would not support a mature oak, that agencies like OC Parks have state environmental (CEQA) requirements, that Planned Communities and Specific Plans like FTSP have their own tree regulations, and that Rancho Mission Viejo land has developer agreements. The ordinance would apply to the Silverado-Modjeska Specific Plan area, though: unlike the FTSP, the Sil-Mod Plan does not contain ordinances, so the county ordinance would be “conventionally enforced.”

b. New online services

See <https://myoceservices.ocgov.com> as an alternative to requesting certain county services in person. Examples of services are bee services, drains and floods, trash/debris, water pollution, pothole repair, traffic issues, and weed abatement. Online users can create an account, initiate and track service requests, and research general property information. (Most service requests so far have been about trash.) Coming soon: “live permitting” (applying for permits online) and, eventually, submitting complaints as well as service requests. A future presentation could be arranged to cover account details, getting permit information on neighboring property, etc.

III. General Announcements

Gene Robinson said that he found telephone modem backup batteries for about \$10 that Cox told him would cost \$50. But Geoff Sarkissian heard from Cox that they would take the battery charge off the bill. (Talk may be cheap, but the exact price appears unclear.)

IV. Director Reports

a. President---Janet Wilson

No report.

b. Vice President---Geoffrey Sarkissian

No report.

c. Secretary---Scott Breeden

1. Recycling

Monthly can and bottle recycling raised \$351.53 for ICL in the first six months of 2018.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May meeting were approved 5-0.

d. Treasurer---Francesca Duff

Finances are about the same as last month. Francesca is fighting some problems with Bank of America. The May financial reports were approved 5-0.

e. Director---Dion Sorrell

There was a Shakespeare celebration at the Modjeska Home about two weeks ago for docents, gardeners, and the Foundation. There will be a summer camp there for ages 9-12 starting July 23 for five days, 11am to 5pm. Mary Baldwin will lead.

OC Parks will also fund two more Shakespeare events next year, like the one this year, but probably featuring longer excerpts from the plays.

V. Advisory Committee Reports

a. Septic Regulation---Marion Schuller, Geoff Sarkissian, etc.

Geoff reported on ICL's meeting with county staff working on a LAMP (Local Alternative Management Program) to meet new septic system requirements. Issues discussed included requirements when property is sold, what system certification means, homeowner costs, and allowing separate gray water systems to reduce expected septic load calculations. As opposed to the county's current proposal, Janet favors exempting current septic users but not future development from the default requirements. A finalized copy of the county's proposed LAMP is expected this week. OC Public Works is seeking support for it. Janet wants to see the accompanying ordinances, including fees, as well.

b. Communications---Francesca Duff, Dion Sorrell

No report.

c. Emergency Preparedness---Joanne Hubble

No report. (Possible emergency: Joanne left early due to fire reported at Jackson Ranch.)

d. Friends of the Library---Fran Williams

The summer reading program will run from June 18 to July 25. Both volunteer fire stations have once again made donations.

Ongoing community programs include arts, crafts, and movies (including some for "mature audiences").

e. Land Use---Janet Wilson, Scott Breeden

County planners received a phone call asking about event centers on Santiago Canyon Road but at no specific address. Scott's understanding is that the county gave the caller general information including that this would not be a permitted use.

Saddleback Canyons Conservancy and Rural Canyons Conservancy Fund have spent \$2,500 so far on their lawsuit against the county for approving the Red Rock Gardens event center near Modjeska. Anyone else wishing to contribute can donate via the Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks web site: fhbp.org.

There is no change in the status of the 45 acres that The Wildlands Conservancy offered to donate to a local non-profit: waiting for TWC to add this to their agenda. Cle Robinson recommended that those involved keep talking to Dana at TWC.

f. Canyon Watch---Marion Schuller

No report.

g. History---Melody McWilliams

No report.

VI. New Business

a. Revive Safety Committee

Lora Meadows, head of the ICL Safety Committee established a few years ago, said people have been "flying" down Silverado Canyon Road, making residents feel unsafe. Perhaps people who've moved in recently aren't aware of the 25mph speed limit. She is planning on meeting with OC Public Works to bring in safety trailers (showing motorist MPH). For accurate "speed survey" purposes, this might be better to do after the current road resurfacing work is completed.

Related safety/crime comments from others: Were flames at a roping arena arson? A van was stolen from someone's yard in Silverado, as well as plants dug right out of the ground. "Something's going on."

b. Change meeting location and date process?

No change: next month's meeting will rotate back to Modjeska.

c. Other

A mountain lion was spotted in the vicinity of Modjeska Park. Francesca and Janet discussed sponsoring a presentation by experts including suggestions for how to behave around mountain lions. Janet noted the presence of livestock, including some currently next to a children's playground. Last year two pygmy goats were lost to lions.

Fran gave two donated Disneyland tickets to Francesca, suggesting ICL could use them as a fundraiser at a booth at the next Silverado fair.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

***** The next ICL meeting will be held July 3, 2018 at the Modjeska Community Center *****