

**Inter Canyon League
Minutes of the General Meeting
Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 7:00 PM Live Streaming**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by President Sarkissian.

II. General Announcements & Discussion

None.

III. Canyon Watch and Rescue in Ladd Canyon—Anthony Mack

Anthony, Lynne Andres, and others described efforts by canyon residents when they volunteered on August 1 to help find someone who reportedly told his family that he was going to kill himself. Family members found his car near Lynne’s house and called the Sheriff, but the deputies who arrived did not think they could provide much help.

When Anthony arrived, he radioed Canyon Watch. Three volunteers showed up within five minutes, followed by others. They and the family searched through the brush and called out for the missing man until dark. Finally one of the man’s brothers heard moaning less than 100 feet from the car. Manolis Sfakianakis, Jackson Andres, and others helped bring him to the ambulance. The family later phoned Barbara to thank residents for their help. Lynne said that deputies at the scene were also grateful for the help.

Anthony said that although Canyon Watch is not a rescue organization, “we’re very flexible. We didn’t actually find him, but I think we did a great service to the community.”

IV. Traffic Safety in Silverado—Geoffrey Sarkissian

Joanne Hubble met with the Sheriff’s Department and OC Public Works, and will meet with Supervisor Don Wagner tomorrow. A traffic study was done. Joanne couldn’t be present this evening but would like to arrange for a discussion next Monday or Tuesday. Geoff will set this up and send out announcements.

Geoff would also like someone to chair a new ICL committee devoted to this issue. He would like someone from Silverado “with a passion for not being run over.”

V. Santiago Canyon Road Improvement Project—Geoffrey Sarkissian

Geoff gave a brief review of the July 29, 2020 online community meeting hosted by OC Public Works. Starting in August, they will be installing rumble strips, guard rails, and high friction surface treatment at various locations. One lane at a time may be closed. Dennis Lambert said to drive on Live Oak Canyon Road now to see what changes like this will look like. Linda May was happy to see the project “dramatically scaled back,” e.g., no flashing lights. Opinion was divided about a Modjeska Grade Road pocket turn lane. “Phase III”—building passing lanes—is scheduled for after this current project.

VI. Director Reports

a. President---Geoffrey Sarkissian

No report.

b. Vice President---Dion Sorrell

No report.

c. Secretary---Scott Breeden

The minutes of the July ICL meeting were approved 4-0.

d. Treasurer---Francesca Duff

There was little activity. One question was whether Canyon Watch had enough funds to complete its radio rollout plan. Anthony felt that the \$2,000 or so now in the Canyon Watch fund was OK for now. Francesca felt that every block captain should be able to radio a repeater; this could mean base stations, which cost more than other radios.

A motion to approve a transfer of \$2,000 from the general fund to Canyon Watch “when they need it” was approved 4-0.

The financial report was also approved 4-0.

VII. Advisory Committee Reports

a. Canyon Watch / Fire Watch---Anthony Mack, Emily Graham

Anthony said that a meeting for block captains would be held the next day. Radio protocol is expected to be the subject for about a quarter of that time. Anthony characterized the meeting as not mandatory, but new block captains are especially encouraged to attend.

b. Emergency Preparedness---Joanne Hubble

See attached traffic safety meeting summary.

e. Land Use---Scott Breeden

Following the county Planning Commission’s recommendation, the Board of Supervisors approved the new zoning code without the tree ordinance that had been proposed as an addition. One Supervisor, Doug Chaffee, liked the idea but not the wording, and said that it might be something he could explore for his district. Linda May offered to help with bringing any ideas to Supervisor Chaffee’s attention.

The Board of Supervisors will now vote on a proposed septic system Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) after the regional Water Board’s December meeting.

c. History---Melody McWilliams

No report.

d. Country Fair---Jane Bove

Jane determined that a traditional fair could not be held this year due to liability and other pandemic-related issues. To mark what would have been the fair’s 50th anniversary, she is thinking of an informal un-parade on the second Saturday of October ending at the Silverado market. There would be no booths, T-shirts, etc., but people could talk or buy food if they like at the market or cafe, and perhaps admire a poster commemorating past fairs. This would not be an event sponsored by ICL or Jane.

Jane would also like to offer people a way to donate to the organizations that the fair usually supports from gate receipts, booth rentals, etc. Perhaps this could be donation cans at the market or cafe, or something online like Gofundme.

One fundraiser idea is a tour of canyon artist studios like what was staged earlier this year.

Geoff also has some ideas for later fundraisers, once a COVID-19 vaccine is available.

f. Friends of the Library---Fran Williams

Geoff relayed Fran’s notice that the annual summer reading program has concluded.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

***** The next ICL meeting will be held September 1, 2020 via live streaming *****

Inter Canyon League
Summary of Traffic Safety Meeting
Tuesday, August 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM Live Streaming

Inter-Canyon League President Geoffrey Sarkissian hosted this online meeting to discuss a perceived increase in traffic and speeding, mainly on Silverado Canyon Road. Joanne Hubble began by summarizing what she learned from speaking to OC Public Works, the California Highway Patrol, Supervisor Don Wagner, and the US Forest Service:

The Forest Service patrols occasionally, but it is focused more on the Holy Fire area: that is closed now, but it is the source of at least 100 violations a day. Giving rangers the same power that Sheriff deputies have to arrest people would require sending them to police academy and having them spend a third of their time after that retraining. That seems unlikely to happen.

Off-road vehicles are legal in the forest, but if driven on Silverado Canyon Road, the CHP would have to cite them when they unloaded, perhaps at Black Star Canyon Road. Regarding the Maple Springs gate: It is typically closed only after a fire or flood. There is more demand for having it open than for having it closed. The decision is made at a higher level.

The recently completed traffic study showed average Silverado Canyon Road speed to be close to existing limits, except for one stretch west of Ladd Canyon Road, where it was lower. Since that is considered the safe speed, the limit there will be lowered to 35mph.

Because a traffic study was done, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) can patrol the road. This can continue if a traffic study is done every five years.

Since Silverado Canyon Road is a public road, there is no easy way to regulate traffic volume, but there might be ways to reduce speeding. Supervisor Wagner referred Joanne to Assemblyman Steven Choi's office, which submitted a request to the CHP for more support in the canyons. Joanne asked specifically about coverage from 10pm to 4am, when speeding seemed more prevalent.

Joanne mentioned sidewalks as a possible long-term pedestrian safety measure. But short term, reporting each speeding violation might be the best way to cause the canyons to receive more attention.

Reportedly, photos can't be used as evidence—only a patrol officer's presence or his radar. For regular violators, one suggestion was to monitor social media for news of planned activity.

Geoff favored forming a committee at the next regular ICL meeting to focus on this issue. Meanwhile, Joanne provided phone numbers for reporting violations. CHP: (714) 567-6000. Sheriff: (714) 647-7000. She added that CHP officers have time allocated in their schedules for court cases, unlike Sheriff deputies. So Sheriff deputies are more reluctant to write tickets.