

Inter Canyon League
Minutes of the General Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 7:00 PM Live Streaming

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by President Sarkissian.

II. General Announcements & Discussion

Bruce Newell reported that the Orange County Fire Authority will no longer offer the Fire Explorer program at Modjeska's Station 16. Canyon Explorers will have to sign up at other stations such as ones in Tustin or Rancho Santa Margarita. Also, it's not clear if the Modjeska station's traditional Halloween party can be held this year, given COVID-19 safety restrictions.

III. SMRPD Candidates Forum

Michele Agopian, Rusty Morris, and Celeste Veerkamp, vying for two seats on the Silverado Modjeska Recreation and Park District (SMRPD) Board of Directors, read brief statements and responded to questions posed by Geoff that had been submitted by the ICL board and the public. Questions were required to be answerable by all candidates.

For possible new programs or activities, Michele suggested events like Laguna's music in the park, or an art walk sponsored by local businesses. Rusty favored surveying current residents about what they would support and attend (not just what they would like). Celeste would ask which current programs could be expanded within COVID-19 guidelines, like CHOC's online Zoom-ba classes.

As to what needs attention, Rusty mentioned clarification from SMRPD's insurer about what is permitted under COVID-19 guidelines. Celeste nominated signage, like trail information in Black Star Canyon. Michele stressed help for seniors and young families, using the Internet for things like remote tutoring and art activities.

In response to a question about supporting invasive plant removal, Celeste felt that if resources were available, the district could give classes on good vs. bad plants. Rusty said that in order to provide education and organization, directors would need to educate themselves first. Michele suggested seeing if there were any grants related to this could be applied for.

Candidates generally agreed that the Children's Center and district employees should be a top budget priority, that working with other entities would be beneficial for trail information and maintenance, and that regulating traffic or land use is not something directly under the park district's control.

IV. Director Reports

a. President---Geoffrey Sarkissian

No report.

b. Vice President---Dion Sorrell

Dion has talked to a few people about starting a canyon scouting program focused on emergency preparedness, including use of walkie-talkies. It would be open to boys and girls, and involve families. An initial survey is planned.

c. Secretary---Scott Breeden

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

d. Treasurer---Francesca Duff

Friends of the Library donated \$500 to the Library of the Canyons.

ICL members (currently numbering 35) can pay their \$5 annual dues by mailing a check to ICL at Post Office Box 301, or by paying through PayPal on the ICL website. Michele asked about paying through Venmo as well, so Francesca will look into that.

The financial report was approved 4-0.

V. Advisory Committee Reports

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

Anthony reported record participation in the regular Thursday evening Radio Net call-ins. He will be giving another radio usage class tomorrow at 7pm on Zoom. Also, some radios costing only \$25 are now available. Francesca added that Geoff has been leading Modjeska call-ins at 6:45pm on Thursdays.

The recent interference suspected of originating from a ship seems to have disappeared.

Keith Edwards plans on replacing or re-tuning the Modjeska repeater to improve reception in that canyon. He anticipates needing \$200 for equipment reprogramming/repair, which Francesca said should not be a problem.

In the future, Anthony, Keith, Bic Edwards, Cle Robinson and others may rotate reporting Canyon Watch status.

b. Emergency Preparedness---Joanne Hubble

Today's online Town Hall sponsored by two of the county Supervisors seemed to be mostly a high-level overview of what county agencies are doing regarding wildfire preparation.

Also, regarding one recent apparently hot-button issue, there are now no plans to change any posted speed limits in the canyons.

c. History---Melody McWilliams

No report.

d. Country Fair---Jane Bove

No report.

e. Land Use---Scott Breeden

No report.

f. Friends of the Library---Fran Williams

Francesca reported that the library is "openish": patrons can go inside to access children's books and request other books. The library site will also be a voting center in November.

VI. New Business

None.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.

***** The next ICL meeting will be held November 10, 2020 via live streaming *****