

Inter Canyon League
Minutes of the General Meeting
Tuesday, November 10, 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

a. General Community Announcements

Dion Sorrell announced an art showing at Bruce Day's house Saturday, 10-4pm, featuring several canyon artists.

Danny Graham said that the Chipper Day in Modjeska was a great success, and he thanked Bob Click, Mary Schreiber, Mike Boeck, and other volunteers. Mary said that applications for removing dead and dying trees, and for inspections for borer infestations, are being worked on; these two programs are being funded by grants.

b. Canyon Watch Organization

Geoff defined Canyon Watch as an ICL committee that maintains a two-way radio service, Canyon Radio Net. It is led by a sub-committee of its members. Cle Robinson said that the radio email list needs to be updated, and Joanne Hubble added that the radios in Trabuco Canyon are on a different channel.

c. Fire Follow Up: The Burning Issues

Four or five meeting attendees said that they evacuated during the recent Silverado Fire.

Lorraine Tomlinson did not know about Silverado's voluntary evacuation. Danny said that in a mandatory evacuation, Sheriff deputies try to contact everyone, though Joanne said that some Modjeska streets seemed to have been overlooked.

Verizon's generators were reportedly not turned on during the planned power outage. When power and phones quit working, Bic Edwards functioned as Net Control for two-way radios in the Silverado area, but she could not reach Modjeska or Williams Canyon. The Carter repeater in Modjeska has since been replaced. Bic said that many people called in with information, but some questions had to be answered several times since not everyone was listening at the same time.

Canyon Watch wants to educate people on radio use. One thing that's important is to clear the air during an emergency. Public input would be helpful in deciding on improvements.

d. Large Animal Evacuation

Geoff stated that during an emergency, ICL's Canyon Watch handles radio communications but does not evacuate animals. Back when Connie Nelson headed Canyon Watch, she was also a large animal evacuation volunteer, so that may have caused some confusion.

LART (Large Animal Response Team) is a San Juan Capistrano-based volunteer group that helps evacuate horses and other large animals. It is activated whenever the county's Emergency Operation Center (EOC) determines that large animal evacuations are needed. A few canyon residents are LART-certified volunteers.

Geoff said that owners of large animals should plan on evacuating them prior to declaration of a mandatory evacuation. If that's not possible, LART might be available, but Joanne

recommended not counting on it. If owners can't evacuate animals themselves, they should call 911, which will alert the EOC.

As a LART volunteer, Pam Ragland was activated during the fire, and heard that there was a mandatory evacuation, but she could not call 911 because Cox phones were inoperative.

Joanne recommended getting an AT&T land line; instructions are on the ICL website.

Steve Armour was told that AT&T phone service was not available in the canyons, but Keith Edwards said that you have to be persistent and talk to the right customer service person: most canyon residents already have phone lines to their house.

LART needs permission from owners to evacuate animals to shelters such as the OC Fairgrounds. Pam warned that LART is "not an Uber service for horses." Susan Iwamoto said that some owners turned away LART volunteers.

Susan also said that her Internet service is GeoLinks (a fixed wireless Internet provider), and that grants might be available for bringing Internet service to rural areas. That might depend on location, though. Keith said that new transmitters might be required.

III. Director Reports

a. President---Geoffrey Sarkissian

Nominations will be take place next month for ICL director seats currently held by Geoff, Dion, and Scott plus a currently vacant seat. Voting members of ICL will elect the new board members in January.

b. Vice President---Dion Sorrell

Instead of the usual Madame Modjeska birthday bash, OC Parks displayed a short film on their website featuring the Shakespeare performance troupe. Dion will try to get more performances like this online.

c. Secretary---Scott Breeden

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

d. Treasurer---Francesca Duff

About \$3,000 was spent on radio repairs last month. More is anticipated since the current Modjeska repeater is on loan. We can pay current bills, but we need to think of ways to raise funds.

Canyon residents who pay \$5 and attend three ICL meetings a year (about 15 people so far) can vote in January's election. See the ICL website to pay via PayPal or Zelle.

IV. Advisory Committee Reports

a. Canyon Watch / Fire Watch---Canyon Watch Committee

(See Canyon Watch Organization above.)

b. Emergency Preparedness---Joanne Hubble

The National Forest gate will close for 3-5 days for safety after any rain.

c. Holiday Helpers---Pam Ragland

Pam will work with Francesca to publicize this program on the ICL website.

c. History---Melody McWilliams

Danny wondered who to contact about donating local articles and artifacts, and was referred to Melody. Francesca added that the Modjeska Foundation is another possibility.

d. Country Fair---Jane Bove

No report.

e. Land Use---Scott Breeden

No report.

f. Friends of the Library---Fran Williams

Geoff relayed Fran's message that a book sale at the library featuring "nice books" will take place on two Saturdays: November 21 and 28. Plans for resurrecting the children's program are also being worked on.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

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