

Inter Canyon League
Minutes of the General Meeting
Tuesday, January 5, 2021 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. Holiday Helpers---Pam Ragland

This year's Holiday Helpers program was able to aid six local families needing cash for the holidays. Donations totaled \$1,390, all of which was distributed via GoFundMe accounts.

b. Election of ICL Directors

Article 13, Section 2 of the ICL Bylaws describes the procedure for election of ICL Directors. To better accommodate online meetings, Scott Breeden moved to delete the sentence "Voting shall be by ballot only." The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously. Since Geoffrey Sarkissian, Scott Breeden, and Dion Sorrell were unopposed in running for the three open Director positions, all three were then elected by acclamation.

III. Following the Fire: Update From the Field

a. Emergency Preparedness---Joanne Hubble

Joanne arranged for delivery of erosion control materials like wheat bales, rebar, and sandbags, working "outside the normal way the county does things" to expedite the process. Supervisor Wagner promised reimbursement for what Joanne paid for personally. She also tended the Modjeska distribution site on weekends, when no county employees were available, and asked that people email her about further needs.

b. Team Rubicon---Danny Graham

Around 30 volunteers have spent the last few weeks cleaning up fire retardant, making and placing "thousands" of sandbags, boarding up structures, and doing some light debris cleanup, mainly in Williams Canyon. They are ready to do more, but are standing by until insurance companies are through investigating. Danny liked getting to meet Williams Canyon residents for the first time, and volunteers have called the work "fun."

c. Canyon Regrowth---Bret Green

Pam Ragland reported that Bret "worked his butt off" organizing people and moving hay bales around. Danny Graham concurred. Geoff liked the group's "organic" formation.

d. SMRP---Isabell Kerins

SMRPD is looking into working with the US Department of Agriculture on watershed restoration, and has been working with Team Rubicon on home protection. Community volunteers set up a donation center at the Silverado Community Center where families impacted by the fire could choose donated toys, tools, and other items to take with them. Isabell asked the county to clean out a culvert, and arranged for more dumpsters for removal of fire debris.

e. Fire Safe Council---Mary Schreiber

A chipper day is scheduled for Williams Canyon, when brush that was collected along the road will be chipped back onto the ground. Another \$75,000 has also been made available from the tree removal grants. Property owners will need to fill out forms allowing

inspectors and workers onto their property, though: contact Mary, or perhaps Andy Bain in Williams Canyon. Anyone wanting extra wood chips for erosion control purposes should come to the Riviera across from the Silverado Community Center.

The danger of a debris flow is expected to last for three to five years after the fire, or as Geoff put it: “We’re not out of the woods until the woods grow back.”

f. Wildcat and Other Neighborhoods

In her Zoom debut, Chay Peterson reported that Silverado’s Wildcat Canyon residents now have “tons of sandbags” in place. They are thankful for volunteer help with putting up plywood, and they are looking into plastic water-fillable K-rails for diverting water or debris. One drawback of scattering straw for erosion control is that wind can blow it around later. Jute rolls would be better, but they cost about \$80 each. Chay is looking into \$20 straw wattles. New residents need to be informed about what can happen here.

g. ICL---Geoffrey Sarkissian

In an online meeting with State Senator Pat Bates, Geoff brought up the problem of 911 phone service often being out of commission during emergencies. It is a statewide issue, not something that we can expect to be fixed quickly, but perhaps it would gain priority if communities banded together in calling for action.

Having gone through a similar experience 13 years ago, Geoff gave an online presentation recently on floods and erosion control, featuring former Modjeskan Birken Newell, now Director of Education and Restoration at Russian Riverkeeper in northern California. Dion Sorrell will work on producing a video of Birkin’s presentation in which he described recommended slope stabilization techniques.

United Way contacted ICL for help in distributing money to fire victims in the canyons.

These small distributions were not based on need; rather, all victims were assumed to have “presumptive need.” Using information from the Orange County Fire Authority, Francesca Duff provided names and phone numbers of the 50 families identified as impacted by the fire. United Way then gave each family \$500.

Geoff said that ICL has not had much communication with Williams Canyon. He would like to improve that by getting out and meeting some of the residents, but he is currently being very cautious due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Another way to improve communications is for more people to sign up for ICL’s MailChimp email list. Make a request via Zoom’s chat facility, or send email directly to Geoff.

IV. Fund Raising, Distribution and Treasurer’s Report---Francesca Duff

a. Monies Received for Fire Victims: \$55,000

Geoff noted that unlike the recent United Way aid, ICL’s planned relief grants must be based on documented need. Francesca reported that in 2020, ICL received donations of \$45,000 for home reconstruction and \$5,000 for rebuilding the repeater, and in 2021 ICL received another \$5,000 donation for home reconstruction.

b. Money in Fire Relief Fund

Up to \$63,000 remaining in the 2007 Fire Relief Fund is also believed to be available for Bond Fire relief purposes.

c. Process Needed to Distribute Money

ICL will provide application forms for requesting relief grants. Procedures to ensure compliance with IRS requirements will include formation of a committee to process the

applications, which will take time. Once details are finalized, a motion to set up the distribution process will be made in a separate meeting.

d. Treasurer's Report

Francesca reiterated that United Way did not give money to ICL for fire victims: ICL vetted information for United Way, which then mailed out gift cards.

In December, \$5,000 was allocated to Canyon Watch for radio repeater repairs. The financial reports for both November and December were approved 4-0.

In response to a question, Francesca said that interest on the original 2007 \$1 million donation for fire relief could be used for any purpose, and that has been done on occasion. She believes that about \$20,000 of the current account balance is restricted to fire relief.

V. Director Reports

a. Vice President---Dion Sorrell

Dion intends to meet with some other technology-minded people to explore establishing a gigahertz net which can be used for digital file transfer via radio. This should also add some useful redundancy to existing canyon radio communications.

b. Secretary---Scott Breeden

For the six months ending in December of 2020, the monthly recycling program at the Silverado Community Center raised \$484.48 for the ICL general fund.

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

VI. Advisory Committee Reports

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

In radio news, Keith Edwards reported that the new repeater for Silverado is on its way. He and others are planning on testing it in various locations to try to improve reception in places like Mine Tract. They anticipate spending an afternoon asking people to report in to gauge results. Once the best site is determined, work will focus on infrastructure like concrete foundations, containers, and solar and generator equipment.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.

***** The next ICL meeting will be held February 2, 2021 via live streaming *****

**Inter Canyon League
Minutes of the Special Directors Meeting
Monday, January 11, 2021 at 3:00 PM Live Streaming**

Directors Scott Breeden, Francesca Duff, Geoffrey Sarkissian, and Dion Sorrell met to create procedures for distribution of ICL disaster relief funds to victims of the recent Bond Fire. After much discussion, Resolution No. 20210111-1, shown below, was adopted by unanimous vote.

Scott will work with Phil McWilliams on drafting guidelines for the Distribution Advisory Committee. The guidelines will be based on the distribution criteria, procedures, and selection process of ICL Resolution #ICL121807-1, which was adopted by the ICL in response to the 2007 Santiago Fire.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28pm.

**Resolution No. 20210111-1
A Resolution Approving the Procedures for Grants Distribution**

The Board of Directors of the ICL finds as follows:

1. The purpose of the ICL is to promote the public good and welfare of all canyon residents, provide mutual assistance in times of disaster, raise funds for community programs, and keep residents informed of activities, events, and developments that affect our community; and
2. After the Bond Fire the ICL received \$45,000 in donations to be used for residents who suffered the loss of their homes, and who wish to rebuild and remain in the canyons; and
3. That the ICL has additional monies in the Fire Relief Fund of \$57,000, which funds may be distributed to victims of the Bond Fire for purposes for rebuilding, general relief, and for purchase of materials to be used in erosion, flood and debris flow control impacted by the burn area; and
4. That the Board of the ICL has investigated the requirements of distribution of funds in a manner which meets IRS requirements.

Now, therefore, be it hereby resolved as follows:

- A. That a Distributions Advisory Committee (DAC) be established to receive applications for grants, evaluate the merit of the applications, and, if approved, make specific-amount recommendations to the ICL Board on requests.
- B. That grants be based on demonstration of financial need, as determined by application and investigation.
- C. Preference will be given to those who have lost their primary residence; demonstrate financial need; and continue to live or intend to live in the canyons.
- D. That the ICL Board will appoint a minimum of 3 members to the DAC, one of whom will be an ICL Board member and the others chosen from the community among persons who will not be applying for a grant or have any financial interest related to the issuing of grants.

E. That the committee will present the recommendations to the ICL Board which will vote on the recommendation. If necessary, the ICL will call special meetings to expedite the decision-making process.

F. That the distributions will be confidential, to the extent allowed or required by applicable law.

G. That any documentation furnished in support of the application such as financial statements or insurance coverage details will be confidential.

Inter Canyon League
Minutes of the Special Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 3:00 PM Live Streaming

Directors Scott Breeden, Francesca Duff, Geoffrey Sarkissian, and Dion Sorrell met to amend the previously adopted Resolution No. 20210111-1 and to appoint the members of a Distributions Advisory Committee (DAC).

Resolution No. 20210120-1, shown below, consists of the same text as Resolution No. 20210111-1 with one change in part F: distributions will be public. (Supporting documentation described in part G will remain confidential.) Resolution No. 20210120-1 was adopted by unanimous vote.

Geoff reported that he had spoken to two Williams Canyon residents recommended by Joanne Hubble as possible DAC members: Andy Bain and Tom Barnett. Geoff was favorably impressed, and recommended that the ICL board adopt a resolution naming Andy and Tom, along with Scott Breeden and Phil McWilliams, as members of the committee. Accordingly, Resolution No. 20210120-2, shown below, was adopted by unanimous vote.

Guidelines for the DAC were discussed. Geoff suggested that distributions be no more than \$5,000 each, based on the fact that in 2007, the distribution limit could be ten times bigger because the relief fund was also ten times bigger.

Geoff will work on creating a public announcement describing the ICL Bond Fire relief program.

Following the same procedure established in 2007, for each approved relief grant, the ICL board will pass a resolution specifying the recipient, amount and purpose of the grant.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

Resolution No. 20210120-1
A Resolution Approving the Procedures for Grants Distribution

The Board of Directors of the ICL finds as follows:

1. The purpose of the ICL is to promote the public good and welfare of all canyon residents, provide mutual assistance in times of disaster, raise funds for community programs, and keep residents informed of activities, events, and developments that affect our community; and
2. After the Bond Fire the ICL received \$45,000 in donations to be used for residents who suffered the loss of their homes, and who wish to rebuild and remain in the canyons; and
3. That the ICL has additional monies in the Fire Relief Fund of \$57,000, which funds may be distributed to victims of the Bond Fire for purposes for rebuilding, general relief, and for purchase of materials to be used in erosion, flood and debris flow control impacted by the burn area; and

4. That the Board of the ICL has investigated the requirements of distribution of funds in a manner which meets IRS requirements.

Now, therefore, be it hereby resolved as follows:

- A. That a Distributions Advisory Committee (DAC) be established to receive applications for grants, evaluate the merit of the applications, and, if approved, make specific-amount recommendations to the ICL Board on requests.
- B. That grants be based on demonstration of financial need, as determined by application and investigation.
- C. Preference will be given to those who have lost their primary residence; demonstrate financial need; and continue to live or intend to live in the canyons.
- D. That the ICL Board will appoint a minimum of 3 members to the DAC, one of whom will be an ICL Board member and the others chosen from the community among persons who will not be applying for a grant or have any financial interest related to the issuing of grants.
- E. That the committee will present the recommendations to the ICL Board which will vote on the recommendation. If necessary, the ICL will call special meetings to expedite the decision-making process.
- F. That the distributions will be public, to the extent allowed or required by applicable law.
- G. That any documentation furnished in support of the application such as financial statements or insurance coverage details will be confidential.

Resolution No. 20210120-2

A Resolution Establishing a Distributions Advisory Committee

The Board of Directors of the ICL hereby resolves that a Distributions Advisory Committee (DAC) is established, consisting of Andy Bain, Tom Barnett, Scott Breeden, and Phil McWilliams.

**Inter Canyon League
Minutes of the Special Directors Meeting
Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 5:52 PM Live Streaming**

Directors Scott Breeden, Francesca Duff, Geoffrey Sarkissian, and Dion Sorrell met to amend the previously adopted Resolution No. 20210120-2.

Resolution No. 20210131-1, shown below, amends the previously adopted Resolution No. 20210120-2 by including findings in support of establishment of the Distributions Advisory Committee. Resolution No. 20210131-1 was adopted by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.

**Resolution No. 20210131-1
A Resolution Establishing a Distributions Advisory Committee**

The Board of Directors of the ICL finds as follows:

1. Resolution No. 20210120-1 provides for a Distributions Advisory Committee (DAC) to receive applications for grants, evaluate the merit of the applications, and, if approved, make specific-amount recommendations to the ICL Board on requests.
2. Resolution No. 20210120-1 further states that the ICL Board will appoint a minimum of three members to the DAC, one of whom will be an ICL Board member and the others chosen from the community among persons who will not be applying for a grant or have any financial interest related to the issuing of grants.
3. Williams Canyon residents Andy Bain and Tom Barnett, Silverado resident Scott Breeden, and Modjeska resident Phil McWilliams are community members who will not be applying for grants and who have no financial interest related to the issuing of grants.
4. Scott Breeden is an ICL Board member.

Now, therefore, be it hereby resolved as follows:

- A. That a Distributions Advisory Committee (DAC) is established, consisting of Andy Bain, Tom Barnett, Scott Breeden, and Phil McWilliams.