

Inter Canyon League
Minutes of the General Meeting
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 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

a. General Community Announcements

None.

b. Tucker Nature Center Status

Francesca Duff reported that lawyers are working on the details for enabling the Environmental Nature Center (ENC) to take over operation of Modjeska's Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary, following Cal State Fullerton's decision to relinquish that role. This will take a while. Meanwhile, local volunteers are bringing in birdseed, water, and hummingbird nectar to help sustain the wildlife until ENC can assume control.

c. Mountain Lion Sightings & The Cougar Conservancy

In response to recent local mountain lion activity, Alexa Bridges of Silverado introduced Korinna Domingo of The Cougar Conservancy. The Conservancy, whose mission is to reduce human/wildlife conflict and conserve cougar populations, operates a hotline for reporting sightings and incidents. The hotline can also be used to request assistance: Conservancy personnel can make site visits and recommend changes to prevent cougar problems. Some financial assistance is also available for pen-building.

The Cougar Conservancy is available for community presentations about cougars and cougar-proof enclosures. Cougars in the southern Santa Ana Mountains are currently the most at-risk population in all of California.

d. SMRPD Update

SMRPD Board President Isabell Kerrins noted that the park board also expressed interest in taking over operation of the Tucker sanctuary, but it was discovered that bringing buildings up to code would take a lot of money.

In response to a question about whether SMRPD's contract with Verizon required Verizon to install emergency backup power, Isabell said no—that was an idea, but not a requirement. As for trail maintenance in Modjeska Park, she said that some clearing was done sometime in the past six months.

SMRPD raised additional money for fire victims by selling leftover donated items. The district will also start to take reservations for events and resume some programs shortly.

e. Safety Issues—confrontation with speeders

No report.

f. Canyon Watch Update—Bic & Keith et al

Keith Edwards reported that the new Franklin repeater antenna has been erected. For heat dissipation, he would like to find someone who can sew the fireproofing material that Reggie donated.

Keith would also like to work with block captains to begin upgrading everyone's radio. One reason for doing this reprogramming is to avoid use of a channel that conflicts with one used by CERT LA.

Keith and Cle Robinson are also planning on equipping their trucks so that they can be mini-repeaters, if needed for communication from Camp Silverado (the Albertsons parking lot).

g. Emergency Preparedness---Joanne Hubble

Joanne is in talks with AT&T about extending service to the canyons for FirstNet, a separate network only for first responders. Joanne would qualify for this service. If AT&T provides it, she would also like the OC Fire Authority to switch to that from Verizon.

h. Bond Fire Grant Application Process—update

Geoff said that another announcement was sent out urging fire victims to apply for relief, even if their applications were incomplete. The committee charged with evaluating applications would like to begin work soon. Getting information out these days seems difficult, not because there isn't communication, but because there's too much—people don't know where to look.

i. Canyon Access Network, CAN revival

Dion Sorrell volunteered to head a new version of ICL's CAN (Canyon Accessibility Network) committee, founded years ago by Judie Bruno to address needs of disabled canyon residents. A survey might be needed to find out what people want, whether that's wheelchair access to Tucker or the parks, or something as simple as going to the store for someone temporarily housebound. Korinna added that help could include arranging for volunteers to build cougar-proof enclosures for people unable to do it themselves, or even just making sure that trash can lids are closed tight.

j. Friends of the Library—Fran Williams

Jeff relayed Fran's message: "Absolutely nothing happened" this month.

III. Director Reports

a. President—Geoffrey Sarkissian

No report.

b. Vice President—Dion Sorrell

Dion is planning on putting together a spring art show like the one last November at Bruce Day's house. The theme will be "Indigenous Arts of Santiago Canyon."

c. Secretary—Scott Breeden

The minutes of the February meeting were approved 4-0.

d. Treasurer—Francesca Duff

It was a slow month, but ICL received donations of \$1,000 for home rebuilding and \$500 for Canyon Watch. A \$1,500 bill is expected from Motorola. We should think about fundraising for future Canyon Watch and fire relief needs.

Bank of America needs a copy of an ICL board resolution authorizing opening the new fire relief account (to be closed after the funds are dispersed). Someone will write this resolution so that it can be adopted at a future meeting.

This month's financial report was approved 4-0.

IV. New Business

Isabell asked about funds available for removing mud. Geoff said that at this point, ICL did not have enough money for this, though it could be a future fundraising project. He added that Fran Williams warned about possible liability problems if helping someone involved

doing work on another person's property. And Francesca said that gifts to individuals are not in the same category as going through the county to provide erosion control materials for any canyon resident who wants them: ICL would need to set up a process like the one currently being used to determine fire relief grants.

V. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

***** The next ICL meeting will be held April 6, 2021 via live streaming *****