

Inter Canyon League
Minutes of the General Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 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

Blythe Fuge reported that when the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) drained tanks recently near Tucker in Modjeska, it caused erosion that deposited debris on the road, and the water left partially dissolved white tablets behind, before draining into the creek. IRWD told her that they had done de-chlorinization and had not anticipated residue. She has not contacted US Fish & Wildlife yet.

b. Canyon History Committee

Geoff Sarkissian showed photographs provided by Melody McWilliams showing Silverado's school from three different eras: 1903, the 1930s, and 1987. Each building was different, with the first two located where the Silverado Community Center is today, and the third where the current library is.

c. First Aid Enrollment & Grants—Francesca Duff

Fourteen people have signed up for grant-funded first aid training. Anyone else interested should email Francesca within 10 days. She will use leftover funds for upgraded supplies like better masks, hemostat crystals, and Israeli battle bandages.

d. The Modjeska Bridge, meeting recap

Scott Breeden summarized the March 30 public meeting sponsored by OC Public Works (OCPW): New bridge design is driven by current Federal standards for things like minimum width and shoulders. The Markuson bridge is considered obsolete but might qualify for Federal replacement funds. Many residents fear that a wider bridge will clash with the rural setting, and encourage speeding. OCPW has modified their plans based on public comments. At minimum, the bridge needs rehabilitation and regular inspections.

e. Local Safety Issues

Bic Edwards described recent speeding on Silverado Canyon Road, graffiti, illegal dumping, and vandalism including at the Maple Springs gate.

Four-wheelers speeding to get to Santiago Peak increased dramatically in the last two or three years: Before COVID, "people didn't know this place existed." Now "nonstop" traffic includes night racers and caravans of trucks hauling barbecues and coolers. Authorities won't prosecute without clear photographs of license plates and faces. Francesca Duff said that bumps in the road are expensive, and the fire department is opposed to them. Susan Hardy applauded Bic for her "25 mph escort service."

Someone caught dumping near the Ladd Canyon creek said that he owned the land. But dumping within 150 feet of the creek is not allowed. Fish and Wildlife took pictures, but whether to prosecute is up to the District Attorney.

Five kids were caught spraying graffiti near Ladd Canyon. A call back in 14 days was required to see if someone could press charges.

f. Emergency Management

Geoff said that ICL, the Fire Safe Council, and the Silverado Modjeska Recreation and Park District (SMRPD) have continued to discuss having an organized response for future emergencies. He characterized CERT, which is nationally-run, as a top-down organization, whereas the canyons have historically followed a more bottom-up, neighbor helping neighbor model for emergency response. During the most recent flood/debris flow incidents, though, the local organizations organized some activities based on the Incident Command system followed by several government agencies.

Geoff also said that since emergencies primarily involve Canyon Watch, ICL may be rethinking the need for a separate Emergency Preparedness Committee.

g. Canyon Watch Update—Bic & Keith Edwards

The Mine Track facility now has a backup radio. Keith is also experimenting with remote battery checking and channel changing.

h. Emergency Preparedness—Joanne Hubble

No report.

i. Friends of the Library—Janet Coughlin

Janet met the librarians, and gave them gift cards to support their Earth Day bee program. She is still thinking about holding a swap meet fundraiser.

Francesca said that a satellite/remote program would be good for providing library access to children, who can't drive to the library.

j. ICL & ENC—Environmental Nature Center (Tucker)—Francesca Duff

A grant application is in the works, which may provide a way for ICL to help Tucker. Tucker is still not open. There is more graffiti than usual, but at least one "artist" was recognized. Check the ENC website for any other Tucker news.

III. Director Reports

a. President—Geoffrey Sarkissian

July is the target date for starting live or hybrid ICL meetings.

b. Vice President—Celeste Veerkamp

No report.

c. Secretary—Scott Breeden

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

d. Treasurer—Francesca Duff

SMRPD donated \$2,500 to Canyon Watch. A grant for water supplies will be requested. The March financial report was approved 4-0.

IV. New Business

Mary Schreiber announced that Easter Breakfast will return to both Silverado and Modjeska.

Francesca noted the April 9 memorial event for Ralph Voehl.

Susan Hardy will put a notice on Nextdoor about the recycling event also on April 9.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30pm.

***** The next ICL meeting will be held May 3, 2022 via live streaming *****
Live and Zoom hybrid meetings to start in July