

**Inter Canyon League
Minutes of the General Meeting
Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Silverado Community Center and Live Streaming**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by President Sarkissian.

II. General Announcements

Geoffrey Sarkissian announced that a community pickleball tournament will be held at the Silverado Community Center.

III. Saving our Oaks: GSOB Review

Mike Boeck described current efforts to keep goldspotted oak borers (GSOBs) from killing our local oak trees. Larvae of these Arizona beetles, detected here only recently, tunnel and chew away wood just below the bark. When enough of this is gone, the tree dies. Since dead trees are a fire hazard, the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) contracted with UC Cooperative Extension experts last year to inspect suspected infestations, with tree owner permission. Mike assisted OCFA with those tree surveys, but he said that no more money is available for that now because OCFA is busy fighting GSOB problems elsewhere. So we need to learn how to detect and prevent GSOB infestations ourselves. One sign of GSOBS is small D-shaped holes in the bark of a mature oak, up to about ten feet from the ground. Mike provided meeting attendees with small cards bearing (1) photos of beetles and their larvae and (2) an actual-size D-shaped hole, to aid identification. GSOBs almost certainly arrived here accidentally in firewood. Since the beetles will continue to spread if infected firewood continues to be moved from one place to another, Mike strongly advised against transporting oak firewood anywhere—burn it before the larvae can hatch, which may happen starting in April. Mailers and signs might be ways to get the word out, but Mike is also hoping to arrange a community meeting. More GSOB information is at ucanr.edu/sites/gsobinfo. Mike also recommended RPW Services as a company licensed to treat or remove oaks damaged by GSOBs.

IV. Modjeska Olive Trees & Non-Permitted Construction Project

Melody McWilliams, chair of the ICL History Committee, described the olive trees near the mouth of Modjeska Canyon as historically significant since Madame Modjeska and her husband, Count Bozenta, planted olives around there over a hundred years ago. If it can be proven that recent construction activity is a threat to historic trees, a stronger case can be made that the trees must be preserved. The OC Historical Commission and the Theodore Payne Foundation have been contacted for help in researching this issue. Janet Wilson reported that some fencing has been taken down at the site in question, and OC Public Works has retained an arborist to help determine if construction has damaged trees in the public right of way. Resolving issues regarding unpermitted grading will take time.

V. Other Committee Reports

- a. Friends of the Library—Janet Coughlin
No report.
- b. Canyon Watch Update—Bic & Keith Edwards

Keith reported that the recent problem with interference on the GMRS radios is thought to be from another Long Beach ship. It is hoped that this one will sail away soon, just like the last one. Neither the FCC nor the Coast Guard seems very interested. The FCC has three people to cover problems like this for the entire United States. Changing our 500 or so radios to a different frequency would take time, and still might not solve the problem.

Batteries for the radio repeaters have about half of their useful lifetime left.

Francesca Duff reiterated that block captains are just supposed to inform neighbors of emergencies, and to evacuate along with them if necessary. Emergency supplies for the neighborhood should be someplace accessible, not in someone's locked car, for example. Block captains are not intended to be co-opted for "pseudo-emergency-management."

Bruce Newell reported that a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program for the canyons is being worked on.

VI. Director Reports

a. President—Geoffrey Sarkissian

ICL would like help with handling communications including social media. We will hold off on tacos at meetings for the time being. And there has been some discussion about beer for the next Country Fair.

b. Vice President—Celeste Veerkamp

No report.

c. Secretary—Scott Breeden

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

d. Treasurer—Francesca Duff

ICL received a donation of \$1,000 from Jenny Scott's family, and some recycling income.

Friends of the Library paid for some supplies at the library. ICL membership can be paid for on our website. Insurance costs are approaching \$5,000 annually.

The January financial report was approved 4-0.

VII. New Business

Lora Meadows asked about providing a Welcome Wagon-style service for new residents. She remembered giving out baskets and candles with Mary Schreiber some time ago. Mary said that she hands out Fire Safe Council and other community information, but she will talk with Lora some more.

Janet Wilson asked if ICL communications funds could be used to mail GSOB information.

Francesca said that restrictions on those funds should be followed.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm.

***** The next ICL meeting will be held March 7, 2023 *****