

**Inter Canyon League**  
**Minutes of the General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 6, 2023 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**

Geoffrey Sarkissian shared an item from the canyon archives, courtesy of History Committee chair Melody McWilliams: a 1957 brochure touting Silverado's features such as two gas stations, two stores "operated by genial, friendly persons," the "new modern Silverado School now under construction," and "a Sportsman's Club where public turkey shoots are held at frequent intervals."

Joanne Hubble reported that the current CERT class at the Library of the Canyons was filled in two days. Another class is planned for fall, but the materials will probably not be free.

**III. Raptors—Special Presentation by Peter H. Bloom, Ph.D**

Geoff introduced Tustin-based biologist Pete Bloom, who has been studying birds of prey like hawks, eagles, owls, and vultures for several decades, researching their habits and helping to conserve them and their habitat.

One of the highlights of Bloom's career was helping to capture the last remaining wild California condors in the 1980s, to save them from extinction by breeding them in captivity. The effort was successful, as there are now around 500 condors, many of which have been re-introduced to the wild in California, Arizona, and Mexico.

Many years ago, there were condors in Orange County, living in places like Black Star Canyon caves. According to Bloom, supporting wild condors here today would require feeding them, since there aren't as many cattle now. Similarly, golden eagles no longer nest here because the jackrabbits are gone. Ground squirrels have been poisoned, habitat has been built on, and Chino Hills State Park has been "loved to death" by people.

For anyone interested in attracting raptors, Bloom suggested providing "proper nest boxes" for barn owls or screech owls, though sometimes even an old tire wedged in a tree might be accepted. What the birds really need is habitat.

**IV. Committee Reports**

**a.** Friends of the Library—Andrew Tonkovitch

No report.

**b.** Fair Committee—Jane Bove

The committee is starting to get active, with meetings expected to start in two weeks. Some applications have been received. Chay Peterson is making arrangements for beer and bands. A donation from the county is also being requested.

**c.** Land Use—Janet Wilson

No report.

**d.** Canyon Watch—Bic and Keith Edwards

Keith said that radio batteries are good, but approaching end of life at the Mine Tract repeater.

**V. GSOB Update**

Mike Boeck said that the dead oaks at the Tucker Wildlife Preserve are gone now. And recent GSOB (gold spotted oak borer) inspections did not find any of those insect pests. Francesca Duff announced that ICL received a \$15,000 grant from Southern California Edison for educating the public about the GSOB threat to our oak trees, and for tree inspections. Some of the money will be used for advertising monthly in the Foothills Sentry for one year, since GSOBS have been found elsewhere in the county, not just the canyons. Mike also said that the Irvine Ranch Conservancy is interested in making color banners, if locations to post them can be determined.

## **VI. Director Reports**

**a.** President—Geoffrey Sarkissian

No report.

**b.** Vice President—Celeste Veerkamp

No report.

**c.** Secretary—Scott Breeden

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

**d.** Treasurer—Francesca Duff

Tax filings are done. ICL has spent about \$2,500 so far this year.

The May financial report was approved 4-0.

## **VII. New Business**

Librarian Marissa Saam announced that an introduction to 3-D printing would be offered at the library on June 14.

The pickleball tournament in Silverado has been rescheduled for Sunday due to a conflict with another previously-scheduled event.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.

**\*\*\* The next ICL meeting will be held July 11, 2023 \*\*\***