

Inter Canyon League
Minutes of the General Meeting
Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM Live Streaming

I. Call to Order

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

II. General Announcements

Danny Graham reported that Mike Boeck is still surveying trees for GSOBs (Gold Spotted Oak Borers). Danny also said that 32 people graduated from the OC Fire Authority's first CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) class in the canyons. Dates for another class have not yet been set. Although this does not constitute an official CERT program, the training could be useful in emergencies.

Laurie Martz said that the Silverado-Modjeska Recreation and Park District expects to offer music lessons and a naturalist program in the near future.

III. Committee Reports

a. Fair Committee—Jane Bove

Geoff Sarkissian said that meetings have started. There is a lot to work on, and help will be needed.

b. Friends of the Library—Andrew Tonkovitch

Geoff and Sarah Sarkissian made a sign for the mobile library. Francesca Duff said that the mobile library is not just for kids, but the Modjeska park is a good place for kids to visit the mobile library.

About 80 kids (plus adults) attended the Environmental Nature Center event at the regular library, according to Francesca and librarian Marissa Saam. The summer reading program (with prizes for kids) seems to be successful.

c. Land Use—Janet Wilson

No report.

d. Canyon Watch—Bic and Keith Edwards

Bic expressed thanks to the volunteers who patrolled around Independence Day, which seemed quieter than last year. People seem to be respecting Canyon Watch signs. She is working with off-roading groups to also respect neighborhoods along the road through Silverado to the forest.

There is not yet a clear solution to the problem of dangerous bonfires and traffic accidents where the Forest Service does not patrol regularly (particularly dangerous and expensive at night). Fortunately, thanks to radios, one person who suffered a severe allergic reaction could be met at the forest gate by a volunteer with an EPIPEN.

IV. SCE Grant to increase GSOB Awareness

Francesca said that the state has had a GSOB program since 2010, but to supplement that "academic" information, ICL intends to use the Southern California Edison Community Outreach grant for a campaign at a more emotional level. "Personalizing our fears" will stress the risk to property values as well as to people's trees if the oak borers are not brought under control. Kevin Topp has offered to help with ads in the Foothills Sentry.

Signage and handouts at events are another possibility. Volunteer help will be appreciated.

For continued tree inspections and borer mitigation, Mike is doing preliminary screening until money is available for further work.

V. **Boxcar Bridge in Modjeska (actually two flat cars)**

Geoff said that after a meeting with neighbors of the Modjeska Canyon Nature Preserve who had criticized the post-bridge-project look of the preserve, a positive response was received from OC Parks: They will start by spending some money to make the new walls “prettier,” and will consider covering rip-rap with dirt in the future.

VI. **Director Reports**

a. President—Geoffrey Sarkissian

No report.

b. Vice President—Celeste Veerkamp

No report.

c. Secretary—Scott Breeden

ICL has raised about \$740 so far this year from canyon residents donating their recyclable cans and bottles.

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

d. Treasurer—Francesca Duff

In addition to the Edison grant, ICL received a \$1,000 donation from Dick Ertmann’s estate—that was used for the Friends of the Library summer reading program. Friends of the Library spent about \$2,500. More Canyon Watch bills are expected later.

The June financial report was approved 4-0.

VII. **New Business**

Geoff will invite Daryl Vance from the US Forest Service to speak at a future ICL meeting.

VIII. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

***** The next ICL meeting will be held August 1, 2023 *****