Inter Canyon League
Minutes of the General Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 2026 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

Geoff Sarkissian briefly described highlights of the upcoming Silverado Country Fair: kids activities like face painting, gold mining, and a puppet show all grouped near the play structure; mostly acoustic music in the mornings with other bands playing later; and many people now working on setting up the old-west facade in time for the October 10-11 event.

Joanne Hubble arranged for an El Nino presentation featuring National Weather Service Meteorologist Felix Castro October 22 at the Library of the Canyons. Information about anticipated heavy rain, possible flooding, and sandbagging will be covered.

III. The Almost Certainly New Park Board of Directors—We hear from them

Heidi Grande, running for a seat on the Silverado Modjeska Recreation and Park District Board of Directors, said that one of her priorities would be raising money for the district—perhaps it could team up with a Santa Ana Mountains group to apply for grants. The other candidates, some unopposed, are Mark Levy, Kisten Rieser, and Tim Thompson.

IV. Environmental Nature Center (ENC)—Good fences make good neighbors?

Deborah Graves gave a presentation about recent activity at the Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary. She believes that some of the fence building, ground clearing, and "shifting emphasis" on the part of the ENC, current operator of the facility, is not in keeping with Tucker's intended purpose as a wildlife preserve open to the public.

Replacing a chain link fence with a higher wood fence prevents the public from viewing the other side of Modjeska Canyon. And it's not clear if replacing plants and sandbags along the road with bricks and concrete is a more desirable flood-control measure.

Francesca Duff felt that along with the recent expansion of plant propagation at Tucker, giving the site a more enclosed look would make it seem more like a commercial operation.

In response to a suggestion that ENC be given a chance to present their viewpoint, Geoff said that could be done at a future meeting.

V. Canyon Watch—Bic Tran and Keith Edwards

Francesca said that portable radios will be used at the Silverado Fair, and she urged everyone who has a radio to test it now to make sure it will work later, in flood season.

VI. Friends of the Library—Andrew Tonkovitch

Scott Breeden reported that there was good attendance at "Canyon Life: How Did We Get Here?", the Friends-sponsored October 3 local history presentation at the library. Mike Boeck added that a video recording of the event will be posted on the Internet.

VII. History and Canyon Archives Committee—Scott Breeden

No report.

VIII. Bugs on the Loose: Update on GSOB efforts—Mike Boeck

Mike is looking into whether grant money for fighting gold spotted oak borers (GSOBs) could be available through the Irvine Ranch Conservancy next year.

IX. Save our Cougars—Julie Williams

The Wildlife Coexistence Act, signed into law last month, should help California's mountain lions survive while also keeping people and livestock safe.

The Mountain Lion Foundation has other mountain lion information at mountainlion.org, where teachers can also register for an October 28 program.

X. Director Reports

a. President—Geoffrey Sarkissian

No report.

b. Vice President—Celeste Veerkamp

No report.

c. Secretary—Scott Breeden

If ICL needs to find a new home for the library boutique storage trailer, please let us know about any available space.

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

d. Treasurer—Francesca Duff

ICL is down about $5,000 from the beginning of the year, which is typical. But now we should make money, from the fair. Major expenses in September were a chipper day ($2,827.50), fair advertising (about $425), Canyon Watch equipment (about $570), and library programs (about $980). Income consisted of vendor booth fees ($825.00) and bank interest ($0.02).

The financial report for September was approved 4-0.

XI. New Business

None.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.

<u>* The next ICL meeting will be held November 3, 2026 ***</u>**