

EQUESTRIAN FRIENDS OF ED LEVIN PARK

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, April 12, 2011; 6:30 p.m.
El Toritos Restaurant - Milpitas, CA

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:51 p.m. by Acting President Cliveden Chew-Haas.

Roll Call

Members present: Cliveden Chew Haas, Debbie Souza, Joy Rajasalu, Cindy Hoskins, Arlene Kaiser, Jack Wilson, Joy Pros, Chris Hickey

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the December 15, 2010 Board of Directors meeting were submitted for approval. Arlene made a motion to approve the minutes as written.

MSC: approved

Reports

Meeting with Maintenance Lead

Cliveden and Debbie met with Angel on March 28, 2011. A healthy partnership between the Parks staff and EFOEL is a benefit to all! Cliveden reported that Angel has been very receptive to our requests and suggestions to improve the quality of our parks trails, and has followed through in a timely manner. With the reduction of parks staff and severe budget cuts, it is imperative that we continue to show our appreciation for their service. Angel is requesting our service to help **remove invasive non-native Coyote Brush** throughout several trails within the park. He would like to have a few EFOEL members step forward for **training as SCC Parks Trail Crew Leads**. This would allow Angel to spread available work crews throughout the park. Each work crew site must have a minimum of 1 trained Trail Crew Lead. Cliveden requested that trail grooming this year include not only mowing, but also clawing/ disking to remove rain gullies which will help to further preserve the hard work that was put into the trails last Fall.

Meeting with Ranger Mike Maximovich

Cliveden met with Mike earlier today. Mike has been diligently gathering the materials needed to begin EFOEL's second Major project of 2011 (Trail sign replacement). Mike also asked that a shut-off valve installation be included in the scope of the work to be completed during the Water trough repair/ Equestrian rest area project later this year.

2011 Major Projects

EFOEL Informational Flyer boxes

Cliveden reported that the 2 flyer boxes are stocked and ready for mounting. Cliveden will check with Ranger Mike to confirm the specific installation locations before she installs them. One box will be mounted at the bulletin board located in the Spring Valley Equestrian Staging Area and the other box will be located at the bulletin board near the hang glider road entrance from Downing Road.

Trail Signs Replacement Project

Cliveden shared an Ed Levin Park map showing the locations of the 17 trail signs which will need to be replaced. The materials are ready to go, Cliveden will prepare a recruitment flyer and the work will commence as follows:

Saturday, May 14, 2011 ; 0830 – 1230 hrs ; Meet at overflow parking lot across from Maint. shed

Scope: Need 4 or 5 persons to prepare signs for installation. Metal posts will be stripped, primer applied, painted, and drilled with holes. Additional persons needed to begin post hole digs on trails.

Equipment Needed: Post hole diggers, bars, shovels, electric drills. Electricity will not be available upon the trails.

Saturday, June 11, 2011; 0830 – 1230 hrs; Meet at overflow parking lot across from Maintenance

Scope: Complete any remaining work on project and enjoy potluck picnic in the park to celebrate!

Equipment Needed: Same as above

Tentative Volunteers: (May 14) Cindy, Joy P., Joy R., Chris (June 11) Cliveden, Debbie, Cindy

NOTE: For every volunteered man-hour, EFOEL will earn a SCC Parks Credit of \$10 toward future use of parks facilities for eventing.

Water Trough Repair/ Equestrian Rest Area Project – Tularcitos Trail

Debbie is currently in the process of completing the SCC Parks Volunteer Major Project Request Form for approval. The item was tabled until the documents are completed and approved by Parks Admin.

Coyote Brush Removal / Trail Maintenance Work Days (Airpoint; Calaveras Ridge; Los Coches trails)

This item was tabled until the next EFOEL General Meeting, with work dates to be scheduled for July. Debbie will also check with the feasibility of securing a work crew from the County Jail Weekend Work Program.

Election of Officers / General Meeting

Available July dates will be considered for a Sunday morning breakfast meeting / ride.

Action Item: Arlene will check with Chaparral Ranch (Town Hall) to secure a meeting site. Debbie will try to secure donated baked goods and drinks.

Old Business

2011 EFOEL Paperwork

The 2011 Park Friends Agreement forms have been approved by Parks Admin and returned to Cliveden.

Equestrian Rest Area Enhancement Project – Tularcitos Trail

Debbie is currently preparing the documentation.

Equestrian Rest Area Project – Agua Caliente Trail x Monument Peak Trail

This project will be tabled until 2012.

Adopt A Trail

The Coyote Brush Removal project will be focused on EFOEL's adopted portion of the Airpoint & Calaveras Ridge Trails. Arlene asked if Trail work days can be applied toward Trailwatch hour requirement, for those EFOEL members that are also Trailwatch volunteers.

Action Item: Debbie will check with John George, SCC Parks Volunteer Coordinator

Results: Per Gloria Gill at County Parks, Trailwatch hours are accrued in uniform while patrolling the trails.

Volunteer Training

Additional members of EFOEL have expressed an interest in joining the SCC Parks Equestrian Trailwatch Program.

Action Item: Debbie will check with John George for upcoming training dates.

Trailwatch Horse Certification Practice

Debbie is pleased to welcome 5 EFOEL members (**Kathy Mayeda; Joy Pros; Joy Rajasalu; Cindy Hoskins; Deborah Britt**) to the SCC Parks Equestrian Trailwatch Program. These members successfully completed the classroom portion at Minnis Ranch Training Center in March 2011. There are currently 6 horses pending completion of the Practical portion for certification. Trail conditions have delayed the scheduling of this portion. Arlene and Debbie have prepared the certification course within the park and will be scheduling the practical exam in the near future.

Calero Covered Arena Project

We are still waiting for a response from County Park Admin regarding letter written by Jack Wilson on November 24, 2010.

Future Project Ideas from Last Summer

Debbie is keeping a list of Future Project Ideas. If you have any to add, please send them to Debbie. It was decided that we need to raise funds first (ie. by volunteering within the park for park credit, and other fundraising events). Once a bank account has been established with a positive balance, we can proceed with planning future Equestrian Events within the park.

Fundraising for Projects

GGF Snack Stand: Cliveden reported that the GGF Snack Stand idea may not work for us, because of non-profit status. Debbie suggested that we might consider working at GGF under a non-profit organization (possibly Chaparral) for a share of the profits.

Action Item: Cindy (Fundraising Committee Chairperson) will check with GGF regarding whether EFOEL qualifies as an Equestrian organization and proceed with the necessary documentation. Arlene will check with Chaparral to see if they are interested.

STEP/TSC (Stewards for Trails, Education & Partnerships Program sponsored by Tractor Supply Company) Conservation Program: The program is coordinated through AQHA and applications are routed to AQHA for consideration.

Action Item: Cindy will be submitting the application, focusing on the Tularcitos Equestrian Rest Area Project.

CSHA "Trash For Trails" Program: Cindy advised that this program encompasses the recycling of hay baling twine in exchange for money. The twine is currently being collected in Pleasanton.

Action Item: Cindy will be researching this further and acquiring the application before we set up this program.

EFOEL Website (www.EFOEL.org)

Cliveden advised that our Webmaster Janet Peter has been doing an awesome job updating the website. Cliveden reminded BOD members to submit their photos and bio to Janet ASAP. All EFOEL members can now submit items directly to Janet for consideration. We are now accepting postings, articles, photos, and advertisements from EFOEL Members, free of charge!! A link to Janet can be found on the home page.

Ed Levin Arena Maintenance

The arena in the Spring Valley Area still needs maintenance. The rails are misaligned, the sand is becoming overgrown with weeds, and the arena needs grooming. This item was tabled until the next General Meeting.

Bank Accounts

It was decided that we would open a new EFOEL bank account as soon as we have something to deposit!!

New Business

No new business.

Future Meetings

Cliveden will set date in June for next Board of Directors meeting

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Souza
Secretary, EFOEL