



P.O. BOX 8, SILVERADO, CA 92676

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 16, 2011 AT 7:00 PM

AT: The Silverado Canyon Community Center
Silverado Cyn. Rd, Silverado, Ca. 92676

DIRECTORS

Ron Shepston – President
Tom Smisek – Vice-President
Marty Weel – Treasurer
Greg Bates – Secretary
Brett Peterson – Director

STAFF

Aimee Bryer – SCC Director
Elizabeth Martyn – General Counsel
Bev Mileham – Admin. Assistant
Steve Reighart – Caretaker
Meghan Warner – Bookkeeper

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PUBLIC AND BOARD INPUT

Receive Public written or oral information/reports only; this is to enable Public input to the Board on any Park District relevant subject and is not a forum for discussion, though Directors may ask for clarification of points. Time limit is 3 minutes per person. Board input is limited to requests to add urgent items to this Agenda.

IV. Open Space & Trails Committee items:

(A) Santiago Canyon Road: “Adopt a Roadway Program”

- a. Rich Gomez can comment on any new progress of this effort
- b. Discuss progress with signage options provided by County of Orange

(B) Vista Corridor Preservation Efforts

- a. Coordinating with Rich Gomez and Saddleback Canyon Conservancy
 1. Status on 501©-3 document drafting for “Friends of the Vista Corridor”

(C) Open Space Acquisition and Management

☆ *Silverado-Modjeska Recreation and Park District Mission Statement* ☆
"To promote well being through programs and activities that protect, preserve and enrich the canyons' heritage, open space and unique way of life."

- a. Consider representatives from SMRPD and the community to interface with open space agencies and organizations relating to Measure M
 - b. New information on status of Irvine Mesa properties
 - c. Management Plan for Measure M parcel opportunities
 - d. Discuss definition and writing of Conservation Easements (*Mike Boeck?*)
 - e. Melanie Schlotterbeck (OCTA Oversight Committee) will be giving a Measure M presentation for canyon residents at the next SMRPD meeting on May 24.
 - f. Meeting option with Irvine Ranch Conservancy representatives for “knowledge sharing”
- (D) **Black Star Wilderness Park**
- (E) **Discuss possible trail connectivity between Silverado, Williams & Modjeska Canyons**
- (F) **Community Gardens / Organic Farming**
- a. Children’s Center organic garden, others?
- (G) **Announcements**

IV. **ADJOURNMENT**

Set the next meeting of the Open Space & Trails Committee.

Silverado-Modjeska Recreation and Park District

Meeting of the Open Space and Trails Committee

May 2, 2011 at 7:00 PM

Silverado Community Center

SMRPD directors present: Brett Peterson, Greg Bates.

Public present: Ed Amador, Chay Peterson, Deborah Johnson, Monica Edwards, Bob Click, Mary Schreiber, Carl Reinhart, Scott Breeden, Phil McWilliams, Dan Nove, Bob Hunt, Melanie Schlotterbeck, Rich Gomez, Mike Boeck, Janet Wilson, Steve Reighart, Wendy Hayter.

Brett Peterson called the meeting to order. The following agenda items were discussed:

(A) Adopt a Highway Program

Bob Hunt said that CalTrans was notified that SMRPD's participation in the 241 roadside cleanup program had been canceled. Mary Schreiber noted that the SMRPD signs had been taken down.

(B) Adopt a Roadway Program

Bob H. said he hadn't received a manual from the county yet. Rich Gomez described the markers along Santiago County Road now: a green pipe at the start of each segment, and a red one at the end. This led to some discussion about signs (or no signs) at adoptable segments.

Janet Wilson said that signs bearing the names of adopting entities could lead to bidding wars among businesses like Garden Grove Toyota, The Irvine Company, etc. The actual cleanup work sometimes is done by paying a government agency to do it. Janet said that her eye always looks for the open space. Could signs be optional? Greg Bates said he wasn't sure he'd want a program if it had signs. Carl Reinhart asked about renting out space on existing signs to sponsors. Ed Amador brought up signs like at 10k run events. Phil McWilliams suggested temporary signs taken down when cleanup done. Bob H. said that the county probably doesn't want to pay for maintenance of signs; Google can identify examples from elsewhere in the country; he and Rich are waiting to see samples from the county.

Deborah Johnson felt there was a management issue: who is in charge of the program? Rich said that the county would provide hard hats, etc., but volunteers could be recruited from various users of the road—bicycle groups, motorcycle groups, etc. as well as canyon residents. Has anyone put together such a list? Someone has an informal list. The City of Lake Forest expressed interest. According to Bob H., Plantenders is also interested.

As for cleanup volunteers, Monica Edwards asked if court-referred people would work. Bob H. said that wouldn't be enough. Mary said they have bigger contracts. Live Oak Canyon was mentioned as a road that the county probably would not want volunteers to clean due to safety concerns. Rich said that volunteers could be potential supporters in case the road is threatened with widening. Mary termed it a "linear park" needing support from people outside the canyons.

(C) Vista Corridor Preservation Efforts

Rich characterized this as an educational aspect of preserving Santiago Canyon Road. The road could

have viewing areas but not be blighted with turnouts. Deborah suggested that SMRPD attend OC Parks meetings, given that agency's new involvements with the Black Star area. Melanie Schlotterbeck said that Friends of Harbors, Beaches, and Parks is sending someone to those meetings, and they can forward notes. Mary said that the meetings are at night and open to anyone who wants to attend.

(D) Open Space Acquisition and Management

Who should represent SMRPD in meetings with other agencies about this? This should be put on the agenda for the next SMRPD board meeting.

Melanie Schlotterbeck gave an overview of the Measure M2 program, and answered questions. She worked with a coalition of 33 conservation groups to seek funding from OCTA for open space preservation in some areas of the county as mitigation for road building in other areas. She was also involved in writing the criteria for preservation and in evaluating candidate sites. The coalition worked with OCTA to get the Conservation Biology Institute to do biological analysis of land, and for someone other than a commercial real estate professional for conservation negotiation.

All the sites now identified as Group I have appraisals, and there should be an announcement about at least one of them by the end of the month. The Holtz property is still on the list (revised from 14 to 17 properties when the process was reopened.) Twelve of the sites are in the canyons, mostly in Trabuco. Besides Holtz, the other Silverado sites are the Irvine Mesa, McPherson, and Takahashi properties.

Acquisition and restoration criteria are similar, with biology most important: what is the habitat like? Other criteria can be site-specific and time-specific, including interest and preparation from entities "next door" to potential sites. A new NCCP (Natural Communities Conservation Plan) must be set up first; resource agencies will work on that. When property is purchased, it will be held in trust until the NCCP is finished, then transferred to a third party for management, with conservation easements or deed restrictions attached. (The Irvine Mesa would need only management; the Wildlands Conservancy does not want to manage it.)

Matching funds could also affect decisions. And property size is considered. OCTA wants to spend money now, not piecemeal. Janet wondered why no Modjeska property was considered. Melanie said that a letter was sent to the owner of one property (nominated by a non-owner) inquiring about interest. Properties can still be added to the list; the program runs for 30 years. Properties can be removed from consideration at the owner's request.

Carl asked how important it would be for SMRPD to organize/lobby for properties. Melanie said that her coalition sent a letter to show a unified voice—the letter can be viewed at the FHBP web site (which also has a draft NCCP). Janet asked about joining the coalition. Melanie also recommended that SMRPD meet with OCTA about any properties SMRPD is interested in—a management plan does not need to be completed first.

Greg floated the question of why get involved at all. If land is fenced off and not usable by the public, could that just be handled by OC Parks? Janet's view was that a public entity would be less likely than a private wealthy entity to subvert the intent of conservation, and that local people should have a say in management of local land. Carl wondered about contracting out management to someone else, as OCParks did with the Irvine Ranch Conservancy.

In response to Ed's question, Melanie stated that in 2005 dollars, total Measure M2 conservation funds

were initially projected to be \$243.5 million. This was later revised to \$140 million, but in any case, the rate is the same: 5% of the freeway program is guaranteed for conservation. \$40 million was allocated for acquisition and management in the current tranche, and \$22 million is unused from last year. No Measure M1 funds were used—this program only involves M2 funds.

Someone stated that the cost of managing property could be paid for with an endowment. According to Melanie, management cost is derived from a formula based on access and other parameters. Deborah felt that an endowment of \$2 million would not be enough to do much.

There was a question about whether Ron Shepston could represent SMRPD if he owned land under consideration. According to Mike Boeck, Ron had his property removed from the list. Then Melanie mentioned some owners in a “removed but not removed” category—what is that?

(E) Black Star Wilderness Park

Janet asked if OC Parks could come do another presentation on this, giving current status. This will be put on the SMRPD board meeting agenda.

(F) Possible Trail Connectivity between Silverado, Williams and Modjeska Canyons

Someone pointed out that trail connectivity could be one reason to seek management of additional land, if it contains trails already on the existing trail plan. Dan Nove said that he works for the Riverside Regional Park and Open Space District as a park planner and trails coordinator, and thinks that SMRPD has a lot of work to do. Mike said that the Riverside program was funded by the Diamond Reservoir, and that OCTA's program is like Orange County's version of that.

(G) Community Gardens/Organic Farming

Deborah said that the Children's Center has boxes for gardens already, but needs help with weeds, etc.—could SMRPD give \$100? Bob H. was opposed because he felt that SMRPD had already fronted the Children's Center \$65,000.