

**CONEJO OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**September 10, 2008
Civic Arts Plaza Board Room
2100 Thousand Oaks Boulevard
Thousand Oaks, California**

SUMMARY MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE:** for Regular Meeting at 6:34 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Directors Berger, Bill-de la Peña, Vice-Chairperson Jacobsen and Chairperson Skei. Director Fox was absent.

Also present were:

CRPD General Manager Friedl
Assistant City Manager Pappas Díaz
Assistant City Attorney Hehir
COSCA Manager Foord
Associate Planner Austin
Administrative Secretary Maguire

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Conejo Open Space Trails Advisory Committee (COSTAC) Reports.

- A. Trail Work Day, October 18, 2008.

Ginny Bowers, Newbury Park, reported that the 18th Annual Trail Work Day will be held Saturday, October 18th with a rain date of October 25th. The event will begin at the Conejo Community Center. The two tentative sites for this year's event are North Ranch Open Space and Potrero Open Space. Carlson's Building Materials is sponsoring a barbecue lunch, Bill's Bike Shop of Camarillo has donated a mountain bike for a bike giveaway and there will be other locally donated items for giveaway. More information is available at the Conejo Open Space Foundation's web site at www.cosf.org.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- A. Minutes of May 14, 2008 meeting.

Director Berger moved to approve minutes of May 14, 2008, Director Bill-de la Peña seconded the motion. Motion passed (4-0).

6. NEW ITEMS:

A. 2009 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule.

COSCA Manager Foord discussed the 2009 Board of Directors meeting schedule. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every other month in the Board Room. The November 18, 2009 meeting, which is on the third Wednesday due to Veterans' Day falling on the second Wednesday, will take place in the Scherr Forum Theater.

Director Bill-de la Peña moved to approve staff recommendation, Director Berger seconded the motion. Motion passed (4-0).

Speaker Cards: None
Statement Cards: None

B. Proposed 2008-2009 COSCA Budget.

COSCA Manager Foord reviewed the proposed COSCA budget for 2008-2009. City of Thousand Oaks and Conejo Recreation and Park District originally approved their budgets in June, 2007, but recently both agencies adjusted their 2008-2009 budgets downward due to projected revenue shortfalls. The newly adjusted budgets were approved in July, 2008. The CRPD portion of the COSCA budget was not affected by the budget changes, however, the City reduced its maintenance and operations portion. Five major capital improvement projects were also outlined.

Director Bill-de la Peña moved to approve staff recommendation, Director Berger seconded the motion. Motion passed (4-0).

Speaker Cards: None
Statement Cards: None

C. Consideration of Resolution in Support of Efforts to Create Regional Trail Between Alamos Canyon and Malibu Creek State Park.

Associate Planner Austin provided background information on The Nature Conservancy's past efforts to create a 22-mile regional trail extending from Alamos Canyon in Simi Valley to Malibu Creek State Park near Agoura Hills. She explained that a resolution to support the regional trail does not obligate COSCA to contribute money or staff time to the planning of the trail. The resolution does reinforce COSCA's commitment to partnering with neighboring conservation agencies to provide a seamless transition between interagency trails and open space systems.

Director Berger moved to approve staff recommendation, Director Jacobsen seconded the motion. Motion passed (4-0).

7. STAFF REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Status Report on Conejo Canyons Management Plan (verbal report).

Associate Planner Austin explained that COSCA was granted one more year of technical assistance from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program to work on the Conejo Canyons Management Plan. There will be a public workshop held on October 8, 2008 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Oak/Park Room at Civic Arts Plaza to give the public an overview of the management plan area and to receive input to guide the drafting of the management plan. A second public workshop will be held in early 2008 after a draft plan has been written.

- B. New Potrero Ridge Open Space Trailhead on Reino Road (Located Approximately 1,000' North of Lynn Road) (verbal report).

Associate Planner Austin announced that the Potrero Ridge Open Space Trailhead opened in June, 2008 and provides access to trails in Potrero Ridge Open Space and Dos Vientos Open Space. It includes parking for passenger vehicles and horse trailers and has an information kiosk.

- C. Enhanced Federal Income Tax Deduction for Conservation Easement Donations.

COSCA Manager Foord stated that the 2008 Farm Bill, passed by Congress in June, 2008 included a new tax rule that improves tax incentives for open space protection by giving donors of conservation easements higher deductions and allowing the donors to continue taking the deductions for a longer period of time. The new legislation extends this enhanced tax deduction opportunity through 2009 and unless the enhanced deductions are renewed again, the tax incentives will revert back to standard charitable donation tax deduction allowances in 2010.

8. BOARDMEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

Director Bill-de la Peña asked when and if homeowners are being informed about new trails being built.

COSCA Manager Foord stated that nearby neighbors would be notified if heavy machinery and a lot of vehicles were going to be in the area. She also added that the most recent trail work done was deep into the open space where no machinery was used. Most of the trail construction is low impact and sometimes a Trail Cat, a very small piece of machinery, is used.

CRPD General Manager Friedl added that the employees in the field decide if homeowners need to be informed of work occurring near their homes, based on the situation. To date, there have been no complaints received.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned in memory of Al Bindell at 7:18 P.M. to 6:30 P.M., November 12, 2008, Civic Arts Plaza Board Room.

Submitted by:

Date:



Rorie Skei, Chairperson

