



Lake Don Pedro Trailblazers
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Minutes from LDP Trailblazers Meeting - 11/18/2010

Present: Terrie Booten Monica Fay Jeanne Jenkins Vickie Eiland
 Dyanne Loyola Debbie Frates Debra and Thomas Smith
 Eric Forester Cristina Hansen

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm

Terrie thanked the group for efforts over the past year and noted this is the last meeting for 2010.

Treasurers Report: Have spent about \$1060 with private donations of \$329 plus individual contributions of group members. This does not include financial contributions of LDPOA and Counties.

Debra updated the group on emergency evacuation plans. She will continue to work with the Owners Assoc. to develop more comprehensive plans.

Cristina has started a Facebook page for the Trailblazers that will help with community recognition for the group. Eric noted there is a way to tie in website updates to the Facebook page.

Debbie Frates addressed the group regarding non-profit status. She was an original member of the Foothill Saddle and Trail Club. This club is not currently functioning but still has the Non Profit status and a bank account with \$1122 in it. We discussed how the Trailblazers can adopt the non profit charter and available funds. Terrie noted that the LDPOA is already a 501 C(6) – mutual benefit non-profit organization and the Trailblazers are already a part of that. Debbie stated that the documentation requirements are really no more than we currently do; we have meeting agendas and minutes, treasurers report etc. We would need to elect official officers. Question: Is there a fundraising requirement for non profit organizations? Answer: Only a maximum limit, not a minimum. This should not be an issue for us. Are tax filings required? Only if we have a minimum level of income that we would probably never reach. Fundraisers do not necessarily need to be a horse event that requires insurance protection. One big advantage is that any donations by individuals can be written off on their taxes. Businesses that might be interested in donating or having an ad or link on our website

could also deduct as business expense. Another advantage is that grant opportunities would be greatly expanded. Thanks to Debbie for an informative presentation. We will discuss again at our next meeting.

We then discussed if Foothill Saddle and Trail Club would be willing to donate existing funds for a Kiosk that would bear the signage that it was donated by the Foothill Saddle and Trail Club. Debbie will present this to her group and discuss.

Erosion on Trails: Terrie has investigated and there is no code or ruling by Mariposa or Tuolumne counties regarding this. We discussed how “sterilized” lots with no vegetation can become very slipper or eroded after rains. Counties suggested we could put down mulch or tree chippings. These situations will probably need to be addressed one by one with individual property owners.

Mapping on Banderilla: no progress on this since last meeting.

Burn Piles: This has been completed, thanks to all who helped. *Note to the future:* burning should be done in teams of two people for safety purposes.

Maps/Donations: no update on this as the LDPOA did not meet last week. We had requested that they establish a budget line item for this so we could track expenses and income.

Website: Eric has approached local businesses to see if they are interested in participating with website links from the Trailblazer site. This will promote local businesses. It was noted that a website “hit” counter would be very beneficial and help us to demonstrate the value of the link. Google Analytics may be a source of assistance for this project. We may be able to charge a small fee to the business for having the link that could generate some income for us.

Diyanne has contact info for a Mighty Mule Automatic Gate repair person in Merced. We will put this info on the website.

Tuolumne County update: Supervisor Gray has been working on a county wide trail plan that will include our subdivision.

Work Parties: We will continue with the first Saturday of each month. Terrie will post on website calendar any additional work days that she adds in. Several new obstructions have been identified. We have reached an agreement with LDPOA & both counties of what constitutes “no obstructions” on the easements. All have agreed that nothing will be approved in the easements.

New Business:

On November 28 the Old People Riding Club (OPRC) will conduct a trail ride in our area starting at 10:00 am at the El Prado Horse Camp. Eric has volunteered as trail boss and all Trailblazers are invited as well.

Discussion of “trail boss” and what they do: represent the Trailblazers, lead the ride, establish etiquette, keep group together, but with safe spacing, help individuals having any difficulties.

Terrie noted that is an excellent idea to carry ID and critical medical info while riding the trails and especially if you ride alone. She found a lanyard that can carry that around your neck, pocket , etc. if interested in the info.

Brenda has accepted the role of Public Relations. This will include Thank You cards, Fact Sheets for distribution to public, and other activities.

Discussed various fundraising activities such as calendars, swap meet / tack sale, & play days.

Terrie has obtained approval from the Water Board to use the access road from the water tank to Avenida Central (lot 177) to link the trail to Carmelita Pond Trail.

Next work day is December 3. We have 9 paddles left for Tuolumne. Have requested more from LDPOA but due ti no meeting this month, not received yet.

Next Meeting will be January 20, 2011.

Meeting ended at 8:55pm.

Happy Holidays!