

Nature Reserve Committee Meeting Minutes
02-22-2011

Meeting came to order at 7:00 PM in the Bella Vita arts and crafts room.

Attendance:

Larry Alvarez – Chairman

Dorothy Darden

Wayne Johnson - Director

David Southard

David Winchell

David Kitelson

Excused Absence – Bob Dennett

The committee acknowledged that the name of the Nature Trail in the Nature Reserve is the “Harry Reed Audubon Trail”. Harry Reed, deceased, was a partner in Reed-West investments and our benefactor Renee West –McGuire has chosen this trail as a memorial to her long time friend and partner.

Committee member David Winchell brought to the committee’s attention that a resident would like to have the ox bow lakes drained and the wild life removed. The committee considered this request and took no action.

David Winchell brought to the committee’s attention that a resident would like to know if the committee was going to build a fence around the nature reserve to keep children from drowning in the ox bow lakes and creating a liability for Bella Vita. The answer was no to the fence as no structures including a fence can be built within 300 feet of the Clear Creek channel and yes out liability insurance provides protection including the nature reserve.

Motion was made by David Kitelson and seconded by David Winchell to accept the Nature Reserve Committee mission statement and was approved unanimously:

“This committee will oversee the maintenance and operation of the Bella Vita nature reserve, recommend rules for use of the property, develop long term plans for operations and improvements, promote use of the nature trails by Bella Vita residents, and help educate residents about the wildlife and plant life in the reserve.”

David Kitelson and David Winchell reported small arms fire from the nature reserve. Larry Alvarez reported that his trail camera was stolen from the nature reserve. The property is posted in accordance with the law. There is a foot bridge over Clear Creek from Sleepy Hollow to the nature reserve that could be used by vandals, thieves and others for unauthorized access to this private property. Wayne Johnson is going to contact the core of engineers to see about removing the foot bridge.

Ron Gerlach has requested a stairway from the lake down the 6 foot earthen berm to the trail. Larry Alvarez is going to contact the home builder salesman Chris about donating a 44 inch wide stair with two hand rails.

A “trash fest” will be held on Saturday 03-12-2011 from 8 AM to 11:59 AM to clean up garbage along the trail. A guided tour will be conducted the next Saturday 03-19-2011 at 8 AM meeting at the Amino and Monaldo Drive Park . Larry Alvarez will post a notice in the weekly and monthly news letters.

This committee will partner with the veterans in April to remove some dead trees in danger of falling onto residents' property.

A future project will be to make signs describing various plants in the nature reserve and various way points along the trail.

Meeting adjourned at 8 PM.