

Minutes of the

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS TRAILS COUNCIL
ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ORGANIZATION MEETING
January 8, 1985

The meeting was held at the home of Linda Palmer, 24735 Mulholland Hwy., Calabasas.

The meeting was called to order at 8 p.m. by the President, Linda Palmer. In attendance were Linda Palmer, Jo Kitz, Ruthie Seligman, Leo Ferns and Gary Harryman. Ron Webster, expert trail builder and Ted Nauman, member of the Advisory Council of State Parks were guests. Don Hunt arrived later.

Minutes of the October 25 and Nov 1, 1984 meetings were read and approved on a motion by Ruthie, seconded by Leo.

President's report:

- Agoura Hills is designing a brochure on the value of trails and suggested Trails Council may be able to use their ideas for our brochure.
- A. Hills City Council will hold hearing on General Plan around Feb. 20.
- Linda recommended extra trails. A Trails Council member will attend the hearing.
- Linda submitted written testimony on the Malibu LUP on trails and parks requesting:
 - trail easement as a mandatory condition for development where trails have been adopted,
 - stronger language for trail protection,
 - flexibility in trail alignment on parcels 10 acres or smaller because it is usually not feasible to put trails on lot lines in the mountains.
- County Parks advised it is time to help relocate and build "Secret Trail" of Calabasas-Cold Creek Trail and start using it. It may also be necessary to move two segments of the Stokes Ridge Trail.
- Linda has been helping Eileen Salenick of NPS scout a new Backbone Trail section at Castro Crest on the NE side of upper Solstice Canyon to find an alignment that will take full advantage of the spectacular rock formations there.
- Linda led a nature walk on Sunday on the Stunt High Trail. Thirty people attended.
- It is suggested that board meetings be held on the trails occasionally.
- Mara Domecq of Spain is writing a book on the Missions in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the death of Father Serra. She is riding the Mission chain on horseback with her poodle. The Trails Council will help her on her ride from the Ventura Mission to the San Gabriel Mission, Ruthie offering an overnight stay at her house if Mara comes through Agoura.
- Ernie Messner, counsel for the SMMConservancy, has submitted incorporation papers for the Trails Council. Will hear in about a month.

Treasurer's report:

Ruthie reported a balance of \$226.76. Linda asked that everyone bring in 5 new members to increase our balance.

Ron Webster recalled the days of no trails and his first Bob Stephens designed trail at Musch Ranch in Topanga State Park. Since then, he has built over 12 miles of trails with numerous repairs and upgrades on other trails. As an individual contractor, Ron requested that the Trails Council explore the

possibility of a grant from the SMMConservancy to contract with Ron and a volunteer group to build needed trails such as the "Secret Trail", Stokes Ridge segments, the trail north of Mulholland between Cornell Road and Liberty Canyon and the Cage Creek Trail in MCSP. It was the consensus of the Council that we put together such a grant proposal in case we gain our tax exempt status soon.

Officers and other positions:

Linda Palmer agreed to be President, Leo Ferns Vice President and Ruthie Seligman Treasurer for 1985. Ruthie volunteered to call all the other Directors and find a Secretary, Membership Chair and Keeper of the Trail Coordinator by our next meeting. (Keeper of the Trail Coordinator will 1) find volunteers to take care of trail maintenance and 2) coordinate ~~Eagle Scout~~ trail projects.)

Don Hunt joined the meeting at this time.

Zuma Ridge Trail:

- Agoura Hills is implementing the grant from the Conservancy. The trail will mainly follow the flood control channel for Chesebro Creek, but alternate routes are indicated at the north and south end of the trail. On January 16 the City Council will decide on the route.
- The trails brochure in development will be used to persuade landowners of value of trails.
- Sally Reid, Mountains Conservancy consultant, is talking to property owners between Rocky Oaks and Agoura Hills about trail dedications.
- Joe Edmiston indicated that staff time is limited so the Conservancy will look to private groups to negotiate with the landowners. Suggest SMMTC apply for a grant to do title search, etc.
- NPS is buying the falls in upper Zuma and making purchases in Trancas. These properties, on the Backbone Trail alignment, will connect with the Zuma Ridge Trail.
- The property in lower Zuma to be purchased will have to have augmentation funds. NPS may apply for such.

Rancho Simi Rec & Park District trail update - Don Hunt:

The update on the General Plan for Simi includes a section of trails listing

- Standards for trail development
- A description of each adopted trail, including the name, number, a description of the feature or topography for which it was named, length of trail, type of use and a general comments section (whether there are barriers to be crossed, eg., flood control channels) and where the trail is in acquisition or development.

- Schematics for trail design concepts
 - 1) along flood control channel
 - 2) along streets
 - 3) in open space

A grant from the Conservancy enabled the completion of a trail to China Flats. The extensive trail system will fall into place as a condition of development. An equestrian and hiker trail is unpaved on one side of the flood control channel dissecting the valley and a paved bike pathway is on the other.