

Friends of Daley Ranch Board Minutes

January 4, 2025

Present: Jerry Harmon, Rick Mercurio, Brocade Wu, Dick Althouse, Donna Leon, Marilyn Ramirez and David Roberts

Minutes: Jerry opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. at Rick's house. The minutes from the November 12, 2024 meeting were approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report: Rick went over the treasurer's reports from November and December and the annual summary report for CY 2024. They were all approved by acclamation. Based on the 2025 spending forecast, it was decided to shift ~\$20K in funds from our checking account to a CD. Rick to make the adjustment.

A donation from SDGE for 2025 is a possibility. Rick will keep his ear to the ground.

Selection of Officers for 2025: All the Officers from 2024 will carry over into 2025 with the exception of VP which, with the departure of Ron Franzese, will now be served by Donna Leon. Our website needs to be updated with the changes.

Target Gift Card: Dave gave Rick the Target mailing address for his thank you note. The gift voucher was given to Donna for use buying beverages for the upcoming "Discussions" event.

Website Update: Don had another medical issue crop up and hasn't been able to work on the website of late. The Winter 2025 newsletter did not get sent out when hoped. Fortunately, Brocade and Donna were able to make this happen just as today's meeting was concluding. Nicely done!

Going forward, Brocade volunteered to have a go at helping Don out with the website. She will log on and see what she can do.

Jerry and Brocade to invite Don Pillar to a thank you lunch.

2024 Tax Filings: Our plan for Federal and State tax & charity filings going forward is to do this ourselves, as Ron did last year - saving us ~\$3K/yr. Rick to pull together last year's docs to guide us.

Dates for 2025 Discussions and Picnic Events: The activity calendar for 2025 includes:

- April 13 (Sunday) - "Discussions" with Friends event. Tentative topic is herpetology.
- March 22 (Saturday) - Walk for Animals. Kit Carson Park.
- July 13 (Sunday) - "Discussions" with Friends event. Topic TBA.
- September 13 (Saturday) - Grape Day Park event. Date is tentative.

- November 2 (Sunday) - Annual picnic event at the Ranch House.

Other FODR activities on the 2025 agenda include:

- Monitoring the Sager Ranch situation. Plan is to stay in touch with the Valley Center HOA, the City of Escondido, TECC and possibly other local organizations. Jerry to reach out to Joachim with the Hell Hole Canyon group.
- Stay current with Daley Ranch bio-monitoring activities. Rick check-in with Brian T for an update.

Membership and Fundraising: One idea is to launch a donation/membership campaign at the end of 2025, to possibly include mail, email, social media postings and the FODR website. Jerry also suggested the idea of setting up a table near the Ranch House on a fair weather weekend morning to engage the visitors. We could entice them with free water, cookies, ice cream, etc and try to get them to donate and/or join.

Volunteer Outreach - It was suggested that we make an appeal at our "Discussions" events and/or in the Spring Newsletter.

Rick's 6 Week Absence: Rick is on holiday Feb 12 until March 26. Donna to provide back-up as needed.

Escondido Community Foundation Grant Status: More than half of the ECF grant funds have been spent. All the picnic tables and benches have been ordered. Still left to purchase are trail markers, kiosk materials, split rail supplies & regular trash receptacles. The 3 interpretive signs (for barn, ranch house & outbuildings) are also still on the agenda.

Bill Sherrard Thank You: Rick to contact Bill about a thank you lunch.

Newsletter: Tentative items for the spring newsletter include the April 13 "Discussions" event announcement, update on 7th grade field trips, a donation thermometer, a President's letter, a ECF grant update, a blurb on the January Discussions event, and a call for volunteers.

Next Meeting - Tuesday, February 11, 2:00 pm at the Train Depot, Grape Park.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Roberts