

**Friends of Daley Ranch Board Minutes**  
**August 27, 2025**

Present: Jerry Harmon, Donna Leon, Rick Mercurio, Brocade Harmon, and Chris O'Donnell were in attendance. Brian Thill from the City of Escondido also attended.

1. Minutes: Jerry opened the meeting at 10 a.m. at the Train Depot. The minutes from the July meeting were approved by acclamation.
2. Treasurer's Report: The July Treasurer's report was reviewed by Rick and approved by acclamation.
3. Brian Thill, Daley Ranch Superintendent: He discussed the frustrations with the restroom and drinking fountain issue. There have been a series of problems: the well, the plumbing, leaks, the filter, the pump, the need for a 1600-gallon storage tank, and the certification changing to the state. He is not sure when the system will be functional.
4. ECF Grant Update: Rick said that the City's Appearance Committee approved the three informational signs. He bought cement and glue, which City employees will use to attach signs to metal brackets and then to install signs. The City will first call in for a dig alert, which is especially important for the sign located next to the utility buildings. An Eagle Scout may be planning to build the kiosk at Cougar Pass with grant money to be paid for a portion of the total cost. Ranger Joe is the coordinator for the City. Ranger Jess has taken charge of a new plan for trail signs. These will probably be much more expensive than those budgeted in the original grant. Rick recently paid for composite posts for these signs.
5. Biological Monitoring: Brian gave an update on the consultant's progress. There has been a lot of back and forth between the City and the consultant. Brocade asked about fauna reporting. Brian said the City may include some of that information in the reports. Chris followed through with the City to obtain the contract and progress reports. She will stay on this until we get the final report, but the arrangement for reporting goes through 2030 so we assume this effort will continue in some way until then. We would like to get Liz Ridder back on our Board, and Dave will reach out to her after his trip.
6. Grape Day Sept. 13: The official schedule for the event has not yet been sent by organizers. Donna slotted set up and take down workers for the day. Jerry and Brocade will bring their many items for display, including a shade structure. Dave will hopefully be able to take it back to the Harmon's Escondido house at the end of the day.
7. Website and Facebook Report: Chris continues to work hard on the website. She sent a report to the Board indicating lots of new "traffic" and indicating all the new sections of the website she has been working on. She and Brocade discussed Facebook content.

8. Newsletter: Topics for the next newsletter include
  1. A recap of the July Discussions event.
  2. An announcement for the annual picnic on Nov. 2.
  3. The species of the season.
  4. An ECF grant update.
  5. President's Message focused on need for donations
  
9. Annual Picnic Nov. 2: Brian said he hopes the "new" shuttle will continue to be available for this and Discussions events. We want scheduled tours of the Ranch House, and time slots for shuttle? Brocade will invite the mayor and council members. Chris will ask Donna if we want another short "program" or presentation that day.
  
10. Next Meeting: Friday, September 12, 12:30 pm at the Depot.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rick Mercurio for Dave Roberts