

Friends of Daley Ranch Board Minutes - FINAL'
January 24, 2026

Present: Jerry Harmon, Donna Leon, Rick Mercurio, Brocade Harmon, Chris O'Donnell and Dave Roberts were in attendance.

1. Minutes: Jerry opened the meeting at 9:00 am at Chris O'Donnell's home. The minutes from the December meeting were approved by acclamation.
2. Treasurer's Report: Rick reviewed the treasury summaries for both December and all 2025. Both were approved by acclamation.
3. January 14 Lunch for the 7th Grade Trip Volunteers: The lunch at Burger Bench went well and appeared to be well received by the volunteers. It was good to meet them all and show our appreciation.
4. 7th Grade Trips for 2026: Rick and the volunteers have implemented a few program tweaks but everything is set to go for the first session on February 17.
5. January 11 "Discussions" Event Debrief: All seats were reserved prior to the event but a number of no-shows resulted in some empty seats. It was suggested that we send out reminder emails to the pre-registrants a few days before the event. It was also suggested that a sentence be added to our correspondence noting that "Discussions" attendees can park for free the Hilltop Picnic Area at Dixon Lake if the main lot is full. Chris to implement.
6. Next "Discussions" Event: The topic for April 12 will be "Pollinators", presented by Ray and Jennifer. It was suggested that we don't need to meet for set-up until 9:30. Our summer event will be in July, with date and topic TBD.
7. TV Stand: Chris to buy an HDMI adapter cable for Mac computers, an extension cord and, possibly, a table stand for the TV. She will check with Gregg Anderson for his thoughts on the TV stand.
8. Donation for Mountain Lion Cause: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to donate \$500 to the Mountain Lion non-profit organization that speaker James Bourdon works with. We will also note this donation in our next newsletter along with a link to the non-profit so that others can easily donate.

For April's pollinators presentation by Ray and Jennifer, it was proposed we donate \$500 to the non-profit they are associated with, "Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation". Approved unanimously.

9. Walk for Animals: We will likely participate. Registration is \$100. Dave is available. Rick is checking on his availability. Dave suggested buying an acrylic box to encase our bobcat taxidermy. Donna to find out what vendor TECC used for their mountain lion display box.
10. Website Report: In the works!
11. Bill Sherrard Input: There was some noise and distractions at our last Discussions event. It was suggested that we bring our microphone and speakers to the next event to test them out.
12. CEO (Consortium of Environmental Organizations) Revival: Table item. Jerry to ruminate on it!
13. Bench Repair for Irene: This memorial bench near Middle Pond is reportedly in need of repair, as is the bench there dedicated to Sally Thomas. Dave to inspect, photograph and share.
14. Memorial Benches: We have received inquiries about new memorial benches. Rick to contact Brian Thill and/or the Escondido City Appearance Committee about their rules and regs on such things.
15. Storage Unit Rental. Chris to get a couple quotes for a small unit in which to store our equipment and supplies.
16. Donor Plaque/Recognition: A suggestion was made to honor our larger donors by including their names on a Donor Plaque to be hung somewhere in the Ranch House. Details of how this recognition would work are still to be worked out. Rick to ask Gregg A for his opinion on the plaque placement.
17. 2026 FODR Picnic: Proposed date is Saturday, October 24. Rick to contact Rangers to confirm the date and to ask for their okay for us to invite other organizations to have booths at our picnic.
18. Oven Refurb: Donna to reach out to the SD Archaeology Society to see if they can recommend someone.
19. Sager Ranch Property: No known new activity. Jerry to reach out to one of his contacts for more information.

20. Officers for 2026: Chris moved to keep all officers the same for 2026. Rick seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

21. Other

- a. New Kiosk: The new Cougar Pass kiosk has been completed and installed. Thank you Boy Scouts and Rangers! Dave to take pictures and share.
- b. Biological Survey: The Daley Ranch biological survey is reportedly 90% complete. It was suggested that, once complete, we invite the author and/or Rangers to a future FODR board meeting to go over it.
- c. Adjacent Property: There is a 5 acre undeveloped property adjacent to the La Honda parking lot. Jerry to contact the owner to gauge their interest in donating/selling.
- d. Other Possible Projects: Future action item to contact the Rangers and ask how FODR could possibly help with projects on their list.
- e. Bench Shade Cover: This idea is to add shade structures to a few of the benches that are situated in areas of full sun. Could be a Boy Scout project. Rick to reach out to the Scouts.
- f. Membership: As a way to encourage engagement, it was suggested we write and distribute a FODR annual report toward the end of the year to celebrate our activities and achievements for the year. Approved unanimously. Chris to set up a Google Drive folder in which to collect content as the year goes on.
- g. March Newsletter: Content to include new kiosk, the Walk for Animals event, a January "Discussions" recap, species of the season and the 7th grade trips.
- h. Grape Day: It was agreed that we will participate again this year. Details still to come.
- i. Plant Guides: We appear to be running low. Jerry/Brocade to check the inventory at the Madison house. Chris has the newly edited version ready so next will get a printing quote from Copymat. Dave to find the name of the previous printer used.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 27, 2026, 11:00 am at the Train Depot in Grape Park.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Roberts