

Friends of Daley Ranch Board Minutes

February 27, 2026

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

1. Minutes: Jerry opened the meeting at 11:00 am at the Train Depot in Escondido. The minutes from the January meeting were approved by acclamation.
2. Treasurer's Report: Rick had emailed the January line-item accounting, which was approved by acclamation. He is obtaining new MFCU CD's when they mature.
3. 7th Grade Trips for 2026: Rick noted that rain cancelled the first two trips in February for Rincon Middle School. They have been re-scheduled for May 5 and 6. The first trips will now be March 10 and 11. The Board is welcome to attend.
4. January 11 "Discussions" suggestions from January meeting: 1. We send out reminder emails to the pre-registrants a few days before the event. 2. Add a sentence 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. Next Discussions is April 12 with the Radkeys' presentation on pollinators. Donna will explore summer Discussions dates and topics.
5. 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. Rick contacted Gregg A for his opinion on the plaque placement, and Gregg said it would be fine to put it in the Ranch House. He sent a photo of a similar sort of plaque the City uses for the Trout Derby. Gregg also mentioned that another place to put it would be in a kiosk for greater exposure, but the Board prefers inside. Rick to research plaques and numbers of big donors. Donna to look at other possibilities.
6. An email and printed letter were received from a DR user, Mary Anne and Andy Noll, who are concerned about noise from overflying aircraft, and they asked for our support. Chris will ask rangers how bad a problem it is and if a nature preserve designation is a possibility. Rick to maintain

contact with the Nolls.

7. Walk for Animals at Kit Carson is set for March 21. Dave and Rick will attend. Dave is working on buying an acrylic box to encase our bobcat taxidermy. Donna to find out what vendor TECC used for their mountain lion display box. Dave, Rick and Donna to work out logistics.
8. Memorial Benches: We have received inquiries about new memorial benches. Rick contacted Brian Thill who indicated that the City indeed has oversight of these things, and that he will get these guidelines to us. Dave was to investigate existing benches. Rick to reach out to Brian with existing permit from City.
9. Plant Guides: these have been printed and will be delivered to our storage unit following this meeting. Flat, laminated copies will be given to 7th grade science teachers to help with the field trip experience.
10. Annual Picnic: This has been set for October 24. We want to invite “sister” organizations. Rick to check with Brian about possible permission.
11. Other:
 - a. CEO (Consortium of Environmental Organizations) Revival: Jerry to ruminate on it!
 - b. Oven Refurb: Donna to reach out to the SD Archaeology Society to see if they can recommend someone.
 - c. Sager Ranch Property: No known new activity. Jerry to reach out to one of his contacts for more information, including Hellhole Canyon.
 - d. 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.
 - e. Bench Shade Cover: This idea is to add and/or repair shade structures to a few of the locations that are situated in areas of full sun. Could be a Boy Scout project. Rick has submitted a project request on the official Scout portal but no response as of yet.
12. The next meeting is scheduled for March 25 at 2:30 at the Train Depot in Grape Park.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Mercurio for Dave Roberts