

Friends of Daley Ranch Board Minutes

June 16, 2026

Present: Jerry Harmon, Donna Leon, Rick Mercurio, Brocade Harmon and Dave Roberts attended as well as guests Escondido Parks Superintendent Brian Thill and Escondido Assistant City Planner Melissa DiMarzo.

1. Minutes: Jerry opened the meeting at 2:00 pm at the Train Depot. The minutes from the May meeting were approved by acclamation.

2. Treasurer's Report: The May Treasurer's report was approved by acclamation.

3. Bio-monitoring Report: Brian gave a brief overview of the recently completed bio-monitoring report. Overall, the changes in the preserve over the past few years have been modest. The amount of non-native grasses has increased and the chronic drought conditions has been stressful for a wide range of plants. Not much has been done to reduce the non-native species due to the lack of available manpower. Brian said that the habitat activities of the rangers are summarized each year in a report to the city. Rick asked if he could cc us on the report and Brian agreed.
 Melissa reported that some mitigation credits have been sold in the last 6 months.
 Brian reported that there have been a few encroachment issues recently. Some fencing options are under discussion.
 The bio-monitoring report will soon be posted on the Escondido City web site. We will then be able to post a link to it on the FODR website in addition to a summary.

4. Donor Plaque: The revised donor plaque was reviewed then approved by the board. Rick will proceed with its purchase. Our desire is to display it inside the Ranch House. Brian said he will check with his management to get the final okay. Rick to email Brian the design and sizing info.
 Need to add "MD" to the entry for Dr George Sardina.

5. Oven Restoration: Donna is seeking bids. A mason has been recommended. Brian flagged that if/when we proceed that a contract will be needed between the city and the company doing the work.

6. Irina's Memorial Bench: Brian emailed Irina the idea to add a metal plaque to the existing bench located at the top of the Bobcat Trail. The bench there already

has an inset to accommodate it so it would be a relatively easy thing to do. Now waiting to hear back from Irina.

7. October 24 Volunteer Event: Brian said that Saturday October 24 should work and that 2-3 rangers would be available to supervise the activities. Thus, a maximum of 20-30 people would be best. The rangers can provide the volunteers with the tools and supplies needed. Volunteers will need to sign waivers. Different possible activities were discussed including trash pickup and the removal of non-natives.
8. Shuttle for the July 12 Discussions Event: Brian confirmed that the shuttle vehicle will be available.
9. The 5 Acre Property Adjacent to the La Honda Parking Lot: Jerry and Brian both reported that the owner is potentially interested in selling the property. It isn't clear how interested the city is in acquiring it. Donna speculated that an appraisal might cost close to \$10K. Action item is for Jerry to recommend the owner to contact the Real Property Section in the city manager's office.
10. Refurbishment of Existing Benches: Jerry confirmed that he will take responsibility for the work needed. Rick to notify Linda G about the planned work.
11. Newsletter Update: Rick's draft is complete. Following a final proofing, Rick will get it off to the printer.
12. Next Discussions Event on July 12: Rick to send out the publicity info to the usual news outlets. Brocade to pick up the supplies needed from the storage unit. Meet up time is 9:30 am at the main gate.
13. Grape Day Event on September 5: The city has confirmed our participation. More details to follow.
14. Other: Dave reported that we are low on tri-folds and trail guides. Brocade will check for these in the storage unit when she goes there. Rick to pull up the details from the last trail guide order. Dave to order more tri-folds. The cost for those is <\$300.
Brian reported that the bathrooms near the ranch house are still out of

commission. A plan is in place but the city is still waiting on funds. Should be re-opened sometime early next year. Whew!

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 30 at 2:30 in the Train Depot.

Respectfully submitted, Dave