Friends of Daley Ranch Board Minutes
October 9, 2026

Present: Jerry Harmon, Donna Leon, Rick Mercurio, Chris O'Donnell, and Danielle Parsons.

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

2. Treasurer's Report: Rick had sent out reports for both August and September. Approved by acclamation.

3. Daley Ranch Habitat Helpers Event October 24: The newsletter has gone out, and a notice appeared in the Roadrunner and Times Advocate. Rick also submitted a press release to the U-T. Chris has posted event announcements on our website, FB page and will do an email blast in a few days. Rick to bring water dispenser and cups. He will reach out to Scott Hansen to obtain RSVP's. We will stay in touch via email as the time draws near.

4. Annual Picnic on November 7: The event name is "Daley Ranch Fest: 30th Anniversary Picnic". Donna created a logo and flyer for the event, to be used to invite other conservation groups to participate with a display table and/or a turn at the microphone. She will also design a banner "Celebrating 30 years." Eddie Grangetto will join the other organizations that day. Lots of logistics were discussed including food, supplies, equipment, etc. Donna has taken charge, but all will help out, especially the week before..

5. Scout Project: Rick had placed a request for a shade structure on the Eagle Scout project wish list months ago, and recently Zia, a scout candidate, emailed FODR wanting to build this. We had hoped this structure could be built at the intersection of Bobcat and Engelmann Oak Trails, next to Irina's memorial bench. Rick checked first with Brian Thill, who was okay about looking into this. Rick then put Zia in touch with Brian who is communicating directly with him now.

6. Plant ID Signs: Rick has been communicating with both Greg Gould and Brian about whether the City has the files for the photo ID signs that were the last version installed. These would be the preferred option. So far the City has been unable to locate the files. Rick and Dave will conduct an inventory of plant signs so we know exactly what is needed. We may see if Rotary wants to sponsor these.

7. 7th Grade Trips: Rick has attended two recent meetings. The first was the 8th grade EUSD field trip to Palomar Hospital. The other was yesterday's Consortium meeting at San Elijo Lagoon. It is informative to share common issues with the other groups. He would like to replicate last year's protocol of a docent/ranger meeting to plan the trips for this

spring, followed by a FODR hosted lunch attended by all the participants.

8. The Board expressed its sadness at the passing of Don Piller, long time webmaster for FODR. Preparations must be taken so that no single person is the only one with login or access to any lists, files, databases, etc. Chris detailed a plan of action, and she will coordinate putting it in writing for all. Rick will meet with Chris in November.

9. Memorial Benches: We do not know if Irina has obtained her memorial plaque to be placed on the City-provided bench at Bobcat and Engelmann Oak Trails. Meanwhile, Jerry spearheaded the renovation of the existing two benches for Irene O'Neill and Sally Thomas.

10. Stanley Peak signs: Rick and Dave plan to visit Stanley Peak in November to take new photos and begin the process of creating two new view signs.

11. MJM Ranch update: Danielle will follow up to see if there is a willing seller.

12. Oven restoration update: Donna will follow up to try to schedule a site visit from the man who earlier expressed interest in this project.

13. Dolly McQuiston: This amazing local environmental advocate passed away in early September. She designated FODR has a beneficiary. Rick submitted information to the lawyer handling her estate. We do not know how much money will be involved, but we are extremely grateful for her passion and generosity.

14. Next meeting: Friday, November 13 at 2 pm at the Depot.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Mercurio, for Dave Roberts