

Trail Working Group
Minutes, October 16, 2002

Present: Tony Biegen, Allyson Biskner, Otis Calef, Cerena Childress, Jim Childress, Ray Ford, Claude Garciacelay, Kerry Kellogg, Kalon Kelley, Rebecca Martin, Terri Maus, Barbara Najera, Chris Orr, Brian Robinson, Jeff Saley, Ray Smith, Sharon Sprouse, Kelly Steelman, Rich Tobin, Tom Whitaker, Sarah Worth

I. Meeting started at 4:08 P.M.

Brian Robinson handed out the agenda and a number of guests and new attendees were introduced. After this, Brian suggested we continue on to the action items on the agenda. Action items on the agenda included:

- a) Create mission statement
- b) Identify physical scope of the issue
- c) Identify constraints
- d) Discuss items for future agendas

II. Create Mission Statement

With Brian making a list on the chalk board and paper, the group brainstormed ideas for what ideas or concepts might be part of the mission Statement. In no order, these included:

Safety, enjoyment, compatibility, shared use, preservation, trail destruction, variety of opportunities, responsibility, user perception, resource protection, conservation, restoration, education, natural environment, recreation, and historical context.

A number of attempts were made by different participants to put these words and phrases into some sort of a statement. Among these included:

"The trail Working Group's mission is to serve as an advisory body to provide recommendations with the goal of resolving user conflict on the front country trails."

"To provide safe and responsible use that maintains the historic context and preserves the natural environment."

"Resolving user conflict on the front country trails."

"Producing a resolution which addresses user conflict."

it was agreed by the group that Brian would take all these concepts and attempts and work with them to create a draft Mission Statement. it was also agreed he would email this out to trailworkinggroup@lpforest.org so we could all see and suggest edits or changes.

III. Identify Physical Scope

Next on the agenda was a discussion of which specific area and what specific trails should be included in the scope of the group's work. Cerena (I think) mentioned Rich Tobin had made a proposal at the first meeting. Rich read it to the group:

"The Santa Barbara front country trails are generally defined as the trails located on national forest system lands and the city of Santa Barbara watershed lands bounded by East Camino Cielo on the north and the city of Santa Barbara to the south."

There was some discussion about whether this was adequate or not and some members mentioned trails on the north side which they were concerned about. These included the Snyder and Santa Cruz trails.

After discussion, it was decided that this was primarily an urban trail issue and that we should focus our attention on the trails on the city side of East Camino Cielo as described in Rich's proposal.

IV. Constraints

The Forest Service, City and County representatives were asked to describe any constraints from their perspectives which might make it difficult or impossible for working out potential solutions to the user conflict issues.

Kerry Kellogg pointed out that with the exception of the Romero Trail (a donation to the FS) and the San Ysidro (an easement with the San Ysidro Ranch), most of the Forest Service trails are on city property with the FS having an agreement with the city to maintain them. Kerry and Ray agreed to work with Dave Williams at the SB District office to produce a map of the front country trail for the next meeting which we can use to identify what is what.

There was also some discussion of non-legal trails and whether they should be included in the study but it was decided not to include them for now.

V. The meeting was adjourned just before 6 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 13 at the County Maintenance Building.

VI. Revisions to Minutes

The following comments were sent to me for correction. Rather than adding them in I've noted those comments here:

From Cerena:

It was brought up about biker education, trail infrastructure (speed bumps), etc., and trail signage.

In the constraints issues, enforcement, due to the FS's lack of funding, it was said enforcement wasn't possible. Barbara Najera, whose son was injured in 1987 in a biker/equestrian collision, said if there was a lawsuit they would come up with the money for *that* and enforcement would be a lot cheaper!

Brian Robinson, meeting leader, said there are lots of ways to find money to fund solutions! That is already evidenced by the fact that the FS just got a grant (\$80,000 or \$88,000?) for trail signage through its collaboration with meeting host, Los Padres Forest Assn.

Rich Tobin said we need to consider the text for future signs made possible by the new grant.

The Sheriff's office will need to be brought in on our talks in the future.

The Bren students don't have time to do the extensive trail studies proposed. Ray Ford suggested we, all the group, divvy up the work, do them ourselves.

From Jeff:

Ray, one correction on Cerena's additions. The LPFA applied for a Recreation and Trails Program Grant for trail signage to the tune of \$88,000. As you know, the grant has NOT been awarded. Also, it was not stated that enforcement "was not possible." Only, that due to limited funding, increased enforcement would be a challenge.