



## Canoa Ranch Conservation Committee

### Minutes Regular Meeting

January 13, 2015

Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department



Quorum was established and Chair Sheridan called the meeting to order at 4:10pm.

Committee members present: Chair Tom Sheridan, Vice-Chair Dan Brocious, Amanda Castillo, Karen Cesare, David Yubeta, Dr. Wade McLean

Members absent – Patricia Preciado – Martin, Stan Riddle, Nan Walden

Note: Meeting was held at Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center which does not have conference call capability.

Staff Present: Robert Vaughn, Valerie Samoy, Chris Cawein, Linda Mayro

Dr. McLean made a motion, seconded by David Yubeta, to approve the September 9, 2014 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

### **New Business**

1. Bond Update – Chair Sheridan reported that support from Bond Advisory Committee (BAC) for Canoa Ranch Bond Project #80 is currently strong. Dr. McLean, member of BAC, gave a report of BAC's Jan. 9, 2015 meeting. Several hundred were in attendance. \$500 - \$550M is target for bond package. It is not certain whether there is full support of the Board of Supervisors (BOS) for a bond election for 2015. BAC doesn't want bond to fail from lack of support. Motion was made to move Canoa Ranch project #80 and others forward. There is still an additional \$ 300M of projects coming to BAC for consideration. Final recommendation of bond package is scheduled to go to BOS by April. Projects which have large public support at BAC meetings tend to get full support from Committee. Dr. McLean suggested that if Canoa Ranch is an agenda item, the Canoa Ranch Conservation Committee and members of the community need to be present to show support. Open Space has proposals totaling \$120M. Competition among jurisdictions for \$550M was stated. Last major bond election was held in 2004. Recession is a key factor in determining if bond election takes place. Linda Mayro reviewed criteria for project selection: how well developed, solid cost estimates, solid jurisdictional ownership of O/M costs to ensure continuing investment. Dr. McLean added matching funds. Economy in Arizona is growing except in Tucson which weighs in on BOS decision to call for bond election. It is difficult for public to vote for bonds if economy continues to lag. Not much development for Canoa Ranch without bond monies. Proposed BAC schedule was included in a handout to Committee. BOS makes decision to hold an election 180 days prior to Nov elections. In response to Dan Brocious question, projects fall into 3 categories: No Funding, Partial Funding, Full Funding. Chair Sheridan proposes CRCC and community remain diligent and continue outreach and mobilize support for Canoa Ranch #80.

2. Robert Vaughn presented the Canoa Report for July 2014-Dec 2014. NRPR/Canoa Ranch has a dedicated staff and group of volunteers. Visitor numbers are up. Kick In and Anza Day events were very well attended. Canoa continues to accommodate a growing number of interest groups at the ranch, including the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society.

David Yubeta's instruction has been beneficial to maintaining adobe work. Major restoration work completed in Jr/Schnauffer house. Mr. Vaughn invited CRCC to periodically visit the ranch as the site changes weekly and to consider holding next CRCC meeting at the ranch. Green Valley Gardeners and Native Plant Nursery put in a fruit orchard. New picnic tables have been installed near Foreman's House. Mr. Vaughn reported that there is a new Anza Day Interpretive Display at the ranch which was developed by NRPR GeoMedia Division, funded in part by a grant from the National Park Service. The Canoa team has also done extensive outreach in the community, participating in Fiesta Sahuarita, Tucson Meet Yourself, Sahuarita Pecan Festival, La Fiesta de Anza at Las Lagunas. Canoa team continues to build relationships with other entities and groups in the Santa Cruz River Valley to draw visitors and tourism to the area. Cash donations continue and NRPR has set up a special revenue fund. Staff will begin work on a future fee structure for the ranch. Karen Cesare shared positive feedback from visitors she brought with her to the ranch.

3. An International Rodeo proposal has been brought to the Canoa Ranch Committee. Chris Cawein gave an update on the conversations with this group. The group picked a 40 acre site which wouldn't work for the proposal. NRPR has asked for more info and detail from the group and extended an invitation to meet with them. NRPR would like to continue to work with the business community to form public/private partnerships where they fit in with the Canoa Ranch Master Plan. David Yubeta commented on respecting the carrying capacity of Canoa Ranch and the ranch's inability to accommodate an event with 30,000 people. Mr. Vaughn reminded the CRCC that the equestrian property is a leased property and they are good tenants. The Canoa Ranch Committee produced a DRAFT Land Use Document which will go out to the CRCC.

4. Chair Sheridan proposed moving the meeting time to 4:30pm. After discussion, David Yubeta made a motion, seconded by Dan Brocius, to approve new meeting time of 4:30p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Bond Election Update

Canoa Ranch Conservation Mandate and Land –Use Constraints/ DRAFT Document

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at Canoa Ranch at 4:30pm.

### **Call to Public**

Member of the audience made a comment that county staff should have more interaction with the CRCC as some members of the CRCC have worked on the Master Plan. She also brought up the work being done at the San Xavier Nursery with fruit trees. Green Valley Gardeners are involved in the work.

### **Adjournment**

Karen Cesare made a motion, seconded by David Yubeta to adjourn. Duly motioned and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:28p.m.