



**Canoa Ranch Conservation Committee
Minutes
Regular Meeting**

**June 13, 2017
Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department**



Quorum was established and Chair Sheridan called the meeting to order at 4:35p.m.

Committee members present: Chair Tom Sheridan, Vice-Chair Dan Brocious, Dr. Wade McLean, Amanda Castillo, Stan Riddle
David Yubeta attended via conference call.
Members absent – Karen Cesare, Patricia Preciado-Martin, Nan Walden

Staff Present: Robert Vaughn, Simon Herbert, Valerie Samoy, Chris Cawein

Committee recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the September 29, 2016 minutes as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1. The AZPM video on Canoa Ranch by Tony Paniagua was shared with the Committee. Feedback on video was positive. Following video, Director Chris Cawein gave an introduction to the Canoa Pond project and informed the Committee that funding was acquired to move forward with the restoration of the pond. Robert Vaughn provided a concept plan for the pond and provided details of the layout of the pond- 2 ½ acres in size, 5' to 6' in depth and will have a handicap accessible walking trail around perimeter with trees and plants. Trees and plants will come from the Native Plant Nursery. Ramadas and benches are planned for pond area. Pond area will be fenced. Pond is foremost a Flood Control District Project to provide a storage pond for In Lieu Fee project east side of the berm. FC needs water to restore native vegetation on 30 acres east of the berm. A polymer product will be used to "line" the pond to prevent seepage. Water will be pumped into the pond. It was suggested that Tucson Audubon Society could give birding tours. Question was raised about charging for admission to the ranch. Presently, the donation system is working well according to Mr. Vaughn. There will be a future fee schedule for Canoa Ranch. Water rights have been secured for the pond. Mr. Vaughn provided a mid-year report, providing updates of the ranch. Proctor Collection inventory continues and plans are being developed for exhibit purposes. Work is ongoing for Scotch Farm exhibit. Progress on retaque repair and buildings with Simon Herbert and his Restoration Team of volunteers. Volunteer Training scheduled for November. Upcoming events and plans: Anza Day Saturday, Oct 14, Green Valley Concert, Sunday Oct 29; Heritage Fair Saturday, 3rd March 2018; developing an RV Site Host to be ready in the fall. Suggestion: The Loft "Rolling Reels" Program – showing films in rural areas.

2. History Lab proposal with AZ Historical Society by Tom Sheridan: AZ Historical Society will work with community groups to prepare freestanding panels for a mobile, portable exhibit. Organizations provide text and images. Panels would be an exhibit for 3-4 months in Historical Society, and then organization can take the panels to exhibit at other locations. \$1000 contribution to AHS to cover expenses. Chair Sheridan will provide information to County.

3. Relevance of CRCC to the development and expansion of Canoa: Committee member read the mission of committee and questioned whether the CRCC is necessary. Cited 2 items that never made it to the committee; Renewal of Raftery lease and Rodeo Proposal at Canoa. Discussion took place and it was expressed by a committee member that all proposals, viable or not, should be put forth before the CRCC for consideration. A committee member stated that since the CRCC was formed, 3 ½ years later no proposal has been presented to CRCC and he expressed frustration. Another member stated that the role and purpose of the CRCC has been unclear. Another member expressed frustration and questioned what the role is of the CRCC and questioned whether the CRCC is necessary since the staff is very good at what it does. Should the CRCC be disbanded, or just activated when a proposal is brought forth, is the CRCC valuable to the county? Maybe CRCC doesn't need to meet 4x/year. With no bond package, the county has done remarkable amount of work at Canoa, given the limited resources. Ranch manager acknowledged that CRCC has felt under-utilized but with the pond project moving forward and Master Plan items coming forward, may need input from CRCC – horse rides, campground. Affirmed that public/private partnerships need approval from BOS. Just need report on semi-annual basis to make a good informed decision on public/private partnership. One alternative is to revise bylaws and meet once annually, and meet if and when there is a proposal and if and when the county has funding to move forward with Master Plan. Suggestion was made that members are kept informed and updated with Ranch Manager reports via email but not necessary to meet. No need for a meeting just to have a meeting. Suggested that staff and Chair and Vice Chair of CRCC meet on all proposals to decide whether proposal is ready to come before CRCC for consideration. Consider a motion at next meeting to revise bylaws for CRCC to meet at least 1/year and as needed as in the opinion of staff, Chair and Vice Chair.

Future Agenda Items

Discussion of private/public partnerships and what proposals concerning Canoa Ranch come to the committee. Revise bylaws. Call to public – statutory that describes restriction – put citation on agenda. Review 2018 DRAFT Fee Structure.

Call to Public - 1st speaker-Comment made that 25 years ago work started to save Canoa, pleased that pond restoration is moving forward; Canoa I-19 empty display cases at rest stop, opening this fall, panels will include astronomy, tribal histories, floral and fauna, translations in native languages, mining history. 2nd speaker introduced herself as creator and steward of the GV Farmers Market in Green Valley started in 2008, 200 vendors during winter, peak season. GV Farmers Market became an Economic sustainability project. Proposal is to marry GV Farmers Market and Canoa Ranch – GV Farmers Market be a financial engine for Canoa. Supported Canoa the past years, by providing vendors for Anza Day and Heritage Fair. Finance restoration projects with GV Farmers Market. In 2008 during depression, GV Farmers Market didn't diminish but grew during that time. 3rd speaker – introduced himself and will be a

partner for GV Farmers Market. Chair directed staff to include GV Farmers Market proposal on next agenda.

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Duly motioned and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10p.m.

DRAFT