

FRIENDS OF MT. RUBIDOUX e-mail NEWSLETTER ... #134, 05/15/17

MISSION STATEMENT

The Friends of Mt. Rubidoux strive:

- to restore, preserve, and beautify Mt. Rubidoux Park
- to enhance knowledge of the rich history of Mt. Rubidoux Park
- to foster enjoyment by visitors to Mt. Rubidoux Park

MEETING INFORMATION

2017 Meetings 5/18, 7/20, 9/21, 11/16
Time, Location 6 p.m., City Hall, 3900 Main St., 5th Floor
Parking in lot at 10th Street, between Market & Main

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You're warmly invited to join FMR's 14th Annual volunteer team supporting the Riverside Relay For Life benefitting the American Cancer Society (ACS). Starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 10 at CA School for the Deaf, come walk a lap or two, or dedicate a luminaria (for \$10) to honor a loved one, or donate (payable to ACS, note FMR team on check). Donations can be made on line (search for Riverside Relay For Life/CA School for the Deaf), by snail-mail to FMR PO Box below, or bring to 5/18 FMR meeting. On behalf on Joan Breeding Letbetter, FMR's Relay Team Captain, heartfelt THANKS.

2018 FMR CALENDAR - INVITATION for PHOTOS: Although the title has yet to be chosen, FMR's 2018 calendar will celebrate Mt. Rubidoux's beauty created by plentiful rain ("*... the mountain has turned green and wildflowers are blooming everywhere.*") If you'd like to offer your high-resolution photo(s) for next year's calendar, please e-mail them to mtrubidoux@aol.com no later than July 14, 2017 (sooner is better!) Thank you for any you can share.

Minutes of the March 16, 2017 Friends of Mt. Rubidoux Meeting

WELCOME: President (for life) George Flower called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and thanked everyone for attending the meeting of Friends of Frank A. Miller Mt. Rubidoux Memorial Park. Twenty members and guests signed in.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the January 19, 2017 meeting (Newsletter 133) were approved as written. Motion for approval by Chuck Beaty, second by Joan Breeding Letbetter, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Andrea Lossing reported a general account beginning balance as of 11/30/16 of \$11,291.12. **Income** was \$3.99 Interest for December, 2016 and January, 2017; \$675.00 for Calendar sales; \$52.50 for T-Shirt/Sweatshirt sales; \$75.00 for Dues; and \$500.00 for donations. Total income was \$1,306.49. **Expenses** were \$129.63 for postage and envelopes; and \$130.00 for PO Box rental. Total expenses were \$259.63. Ending balance as of 1/31/17 was \$12,337.98. The bench account beginning balance as of 11/30/16 was \$3,379.66. **Income** was \$1.14 Interest for December, 2016 and January, 2017. **Expense** - zero. Ending balance as of 1/31/17 was \$3,380.80. Motion for approval of the Treasurer's reports by Joan Breeding Letbetter, second by Chuck Beaty, motion carried. Copies of these reports and the Income and Expense Report were circulated for all to review.

OLD BUSINESS: (1) New Members: Mark and Reggie Taylor, Kori Norsell, and Jose Coria were welcomed as new members. George also welcomed to the meeting long-time FMR member Judge William R. Bailey Jr. (Father of Mayor Rusty Bailey). (2) Kudos: George congratulated all FMR members for fostering enjoyment of Mt. Rubidoux Park. According to the March 12, 2017 Press-Enterprise, "counters" were turned on (in the roadways) in June, 2016 to measure the number of visitors. Between June, 2016 through February, 2017, nearly 460,000 people visited the Park. George talked recently with City of Riverside Parks Department representatives who want to have Friends of Mt. Rubidoux help validate the user count at a date and time to be scheduled. (3) Book and Story Person: Glenn Wenzel maintains FMR's library of books, films and other references that members are welcome to borrow. Glenn is also a member of the Riverside Historical Society whose next meeting is April 2 featuring "When Citrus was King, Labels were Gold" about the history of Riverside, Corona, San Bernardino and Redlands citrus labels. The Society meets at the Riverside Medical Clinic, lunch is served, and all are welcome. (4) Website: No update. (5) Education: George and Glenn have been invited to speak at Raincross Senior Village. (6) Trails: City Parks & Recreation is doing a "marvelous job" in efforts to control erosion. Joan Breeding

Letbetter said it has helped control runoff around her home. (7) Calendars: Sales of 2017 FMR Calendars continue raising money. Expenses have not yet been covered. George received several hundred dollars for calendars sold at his dentist's office when he went for a recent checkup. Plans for the 2018 calendar are underway. (8) Facebook: RC Morton reported slow growth now numbering 563 users. Some questions he needs help to answer include whether the hay bales used for erosion control have "gone to seed" and will the growth become invasive? (9) Top Clean Up: Kristan Culbert, new Land Steward with Rivers & Land Conservancy (formerly Riverside Land Conservancy) introduced herself and asked about interest from FMR volunteers to help with graffiti abatement, cleanup, and monitoring of RLC property (the top of Mt. Rubidoux.) Possible quarterly clean ups and nature walks were mentioned. Chuck and George described FMR's years of volunteer clean up and graffiti control (held the first Saturdays after FMR's six annual meetings.) Now, graffiti abatement is handled by the City of Riverside's experts. FMR will work with Kristan on how FMR can partner.

PRESIDENT'S MINUTES: (1) Gail Egenes, Executive Director, Riverside Land Conservancy: Gail passed away recently. She was remembered as the RLC representative with whom FMR (and Mission Inn Foundation) worked closely to acquire Mt. Rubidoux peak (through the Totally Mt. Rubidoux project) and developing plans with partners for preserving the property. Gail was the "heart and soul" of the effort and did an exceptional job per George, Chuck and others who worked with her on the project. Memorial services were held at the church where Gail's husband is a pastor. Gail will be greatly missed. (2) Kiosks: George thanked City of Riverside Parks and Recreation Department for replacing Plexiglas covers on all kiosks. FMR offered to contribute funds, but none was needed. Nancy Cox also worked on this project. (3) Flag: A generous donation was recently received from a long-time FMR member to pay for the flag. (4) Vandalism: Someone cut the Google logo into deep greenery on the hillside of Mt. Rubidoux. (5) Evergreen Memorial Historic Cemetery: Kathy Schulz described ongoing efforts to replace the flag and rigging that were stolen from the Cemetery. She also described a matching pledge of \$500,000 from an anonymous donor to start a new campaign for endowment fundraising. Other planned fundraising includes the Front Row Fireworks on July 4 plus several Tombstone Cinema events, pumpkin patch, and a new lantern tour. Replacing all large flags in the Cemetery should be done three times per year because after four months, they're shredded.

NEW BUSINESS & DISCUSSION: (1) Victoria Avenue Forever: Judge Bailey described three treasures in Riverside - Mt. Rubidoux, the Mission Inn, and Victoria Avenue. VAF's mission is to enhance and maintain Victoria Avenue. They're holding "Victoria Avenue Day" on April 29, 7 a.m. - Noon at Poly High School, and he invited FMR to have a table, sell merchandise and join the fun along with Gless Ranch, Riverside Fire and Police Departments, Mary S. Roberts Pet Adoption Center, Model A clubs and other participants. (2) Helping Homeless Persons: Chuck mentioned recent discussion about restoring the St. Francis Fountain on the western side of Mt. Rubidoux and cautioned that homeless persons used this for bathing in the past. Judge Bailey commented that two years ago, a renovation at the Salvation Army added two showers that were used 166 times just this past January. Also, a March 30th City Budget Committee meeting will continue discussion of housing and other support for homeless persons modeled after successful programs in other communities beyond what Riverside currently provides. All are welcome to attend the meetings. (3) New Water System: Chuck said about 80 houses in the Mt. Rubidoux / Little Mt. Rubidoux neighborhoods would be affected by implementation of a new Public Utilities water system and Mission Inn Avenue Booster Station. Helpful information is available at

<http://www.riversideca.gov/utilities/about-rpu/current-projects-missioninn.asp>

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. Homemade sweets from Carolyn Greywood were enjoyed by all.

We hope to see you at 6 p.m. on May 18, 2017 at City Hall, 5th Floor Conference Room

New Members are always Welcome! Call: (951) 683-3436 www.mt-rubidoux.org E-mail: mtrubidoux@aol.com

Yearly **Dues**: \$5 / Individual, \$10 / family (can be **mailed to** address below.)

Friends of Mt. Rubidoux, Inc., PO Box 206, Riverside, CA 92502

Friends of Mt. Rubidoux, Inc., TAX ID # 20-1692033, is a non-profit public benefit corporation exempt under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code. Donations are deductible to the extent allowed by IRS Codes.

To call for Riverside 911 from cell phone: (951) 787-7911

To report Graffiti: 1-866-TAGFREE (1-866-824-3733)