

Friends of Mt. Rubidoux

P.O. Box 206 • Riverside, California 92502



NEWSLETTER
#145, March 13, 2019

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

2019 Meetings 3/21, 5/16, and 11/21
2020 Meetings May and November
Time, Location 6 p.m., City Hall, 3900 Main St., 5th Floor
Parking in lot at 10th Street, between Market & Main



SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019, at 2 P.M.

the new date for

George Flower Memorial Plaque Dedication

Meet at the Mt. Rubidoux cross roads.
We hope you can attend.



Revised 2019 and 2020 FMR Meeting Schedule

Please see Meeting Information – top right corner.
Additional information to be shared at the March 21 meeting.



Friends, Again my plea. Please join us for our General Meeting on the 21st! Several items of interest will be presented including a revised schedule of our future General Meetings. Look forward to seeing you all! Chuck Beaty, President.

Minutes of the January 17, 2019 Friends of Mt. Rubidoux Meeting

WELCOME: President Chuck Beaty called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and welcomed everyone to Friends of Frank A. Miller Mt. Rubidoux Memorial Park. Self-introductions were done. Twenty-two members and guests signed in.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The November 15, 2018 meeting minutes (Newsletter 144) were approved. (Motion for approval by Nancy Cox; second by Ron Velasquez; motion carried.)

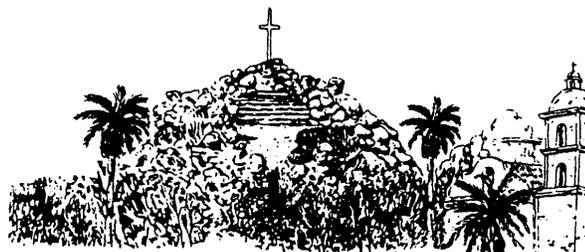
SPECIAL GUESTS: Parks and Recreation Director Adolfo Cruz, and Riverside Police Department representatives Lt. Kevin Townsend (Area Police Commander) and Sgt. Steve Goodson addressed safety on Mt. Rubidoux as well as Park maintenance. Chuck Beaty mentioned recent "Nextdoor" on-line postings re: safety and cleanliness. He offered that the Park is as clean as it has been in years. Director Cruz advised that Parks Staff are assigned to Mt. Rubidoux maintenance three times/week; but if something is missed, they want to hear about it. They do not view this as a negative. Regarding hours of availability, the 48 "developed" parks close at 10 p.m.; and the undeveloped City parks (including Mt. Rubidoux and Sycamore Canyon) close ½ hour after Sunset. Active projects include upgrades near the end of Tequesquite Ave. where a gate, kiosk and enhanced parking will be completed. The "catch basin" project to control run-off at the corner of Glenwood and San Andreas will begin in the next couple of months and include installation of curbs, sidewalks and vegetation. Regarding Park Safety collaborations with Riverside Police Department, Director Cruz said Parks has a very supportive relationship with RPD. Lt. Townsend and Sgt. Goodson reported low numbers of crimes around Mt. Rubidoux (occasional car break-in, an assault, a recent incident in Bonaminio Park that required clearing the area for several hours – and ended successfully.) RPD has not been hearing problems from within the Park. Discussion of resuming the Park Ranger program for regular patrols in all City parks is ongoing including Riverside's Chief of Police and the City Manager, and whether this would be a Parks or Police function, if rangers would be armed, challenges and expectations vs. legal guidelines. One example was that unless beds are available for homeless individuals, laws restrict evictions from Parks after hours. A composition from Chani Beeman, Ward 1 resident and Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance (DANA) member, was available for distribution. Entitled "Suggestion for solving Park problems", it

Members are Welcome

Contact:
www.facebook.com/FriendsOfMtRubidoux
Email: mtrubidoux@aol.com
www.mt-rubidoux.org

Yearly Dues: \$5 individual; \$10 family
Please mail to:

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



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

Non-emergency RPD:
951-354-2007

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

highlighted current efforts to encourage re-establishment of the Park Ranger program. William Bailey, Jr. favored the Ranger program with armed Officers. Keith Alex added that making regular park patrols, possibly using a Problem-oriented Policing model, would address what he stated was a quality-of-life issue. Using cameras within parks and sensor-activated lighting were mentioned. Lt. Townsend and Sgt. Goodson advised that cameras currently in use are not being “watched” but are “evidentiary” and that a sworn officer wouldn’t be assigned to watch cameras. Officers are assigned to patrol each park, rotating assignments every 6 months, and they use a “safe parks” data base tool. Officers may have “calls waiting” and priorities that influence ability to do routine Parks patrols. If called at night, the helicopter would be dispatched. Helicopter officers do regular patrols – a “huge wrap” - including Sycamore Canyon, La Sierra, and a route over Mt. Rubidoux. RPD is actively hiring to recover from the recession-level low staffing to build back the patrol base. Very recently, eleven new graduates from the Academy were hired. Regarding Bird and Lime Scooter use on Mt. Rubidoux, the preference is not to ban them but to achieve reasonable limitations. The City’s Traffic Engineering is taking the lead in addressing guidelines that will be proposed to Council. Agreements with the scooter providers will be developed for users.

OLD BUSINESS: Board Reports:

Andrea Lossing – Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Lossing was unable to attend. Reports will be provided at March 21 meeting.

Kathy Schulz – Website & Evergreen Memorial Historic Cemetery: FMR’s website had 13,000 unique visits in 2018. Recent additions included historical reference information provided by Glenn Wenzel, and the latest FMR Newsletter. No EMHC update.

Katie Wider – Dedication of George Flower’s Memorial Plaque: Thursday, 2/14/19, 1 P.M., Preliminary plans were shared.

Nancy Cox – FMR Membership: Nancy reported the number of members receiving Newsletters, and the number of dues’-paid members for 2018. FMR is evaluating the need to collect dues, and Chuck advised to accept membership and dues as of now.

Glenn Wenzel – FMR Education (School Presentations) and Riverside Historical Society: School presentations are being handled as requested. The next RHS program, January 27, 2018, will feature Dan Bernstein’s new book collaboration “Justice in Plain Sight” (Dan Bernstein, Mel Opotowsky, and Jim Ward.)

Jeff Sierra – Kiosks and Scooters: Jeff thanked Parks Director Cruz for same-day remedy to two broken kiosks and needing to refill dispensers with pet waste pick-up bags. Marlene M. suggested adding more locations on Mt. Rubidoux for pick-up bags.

Contributor Reports: FMR’s Facebook: RC Morton reported 11 more “likes”. Refreshments: Carolyn Greywood provided; enjoyed by all.

NEW BUSINESS: (1) Chuck Beaty reported on George’s memorial site upgrades; and at 9th Street park entrance - sign replacement. (2) FMR’s Board is considering schedule frequency change for General Membership meetings from six times / year to fewer meetings.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: No additional discussion.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 7 p.m. Homemade treats from Carolyn Greywood were enjoyed by all.

We hope to see you at 6 p.m. on March 21, 2019 at City Hall, 5th Floor Conference Room

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.

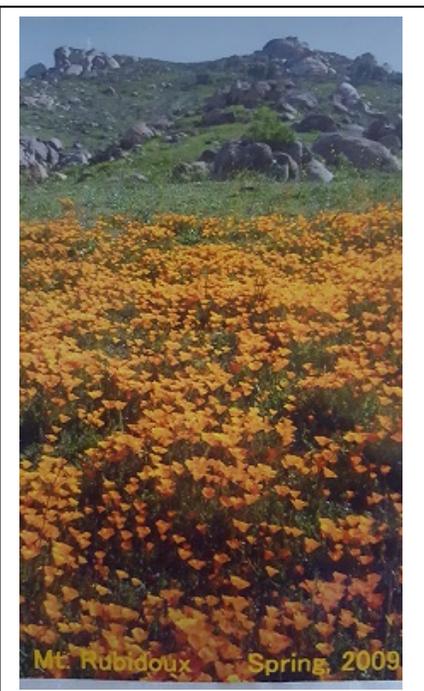


Photo at left was provided by Les Twedell. (The original is much more vivid. In this copy, Serra Cross is barely visible at top left of photo.) Thank you Les!

Photos at right are of “in progress” City Public Works and Parks Departments’ catch-basin project to control runoff from Glenwood / San Andreas corner of Mt. Rubidoux Park.

