

FRIENDS OF MT. RUBIDOUX e-mail NEWSLETTER ... #142, 9/15/18

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

2018 Meetings	9/20, 11/15
Time, Location	6 p.m., City Hall, 3900 Main St., 5 th Floor
Parking	in lot at 10 th Street, between Market & Main

Friends,

Again we invite you all to join us at our “Friends of Mt. Rubidoux” meeting. Our knowledgeable Board members will report on areas of Friends’ business. I will share topics from my meeting with the Park and Rec Director Adolfo Cruz such as improvements on our mountain trail. Also, City representatives will explain a grant proposal for \$30-40 million focusing on Eastside and Downtown.

Let’s fill the 5th floor City Hall room on Thursday, September 20th at 6:00 p.m.

Chuck Beaty, President

Minutes of the July 19, 2018 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-one members and guests signed in.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The May 17, 2018 meeting minutes (Newsletter 141) were approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Treasurer Andrea Lossing was unable to attend the meeting. Reports will be presented at the September meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: 1) **Mt. Rubidoux Improvements & City Parks & Recreation Master Plan:** Adolfo Cruz, City Parks, Recreation & Community Services Director, advised that the first draft of the Master Plan should be ready in about one month. Input began through community meetings starting early March, 2018, as well as surveys asking what new amenities and services were desired. Over 4,300 individuals responding through surveys. Popular suggestions included more activities for seniors, more swimming pools, and increasing open space trails. A suggested alternative to building new pools was to add heating to existing pools. Dedicating hours for senior swim, followed by general community use was also suggested. The Master Plan will also help with financial strategies given Parks & Recreation reduced budget. For this year, the cost to run the entire system is \$19.8 million. In 2006, Parks had \$23 million to run the same system. Since then, over 150 acres of developed playground plus functions have been added though the budget is smaller. Once Director Cruz and staff review the Master Plan draft, they will select goals to target for year 1 and 2. They’ll return to communities to meet and present initial goals and get advice on their plans. They’ll return annually to provide a report on community achievements. Director Cruz noted that “counters” were installed two years ago and that daily, 1,300 – 1,900 people visit Mt. Rubidoux Park. In parks such as Challen, Reid, and Sycamore Canyon where visitors are fewer, trails emphasis includes protection of cross-country courses.

Director Cruz distributed an illustration of the “catch basin” project at the San Andreas and Glenwood corner next to Mt. Rubidoux Park. Planning began several years ago with Public Works Department to prevent wash out. Other improvements will include continuing the sidewalk along San Andreas to the Park entrance; rock work and new vegetation. Parks will be responsible for on-going maintenance. Bids are due 8/9/18. A meeting will follow to award a bid. Director Cruz announced that early morning access to Mt. Rubidoux visitors will be restricted on Tuesday, 7/24/18, to permit a helicopter-assisted Riverside Public Utilities removal of an old utility pole, and drop a new one into place on Mt. Rubidoux. (2) **Larger flag & flag pole:** Chuck reported that the current flag is 12 x 18’ and the larger flag (under consideration) would be 15 x 25’ and would cost approximately \$200 more per flag. The current pole is 40’ high. A taller pole would likely be needed to elevate the flag high enough to prevent vandalism to the flag and rigging. Replacing the flag pole would include using a crane. Director Cruz commented a “wind load study” to evaluate stress on the pole would be recommended if trying to fly a larger flag on the current pole. Joe Sanchez asked what the height limit would be when a beacon must be used on top of a taller flag pole. Kathy Schulz asked if a camera could be installed in a new flag pole. This proposal will require additional evaluation. Glenn Wenzel mentioned that the first flag on Mt. Rubidoux was flown from Fort Chittenden during the Road and Flag Dedication in February, 1907. Fort Chittenden is the flat area on the east side just below the summit. (3) **Parking Expansion:** Director Cruz advised that a project with Public Works Department will add 25 new parking stalls, plus a kiosk / shade structure where the yellow gate is on Tequesquite Avenue. They are ready for a pre-construction meeting with the contractor. (4) **Restroom within Mt. Rubidoux Park:** Chuck and Director Cruz reviewed research

done on options for accommodating what all agree is a need. Director Cruz said that Parks has been looking at options for several years. Weekend visitors to Mt. Rubidoux typically number about 5,000 persons. A relatively inexpensive option that was proposed by Amanda Bates is from Toilet Tech Solutions for wilderness designated sites. Chuck contacted the company and discussed details of waste disposal and set-up. (Liquid waste is diverted to a leach line or to a pipe for trickle downward. Solid waste goes into a storage bag and must be emptied.) Given these parameters, and Mt. Rubidoux's surface of granite and decomposed granite, and the anticipated much heavier use on Mt. Rubidoux requiring more frequent solid waste removal, this design is not considered a good option for Mt. Rubidoux. Concerns also included not wanting structures on Mt. Rubidoux, impact on lean staff resources for regular maintenance, concerns about Homeless persons sheltering in the bathroom, and concerns from neighbors of Mt. Rubidoux Park. Nancy Cox asked about having FMR share costs to have Parks transport a portable toilet to a placement site each morning and bring it down each evening to serve the high use hours. Possibly charge \$.25 for use. Director Cruz said Parks had considered a similar plan for summer months. The cost is \$130/day to rent a portable toilet, or a unit could be purchased. The impact on staff for daily, or even several times weekly would be significant. Director Cruz also expressed concern with using the City's current heavier trucks because some sections of road have eroded. He is evaluating getting smaller trucks for their current maintenance. Amanda Bates emphasized that people are using the Park as a bathroom. Additional discussion of placement options is planned. (5) **FMR Membership / Dues 2018**: Nancy Cox said the membership response for 2018 has been great. (6) **Website**: Kathy Schulz and Andrea Lossing are working on adding PayPal to the website for on-line dues and other payments. (7) **Facebook**: RC Morton counts 643 people using it and said "looks" rise when there's new activity posted. (8) **Education**: No update since schools are on summer break. (9) **EMH Cemetery, Front Row Fireworks**: Kathy Schulz thanked all who volunteered at this July 4th fundraiser that went very well. She described it as an old-time get together with a great atmosphere and a wonderful experience. Earnings to date are \$11,000 for Cemetery upkeep. More revenue is anticipated by the final count. Attendance was down from last year by about 400. Lots of requests for Cold Stone Ice Cream were heard. Director Cruz said the crowd at Ryan Bonaminio Park was not a problem this year, and that Riverside Police Department did an excellent job managing traffic. Les Twedell agreed. He said closing Tequesquite Ave. when the Park was full worked very well. (10) **Riverside Historical Society**: Glenn Wenzel had copies of the new RHS Journal that included a great article about past FMR President for Life – George Flower. Glenn had copies of his book for purchase – "Anecdotes on Mount Rubidoux and Frank A. Miller, Her Promoter." He also shared a flyer about an upcoming workshop on "How to Research and Write Local History" to be held September 8. (11) **George Flower Memorial Plaque**: Jeff Sierra reported on progress made in choosing a design and location for the plaque. Details including an illustration of the plaque should be ready for FMR's September 20 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: (1) **Tour of Ameal Moore Nature Center at Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park**: Chuck and Nancy described the visit to check out the 1,000 square foot facility as a possible design for a center honoring George Flower on / near Mt. Rubidoux. Other possible locations could be near Ryan Bonaminio Park. Director Cruz talked about a recent tour of the old Salinity Lab (at the base of Mt. Rubidoux.) Some discussion about a Citrus Museum has been proposed. Perhaps this could be a location for the Mt. Rubidoux / George Flower center – and have a restroom. More information to follow. (2) **FMR Collaboration Proposal**: Eva Yakutis distributed a draft proposal for Santa Ana River Watershed Interpretive Signage – Mt. Rubidoux Park. More discussion to follow.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 7 p.m. Homemade cookies brought by Mollie Young were enjoyed by all.

We hope to see you at 6 p.m. on September 20, 2018 at City Hall, 5th Floor Conference Room

Contact: www.facebook.com/FriendsOfMtRubidoux E-mail: mtrubidoux@aol.com www.mt-rubidoux.org
Yearly **Dues**: \$5 / Individual, \$10 / family (can be **mailed to** address below.)
Friends of Mt. Rubidoux, Inc., PO Box 206, Riverside, CA 92502

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To call Riverside 911 from cell phone: (951) 787-7911; To report Graffiti: 1-866-TAGFREE (1-866-824-3733); Non-emergency RPD: 951-354-2007

Friends of Mt. Rubidoux has a limited supply of original T-shirts and sweatshirts for sale featuring one of Martin Tobias' beautiful drawings shown at right. If you'd like to purchase one / some, please e-mail your order to mtrubidoux@aol.com

T-Shirts available - \$3 each
(4 small), (5 medium), (9 x-large)

Sweatshirts available - \$7 each
(5 small), (8 medium)

