

Whitney Oaks Ad Hoc Trail Committee Minutes

The Gables: 9/30/14 @ 7:00 PM

Committee Members Present

Richard Conrad, Eric Hanson, & Mal Kangas

Absent

Ken Morrow

Board Liaison

Rick Jordan

Discussion and actions:

Richard Conrad was elected chairman.

Proposed Committee Charter was reviewed and adopted.

Criteria for assessing trail issues were discussed. It was agreed that the committee should immediately focus on problems related to three unpaved trails (Sunset, Granite, & Black Oak), where winter storms could cause further damage if remedial measures were not taken. It was also agreed that developing a trail issues assessment spreadsheet was not needed at this time.

There was agreement that most of the problems on the unpaved trails had been caused by a lack of trail maintenance, which then led to rainwater runoff flooding and eroding both the edges and surfaces of trails. Questions arose as to what BLM's current maintenance responsibilities are for these trails. Over the past few months, committee members had occasionally observed BLM employees doing limited work (weed whacking, blowing off trail surfaces, cleaning out some catch basins, and filling trail ruts with new decomposed granite). However, BLM has made no effort to clean out the inboard ditches or culverts – work that the Committee believes is essential to maintaining unpaved trail integrity. In many places, these ditches have silted up and are no longer functional. It was noted that last week's rain – a scant one-half inch – had already rutted the newly laid trail surface. The Committee will ask Vicky to set up a meeting with a BLM representative in the next week or two to discuss their maintenance responsibilities in regard to the unpaved trails.

Future meetings:

- October 1, 2014: Mal & Richard will walk the Sunset, Granite, and Black Oak trails and identify the areas most in need of remediation.
- At a date to be determined, the Committee will meet with a BLM rep on the unpaved trails.
- At a date to be determined, the Committee will meet to discuss the findings and recommendations that it will present to the Board, hopefully at its November 5 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Submitted by Richard Conrad