

Southern California Bluebird Club

January 3, 2015 Minutes

Irvine Ranch Water District

Bill Wallace opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. There were 30 people present. New members were introduced: **Susana Guerrero and her son, Santiago**, they currently monitor 35 boxes at Whittier Narrows Park. Also **Gary Livesey**, who helped develop the Wild life Tree video. Also, **Mike Issacson**, who is interested in becoming a bluebird monitor.

Jo-Ann Collier read the year end treasurer's report: SCBC took in \$121.00 and spent \$152.01 on 3 new banners that reflect the CCI logo as well as the SCBC logo. Also \$5,000.00 was transferred to the CCI program per our vote to do so at our last meeting. The net balance is \$3338.61.

CCI received \$182.00 in donations plus an anonymous donation of \$1500.00. We received \$120.00 for wild life tree signs and \$20.00 for posters and the \$5,000.00 transferred from SCBC funds. We spent \$405.14 for professional services, leaving a net balance of \$86052.06. Our year end combined balance is \$11940.67.

Jim Semelroth moved that we send a scholarship check for \$300.00 to the Biology Department of CSU Fullerton. With some discussion it was decided to designate the funds for habitat conservation which would benefit cavity nesting birds. The members approved this with a unanimous vote. Jim will handle the procedure.

Gillian's CCI report for Jan 2015 meeting of SCBC

Gillian met with OC Parks staff, John Gannaway and Jacky Cordero, to edit their Wildlife Tree policy. It is expected to be completed in the very near future.

Pasadena Audubon Society awarded the CCI with a third grant. This one is for \$810 and designated for condensed versions of the youth program. One will be Life Science based and designed for classroom teachers. The other will be for naturalists and rangers. The version for naturalists and rangers is complete. Gillian presented a sample of the materials for it.

Gillian asked for a group photo of club members for the CCI website to use as a thank you to a most generous anonymous donor who gave a gift of \$1,500 to the CCI at the end of 2014. The photo was taken at the end of the meeting and will be posted on our web page.

On December 16th, Gillian attended the Court of Appeal hearing of Saddlecrest vs Rutters. Arguments were made as to why the decision to hold off development on the Saddlecrest property should not be overturned. The Justices have six weeks to render their decision. We should know very soon.

Gillian drafted letters to the Arbor Foundation as well as OC cities and created a flyer to initiate a Wildlife Tree City designation. The purpose of these letters is to persuade the Arbor Foundation to incorporate snag retention into their Tree City USA qualification program and to persuade OC cities to retain dead trees, approve nest boxes where they already exist without official approval, and trim trees only in the fall and winter. Gillian presented a design of a new letterhead for consideration. It combines the logos of the SCBC and the CCI.

Meetings with rangers to identify and tag trees for retention, continues. Irvine Regional Park provided a model example of how this is working. Senior Supervising Ranger, Jim Simkins, sent photos to show how snags had been managed and retained.

The status of the shot hole borer in each park and the management plan for this infestation is still being assessed. One consideration is an herbicide for tree-uptake vs spraying an insecticide on the bark and/or tree removal. Gillian presented a map of Mason Park in Irvine which marks the hundreds of infested trees in that location.

Gillian has had the Wildlife Tree color poster converted into a black and white. It is to be used as coloring page and jigsaw puzzle for the youth program. This is intended for sale on the website.

Estimates for having the new t-shirt illustration put on a t-shirt, is being considered. The upfront print screen cost is greater than expected due to the number of colors in the illustration. Other printing options such as a press on image or a black and white image are being considered.

Dick Purvis passed around a sympathy card for Sully Reallon, whose wife died last week.

Jo-Ann Collier made a motion to spend \$100.00 for flowers or for a charitable donation of Sully's choosing.

Gillian Martin seconded the motion and the members voted to approve the expense.

Dick Purvis has recovered from his surgery well enough to check and clean out his nest boxes for the start of spring this year. If he needs help he agreed to ask for help.

Jim Semelroth is ready to publish our next newsletter and requested "Trail Tails" for the publication.

Jim Semelroth concluded the meeting with an article on the evolution of the color blue, along with slides. The article was written by Andrew Parker of the London's Natural History Museum.

Respectfully submitted, **Jo-Ann Collier**