



Spanish Lakes News

A Publication of the Spanish Lakes Homeowners' Association

Spanish Lakes Homeowners' Association

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November 15th Board Meeting

Board Items

Old Business

- An expenditure of \$3040 was approved for allocation to the Landscape Committee. The expenditure will cover labor and materials (plants, bark, lighting) to finish landscaping around the Creston and River Road Gates.
- An expenditure of \$240 was approved to reimburse (if requested) payments to Earthlink for hosting "spanishlakes.org" for fiscal year 2008.
- Approval was granted for removing dianthus trees and the dead oak tree by middle lake, and moving the culvert along the PGE right of way. This work will be carried out by homeowner volunteers at no cost to the Association.

New Business

- There was discussion about the Spanish Lakes signs at the gates: Should the signs at the gates be painted with a darker color background? Would the letters stand out if the light cream were darker? Input and suggestions are encouraged, especially if you have the ability to computer-enhance what the sign would look like with a different background color.
- The Board desires to develop a Mission Statement and Five-Year Development Plan.

Public Items

- There were complaints about dog droppings on some properties and along commonly used major trails. Dog owners are requested to remove feces as they are dropped in these areas.
- There were additional complaints about dogs allowed to roam unleashed beyond their home properties onto neighboring properties. These unattended dogs may defecate on neighboring properties, an act unnoticed by their owners.
- Homeowners asked if a catch and release fishing policy is in force. Additionally, it was asked if the fish are safe to eat. The Board requests input before the next meeting to assist in investigating and developing relevant policies.

Committee Reports

Traffic Committee (by Roger Zolldan)

Two small entry signs have been placed at entry gates above keypads to notify users of 20 mph speed limit. Positive comments about the design and effectiveness of the signs have been received. In addition, increased signage on roads will be completed soon. We will be calling on the volunteers who have offered to help soon to complete this project.

Residents need to know of the existing procedures that are in place to enforce our 20 mph speed limit. These can be found in the Policies, Protocols, Standards, and Rules dated June 2006. Several committee members are working to develop procedures for dealing with speeding service personnel. In the meantime, remind those working for you of the need for their cooperation in going the posted speed limit.

The Traffic Safety Committee would like to thank board members and residents for their support. Remember to set a good example by driving 20 mph. Help make Spanish Lakes a friendly, safe, park-like community where residents enjoy meeting and socializing on and off the roads.

A child struck at 40 mph has a 15% survival rate. One struck at 20 mph has an 85% survival rate.

Landscape Committee (by Tom Lawson)

Lighting for gate monuments to come soon. The work in progress is almost completed.

Trails and Open Space Committee (by Roger Zolldan)

The first meeting of the Trails and Open Space Committee (TOPS) was held at the South Lake to discuss possible trail extension to circle the resurrected lake. The members walked the proposed trail and discussed the following issues and concerns: resident support, cost, maintenance, feasibility, location and liability.

The group recommended to start with a small weed whacked trail this winter. It is necessary to determine the high water level before finalizing trail route. Meanwhile the committee will look into the

above stated issues and concerns. All feedback is encouraged. Let us know your thoughts.

Architectural Review Committee (by Craig Thomas)

As a reminder to all property owners, a formal request and architectural review is required for any new and/or enhancing-type of construction project. Projects might include but are not limited to fencing, storage structures, detached and/or attached building extensions, major landscaping additions or changes, play structures, free standing solar cell structures, etc. Formal request for review should include a detailed project description, material of construction and proposed colors, plot plan noting the location of the project in relation to property lines, streets and neighbors. If landscaping is involved a landscaping plan will also need to be submitted for review. Our committee's goal is to process all requests in a timely manner so as not to interfere with the property owners' preferred schedule for construction.

If anyone is interested in serving on the review committee we have an open position available. Please contact Craig Thomas at (805) 238-6081.

Water Company (by Jim Hagen)

The Water Board meeting will take place early next year when the budget is finalized. Chlorination may yet be asked of our complex. Title 17 may require yearly inspections and maintenance on all back flow devices. This possibility will be discussed further before the next water board meeting.

Editor's Report

We have so many dedicated volunteers and thank them all for jobs well done. Help might be needed by the Landscape Committee to spread bark to stay in their budget. Interested volunteers should contact Tom Lawson.

Since there were so few homeowners attending the last meeting, the board decided to vote a salary of \$4000 per year per board member. JUST KIDDING!!! But seriously, we would appreciate a more representative turnout for our meetings.

The Paso Robles Country Disposal, Inc. will be distributing recycle and green waste cans after the first of the year. This should help keep those grass and other clippings from being left in the open spaces.

Reminders:

- If you wish special permission to use park/lake or other open area facilities, please run the particulars by the board before proceeding.
- If you are contemplating any cosmetic or structural changes to your property, remember to request approval of these changes by the Architectural Control Committee.

Vendor Recommendations

- Tom Ranaletti recommends El Camino Car Wash Car Detailing (they come out to your house). Ask for Sal or Miguel: 466-7737 or 835-1555
- Lynn and Jim Hagen recommend Steve Van De Veere's Tractor

Works for brush clearance: 461-9220

Focus on Our Wildlife

A week or so ago, my dog and I explored the route of the developing trail south of South Lake. We were walking along the dry creek bed a couple of hundred yards east of the Lake when the dog became interested in something behind us. I looked around to discover three coyotes, one up the slope to the left and two others on the right. He was anxious to go after them; happily, I had him well secured by a leash. They followed us for a while and then disappeared. I suspected that their den was not far away.

Coyotes make their homes in discarded holes made by burrowing animals or in rocky crevices. They use these dens to sleep and to give birth to 1-12 pups each year. Most of us have heard a nighttime coyote chorus, a sound known as "howling." Barking, on the other hand, is a warning, for example, that their den is near. Coyotes may travel alone, in small groups, or in packs -- we have the small group version. They eat fruit, squirrels, reptiles, carrion, or small pets.

Coyotes have a keen sense of smell and hearing and are quite agile. They can jump an 8' fence and have been known to scale 14' chain link fences. When food is plentiful (as in Spanish Lakes), coyotes stay away from humans. However, if food becomes scarce they may approach our properties. They can carry away small pets (cats and small dogs). In this regard, it has been reported that one neighbor's roaming small dog was carried away. The dog was saved, but his roaming days were over. Coyotes are usually not a threat to larger animals over 35 lbs.

The biologists at Desert USA recommend that (1) pet food or small pets not be left out at night, (2) dogs (particularly small ones) must be on leash when walking them, (3) don't leave dropped fruit on the ground, (4) secure garbage can lids, and, above all (5) don't feed coyotes.



"My house was clean last week; sorry your missed it."