

## BLACK FOREST TRAILS ASSOCIATION

12-8-96

Vicki Frasure's House  
Black Forest, Colorado

**Present:** Ike Mosgrove, Ann Spiegel, Bobbie LaVoie, Susie Witter, Judy Wise-Mason, Nancy Reinhardt

The meeting started at 1 PM.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ike gave the most recent report showing we had a balance of \$1,028.77 as of 12/8/96. Her report was accepted and approved.

**City of Norco, California Report:** Susie called one of the engineers there concerning their extensive equestrian trail system. It is the only city in the country; apparently that has trails throughout the town. In 1964, these trails were incorporated into the city and there are 80 miles of them. At one time, they had more miles of trails than they did streets. Their idea was to maintain the agricultural atmosphere. To build and maintain the trails, they use prison labor. Citizens patrol the trails. Usage is by hikers, bikers but mostly by horse riders. Regarding liability, they have had two deaths recently involved horses and these cases are still pending. The City of Norco is self-insured. Their trail system uses private land and public land. Their advice to us is watch rear yard trails as teenagers like to gather there and party, as they are not easy to see. Sulkies and buggies are also allowed on the trails. They have incorporated trails into the public right of way by using a "deed of easement". We wondered how we could go about this. Judy said she will check with a title company.

**Black Forest Trails Assn. Goals:** Judy stated that we need to come up with a set of goals for our organization. There are many reasons, one being the county's trails master plan and how we can fit in. GOCO money became available and can be used for trails. They have proposed trails along Hodgen, Hwy 83, Milan to Burgess to Vollmer, and others. They will maintain these trails. Unsure if the county could help maintain our trails. Judy also mentioned that there is a proposed wide easement along Meridian in the Black Forest Preservation Plan. Would we also want a trail there? The Black Forest Preservation Plan committee is interested in finding out how many Black Forest residents want trails. We will need to schedule public meetings and solicit interest. **Bobbie** agreed to contact the Preservation Plan committee to see about joining, so that we are represented.

A lot of brainstorming followed. Ann suggested prioritizing. Vicki suggested asking for everything we want. Ideas like having a bike/walk trail next to a horse trail, a trail around a whole subdivision and behind every lot, unfenced easements were brought out. Susie suggested we focus on county trails, trails along east and west, north and south grids, and then feeder trails. We want a practical recreation trail system which connects with the county system as well as encourage new developments to have utility and recreation easements. We need to address new developments and old alike. As for existing roads, we would like 15-foot recreational easements along side. Which side? Both, maybe.

Judy said she would put all these ideas together into a goal statement.

Ann provided lists of home sales recently that **each section leader can write** to using a standard letter which Judy will provide so that we can acquaint new home owners with our organization. The Wolf Ranch property may see some changes due to a recent death in the Loos family. **Nancy** agreed to contact them with the idea of encouraging them to keep us in mind with whatever happens, i.e. we would like to see trail easements considered. We decided that we should pick a trail as sort of a starter trail and begin working on it as a project we can get some momentum with. **Bobbie** will check with the Boy Scouts to see if they can help us. **Vicki** will speak to a pastor, Nick Natelli who is 'keeper of the forest' and does a lot of work with kids.

**Vicki** will contact the man who has given a sign proposal and get a final product by next meeting. She also agreed to work on putting up a few collection boxes around Black Forest. **Ike** will work on organizing a Casino trip to Cripple Creek as a fund-raiser.

Karen Laden has made an education sheet. **Ike** will mail these out with the membership renewal forms.

Channel 5/30 came to this meeting and made a short film clip with Judy about our organization.

Next meeting will be at Susie Witter's house on February 6 at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Reinhardt  
Secretary