

BLACK FOREST TRAILS ASSOCIATION

11/6/97

Erv & Kay Perelstein's house
Black Forest, Colorado

Present: Susie Witter, Marge McGraw, Erv & Kay Perelstein, Ann Spiegel, Ike Mosgrove, Charlene Champion, Karen Laden, Vicki Fraser and Nancy Reinhardt
Judy Von Ahlefeldt joined us for the Juel Kjeldsen segment.

The meeting started at 7:00 PM.

Susie started the meeting by explaining that this meeting is an "update meeting". She asked if we had seen the *Black Forest News* latest edition concerning the Highland subdivision public meeting Nov. 20 and also concerning the N. El Paso County Landowners Assn. (which BFTA joined) concerning the Cherry Creek subdivision.

Karen Laden talked about the Pinery Preserve (N. Meridian) and how they had not turned in their plats yet. This subdivision is scheduled to come up before the Board of County Commissioners at the December meeting. Sylvan Meadows had their 1st reading and is on the consent calendar for the Board of County Commissioners. Jerry Landres of Sylvan Meadows said we could have a ride there if we want. Karen mentioned that Carl Schuler, Asst. Planning Director is supportive of an idea of getting together a committee to devise an **amendment to the Black Forest Preservation Plan** which concerns trails. It would be good to get a wide spectrum of Black Forest people to be on this committee.

She had talked to a friend (Ellen) who is a land attorney about doing work on the easement issue. **A motion was made and accepted to have her write a letter (on her letterhead) explaining in laymen's terms how the two laws relate to landowners who allow BFTA access for \$125 per hour (approx. 2 hours work).** She will address the issue of trespassers (our original letter from the Office of the County Attorney dealt with this) and the recent House Bill 1132.

Karen said she had discussed with Susan Whitmore, past president of the Veterinarians Assn. how to go about finding **how many horses and/or horse** owners in El Paso County. We had, at an earlier meeting, talked about sending a postcard to the vets. Susan said there is no list of veterinarians and we'd have to just look in the yellow pages. Discussion followed and it was decided that what we should do is to send a letter (Kay pointed out people are prone to toss postcards) to each veterinarian in El Paso County telling them what we need and telling them we will call them on a certain date later to ask them what they have pulled from their records. Erv mentioned that GoHoCo is also trying to come up with information like this. Their requirement is apt to be more scientific than ours. Ann thought it would be good to have a person in each square mile section who would try to come up with a count. Someone suggested she get in touch with Betty Kirkley who could pass this idea on to GoHoCo. This started for us at a meeting with Kurt Schroeder who said this would be helpful inf. to have.

Karen said that Erv has done up his share of our **informational pamphlet** and she will be doing hers soon, too.

Erv talked about the status of **Section 16**. The primaries (District 20, Parks & Rec. and the Colorado Forestry Service) went to the State Land Board and had an informal meeting. He heard it went very well. 12/2/97 he will meet with the primaries to discuss. There will be an official formal meeting 12/16/97 with the State Land Board.

Nancy talked about **Judy Wise Mason gift**. She had done some research on a stained glass window hanging as Kathy Morris thought she would like that. The prices were higher than the money we have available and the time it may take to raise it made this seem less desirable than metal western art that Kathy Welty makes. Erv called her and agreed to meet with her to see what she had in our price range. The metal western art won out over stained glass on a show of hands among the group.

It was suggested that if we have any ideas of the kind of criteria that a road should meet before being put on **the 5-year list of roads to be paved** (like traffic patterns, traffic count, dust abatement having been done in the past) we should get them to Deb Stallnaker, our DOT liaison. **Charlene, our new 5 south section** leader, said that her neighborhood had held a cocktail party to discuss the issue of paving and most people had agreed that with children and pets, it was generally held that paving the roads would cause the traffic to speed up and become more dangerous.

Vicki brought along a sample of the material we could get a **banner** made from. This banner could be used for a booth (for ex. at the Black Forest Festival) or for parades. We discussed which size would be good - 4x8 (about \$150), 7x15 (about \$250) or maybe 5x7. It was felt 4x8 was the best size. Ann suggested a border and dark green letters. Vicki assured us that everything will look very balanced.

A date was not set but we agreed that our **next meeting** should be in January 1998. This portion of the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Juel Kjeldsen, a member of the Parks Advisory Board and the Trails Coalition and a long time Black Forest resident was our guest speaker.

He brought maps showing the current situation and overlays to show areas the City of Colorado Springs has interests in as open space areas (for example, Cottonwood Creek areas which are on the Wolf Ranch) and proposed trails. He mentioned and pointed out areas like the Skyline Trail, Cottonwood Trail, Sandcreek Trail and Rock Island Trail.

He described how not much has happened with the LaForet Trail (he has been the "trail champion" with Pikes Peak Trails Coalition for this trail for 8 years). Explained that the reason for this is not much money and not much interest, but things are starting to change. There are now organizations (like us) working to get and keep trails and there has been more public input and interest. The TOPS initiative passed and listed as one of its horizons actually is the LaForet Trail. A commission has been put together to determine how money is to be spent. He described a process where someone has to nominate an area and then it goes through a whole process of ranking and rating. TOPS money is basically leverage money - if you can get money from somewhere else like lottery, you can make up the gap with TOPS money.

He felt the first priority is to get the Santa Fe Trail attached to LaForet Trail but mentioned it will have to be a team effort. He hoped that in speaking to our group he could solicit interested parties to help with the effort.

The meeting ended at 9:15 PM.

Submitted by,

Nancy Reinhardt
Secretary