

Black Forest Trails Association

5-2-07

Juel Kjeldsen's house

Present: Neal Katz of El Paso County Parks Planning, Barb Remy, Hank Hoover, Ike Mosgrove, Paul Douglass, Lois Fagerquist, Greg Reals. Cheryl Pixley, Juel Kjeldsen and Nancy Reinhardt

Meeting began at 7:05 pm.

Neal Katz talked about the **Black Forest Reserve** from the county's point of view. He said there could be a possibility of a culvert under Meridian Road to get from Black Forest Reserve east to Woodlake. He then talked about the trail options – through the meadow or parallel to Meridian Road. He brought along a map which the two trails were coded in color. The meadow trail was shown in brown and the Meridian trail was shown in green. He said the Meridian trail is not really parallel to Meridian as it follows a ridge so as to avoid some water problems.

He reiterated that the developer thinks the meadow trail will ruin the aesthetics of the subdivision. He said he did not know if there will ever be a school built in the area designated for a school. He said he would check with District 20 to find out. He said that the county was leaning towards the green trail. He also said that this developer is willing to work with BFTA. He then left the meeting.

Discussion followed. BFTA is leery from past practice of developers agreeing to one thing and then changing it at the last minute.

Greg suggested we mull this over for a few minutes and let Ike give the treasurers and membership reports.

Membership is still at 106. Treasury – checking account has \$2105.31, 2 cds \$6461 and savings \$3040 for a total of \$11607.

Discussion then went on about Black Forest Reserve. Pros and cons were discussed. The brown trail would be prettier. They agreed to that in the beginning when they bought the property as it was already platted with that trail. They don't want the trail there now and have

said they would erect a wooden fence on both sides of it. Nancy pointed out that the green trail may be more desirable because it would be through the trees and the Woodlake trail is pretty much out in the open and can be very windy. Cheryl said she had gone on the green trail with her cross country skis and it was very nice. More discussion followed.

A **motion** was made to accept the green trail with the following stipulations:

1. If the school is built, we would be able to use some portion of the brown trail.
2. The trail should have a minimum distance of at least 30 feet from the road, except for where it transects a road.
3. If Meridian Road is widened to 4 lanes, or greater than 4 lanes, we would revert to the brown trail. Exception is for turn lanes.
4. Developer will build the trail to county standards.
5. Trail easements will be conveyed to El Paso County Parks with filing #3 with Board of County Commissioners.
6. If the school district doesn't want to build a school, the land should be transferred to the Parks Dept.
7. The blue trail (right along Meridian Road) shall remain as shown on PUD.

Motion was seconded and accepted.

Barb talked about her conversation with Mark Bissell over **Ranch 51**. He wants to add 14 or 15 homes on his property at Black Forest Estates. He is very adamant about no trails.

He needs access to his development and the new homes. The property north of his belongs to 3 sisters and it is reputedly up for sale as they want to develop it. Mr. Bissell's plan is to set aside lots for some of his relatives. Apparently the Black Forest Estates was done by his father. Someone asked if the planning commission has approved it. It has not gone that far yet. An east-west connection is needed which is why his property comes into play. Nancy said she would talk to a coworker whose property is adjacent to his property about a possible connection. He would still have to agree, however.

Greg talked to Carl Schuler at the County regarding **Sylvan Meadows** and what can be done since they don't want the trail built. The thought was that without someone in that community that we can work with, we are basically out of luck. We will ask Susie Witter about her friend.

Wednesday May 16 we will meet at the south pavilion at the Black Forest Regional Park at 6:30 to see what the trails look like to see if there is anything we could do. Cheryl said that the trail crossing lights should be up within two weeks.

Saturday May 19 at 10 AM we will meet at Section 16 in the parking lot to have a trail clean up.

Saturday June 16 at 10 AM we will meet at the Woodlake parking lot at Hodgen Road and Woodlake (just west of Eastonville Rd) for a combination trash pick up and knap weed pulling. Wear gloves, hats and bring water. Nancy talked to the county about this and we have to sign waivers. Discussion followed as to why we haven't had to do this before (perhaps we should have).

The Black Forest Trails Assn website is up. Hank sent out emails so we could look at it. We cannot put maps on our website as they are copyrighted (from the master plan). We can use links. Barb wondered if GPS maps could be on the website to be referenced per topic.

Next meeting will be **June 27**, again at Juel Kjeldsens house, 12345 Lindsey Lane.

Meeting ended at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Nancy Reinhardt
Secretary