

Minutes of the Meeting: December 5, 2024

Board members present: Brian Wetcher, JoAnn York-Gilmore, Tabb Stringer, Nathan Schwarck, Kit Gerwels

Staff present: Bob Vaux, Jamie Burroughs, Darby Jordan

Meeting held in person and called to order at 6:01PM

Minutes: November minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

None

Transition Fidalgo: Annual Report

Eric Shen was in attendance to give the annual report on the work done by Transition Fidalgo. Please see attached slides.

The overall message is they are meeting their goals in all areas. They will have a chapter in the next Forest Plan highlighting the citizen science work being done. They are working with the City GIS team to create a public facing dashboard of the data collected. Transition is ALWAYS looking for new volunteers to help with their various projects.

Friends of the Forest Update:

Ellie was in attendance and reported that the Forest Discovery Center is open to the public through December 21st. It will then open back up in May or June for the Spring and Summer season.

All kindergarten students and 3rd graders have been out in the ACFL through the partnership with the school district.

Ellie encouraged everyone to check out their newsletter that is full of important information and dates for upcoming programs and classes.

Staff Reports:

Bob reported that he is working on various permits for work in the ACFL with hopes of streamlining the process.

Questions were raised about the Heart Lake plan, Bob reported that nothing will be known until the end of the legislative session.

A question was raised about the new trail volunteer team. This is made up of Fidalgo Trail riders coaches and leaders. Jamie is training them on trail maintenance and upkeep in order to do independent projects.

Discussion ensued regarding the various parcels of land, private and public and the possibilities of purchasing them into the ACFL.

Parks Commission Report:

JoAnn reported on the Parks Board meeting, sharing that the most up to date information is in the packet. The last meeting was a discussion on the W 6th

street lot and the hope for a park there, and a community discussion on pickleball. There was a full crowd both for and against the sport and finding solutions for the various issues raised by the neighborhood.

2025 Board Chair Discussion:

Kit brought to attention that the January meeting would need to include the election of a new Board Chair. He is willing to continue in this roll, but is also willing to step down should anyone have interest in the roll.

Other Business:

Bob asked about the date of the January meeting, being on the 2nd and directly after the holiday. Most Board members stated they would be in town and available on that date. It was decided to keep the meeting as usual on the 2nd of January.

Adjourn at 7:28pm

Respectfully Submitted by Darby Jordan