



**CHOLLA Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 21, 2006
Las Vegas Springs Preserve Gardens Classroom**

In attendance: Lola Henio, Barbara Slivac, Chris Macek, Allison Brody, Amy Page, Missy Giannantonio, Joyce King, Elsie Sellars, Kathy August, Christie Leavitt, Kitty Heckendorf, Marlene Kovacs, Ellen Leigh, Marcella Posthuma, Sandra Greer, Dan Allison, Jennifer Jacobi, Catherine Muir

What is happening news:

Job openings which were mentioned:

- Red Rock Interpretive Association – two half-time positions, contact Kathy August
- Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park, full-time ranger position grade 30, see State of Nevada Personnel website
- LVSP openings – on the Water District website: Youth Educator, Adult Educator, and Volunteer Coordinator

Issues of interest and importance which came up:

Dan Allison of NNREC reported that the organization received a \$12,000 grant through PLI.

Allison Brody reported: Outside LV is now Partners for Education about the Environment. The list serve created (announcements, etc.) can be subscribed to by emailing eaexchange@unlv.edu with **subscribe** in the subject line

A searchable database will be maintained on line on the PLI website. This will have field trip and other opportunities for teachers listed and will be searchable by grade level, keywords, and standards. Alison will forward the template and instructions to Slivac who will email it to all members.

A MA degree program with emphasis on environmental education has been put together and is in comment phase. Any members interested in commenting should contact Allison at Allison.brody@cmail.nevada.edu immediately.

Joyce King reported: both Candy Schneider and Joyce Woodhouse of the Partnership office are retiring – Candy in June, Joyce later. There will be no live broadcasts of Jason this year. The program is moving into a different phase with new affiliations and will probably become a virtual experience. Joyce was unable to reserve the computer lab for the **May meeting date** and so the date has been **changed** from Tuesday, May 16 to **Wednesday, May 17**.

Marlene Kovacs reported on the change of emphasis at LV Art Museum – now contemporary art museum and virtual tours. School programs are not being done. Beth Scarborough will be joining CHOLLA as the education representative.

Chris Mack reported on the Helldorado Parade and celebrations on May 13. Carrie Townley Porter will reenact Helen Stewart at the Fort and a new history theater production will be featured. The Fort also will have a widescreen full-sound 2 DVD option for visitors, one 10 minute and one 20.

LVSP has several water programs upcoming, a spring break program and Artist in residence program. The Preserve opening is anticipated for May 2007. Webcam of building progress can be seen. The May 20 event is called the Cultural Heritage Fair.

Clark County reported on a full schedule of school groups for the Native American Festival. Informational panels are getting closer to installation. And Elsie Sellars has been hired by the county as Principal Planner and Wetlands Park Coordinator.

Marcella reported on the positive effects of a field trip to an art exhibit. And she brought up the possibility of bringing a student who has a project related to a CHOLLA member to a meeting.

Elsie reported that she will depart NDOW on March 31. The Hatchery will open on June 30. The April episode of Southwest Adventures on KLVX will feature Kay Rohde, Elsie Sellars and Steve Rowland on Lake Mead. This runs the last Thursday of April.

Missy reported that the Mirage is now permitting school groups during business hours at discounted prices. The Habitat has also received accreditation by the AZA for Marine Mammals. And a peer-reviewed research report on artificial insemination will be published soon.

Amy Page also reported on Helldorado in the Cultural Corridor. The museum's Nevada Gallery is closed and Weigand Fdn grant will update and correct problems there with opening scheduled for May 13, Helldorado. And the pink dinosaur (led lighting) is now installed on the building.

Allison Brody reported on *Our Places Tell Stories* conference. It may take place again next year with the 3rd week in January preferred. Numbers: 120 people; biggest group was state agencies, then federal; \$30K expenses, Have to wait for money from SNPLMA; registration - \$6K, donations were \$12K, will set dates by mid-May.

CCSD Start Times and effect on field trips

Missy Giannantonio and Amy Page reported on their experiences at two School Board meetings on school start time.

(Notes from Dan and Barbara) District said the state was forcing consideration of bell schedule changes, second major issue is transportation money; board didn't like the original proposal and was concerned about safety; Amy asked at meeting if it was going to affect field trips; answer is YES; change seems to have no public support; district is going to "study it"; representative from SLEEP asked the board to not consider field trips in decision; Amy recommended that CHOLLA have position on value of field trips and students served; what research or anecdotal evidence do we have; need info about what it would cost if used private buses funding by parents or..., ASTC (Association of Science Technology Centers) organization has a lot of info on school field trips. For trips, 9 to 1 is the basic that the group wants to maintain, though to some members it doesn't matter.

Dan noted that the same discussions are taking place in Washoe County. His feeling is that the real issue is the transportation budget, state-wide. It is about one third of the state education budget and a target of fiscal conservatives in the legislature.

The next school board meeting is April 27. CHOLLA will prepare a statement and put together statistics. Missy and Amy will present it. Model for presenting: a CHOLLA member with a teacher and a student; submit a unified request to speak to board.

There will be a special meeting to draft a statement on Tuesday, April 11 at the Mirage. Missy will post the room number on CHOLLA website.

All CHOLLA members, (even if you don't attend that meeting), we need this from each of you.

For one year

The number of school group students (including adults) that visit your site.

Estimate the number of buses that transport them.

Place a dollar value on the instructional program provided: program presented, teacher packet, personnel costs, entrance fees (based on regular admission fees)

Get this information to Amy Page 384-3466 or education@lvnhm.org or Missy G. 792-7980 or mgiannantonio@mirage.com. **Deadline for this info – Monday, April 3.**

Meeting schedule 2006

CHANGE OF DATE FOR MAY MEETING

Wednesday, May 17, 2006, 1:00 – 3:30 at Computer Lab, Nedra Joyce Education Building

Tuesday, June 13, 2006, 9:00 – 3:30 at Nevada State Museum & Historical Society