

President's Message



Don Eastman

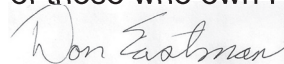
In my own mind I have long described DMFPO as "A Communications Hub within the Del Monte Forest". As my term as board president progresses I am more and more convinced that communications is the primary mission of DMFPO, and I am pleased that the current board of directors, administrative employee, major contacts, and stakeholders are doing a terrific job of maintaining the communications role. This was really brought home to me in neon lights when I recently attended a meeting with Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF) President Jim Hill and Vice-President Rick Verbanec. Rick Verbanec is former president and member of the DMFPO Board of Directors and understands the operations of both organizations. The purpose of the meeting was to explore ways that DMFPO and DMFF could work more effectively together to fulfill our symbiotic relationship here in the Forest to the mutual benefit of both organizations and ultimately to the benefit of property owners.

As the meeting progressed the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) was frequently mentioned as another inter-related agency that DMFPO (and DMFF) needed to work with for the benefit of all. The present Chair of OSAC is Jerry Verhasselt, another former member and major contributor to the DMFPO Board of Directors. At the beginning of the meeting, Rick Verbanec brought everything into perspective when he said that DMFF had no members. In other words: Here is a foundation with a sizeable endowment that is the second biggest landowner in the Del Monte Forest and exists for the purpose of managing its owned and fee simple properties, and oversees via easement, hundreds and hundreds of acres of "open space" land in the Del Monte Forest -- with very few property owners in the Forest knowing what DMFF is or what it does. I came away from the meeting with the opinion that every Forest property owner had a very big stake in DMFF and that it was incumbent upon DMFPO to communicate that information to property owners so they could choose to participate in DMFF activities, or not, at their own discretion. To a somewhat lesser extent the same could be said about the need for DMFPO to communicate details about OSAC.

On the input side to DMFPO is constant heavy contact from the Community Services District (CSD) and the Pebble Beach Company (PBC), occurring at a variety of levels. DMFPO board member Dick Gebhart attends the monthly CSD board meetings and reports back to the DMFPO board whose members are well acquainted with the current elected directors of the CSD Board and with General Manager Mike Niccum who sends key information to the DMFPO board and makes a point of attending the monthly DMFPO board meetings and encourages fire staff at the Chief or Captain level to attend as well.

Pebble Beach Company contact occurs most frequently with Mark Verbonich, Vice President of Community Affairs, and Mark Stilwell, Executive Vice President and General Counsel for PBC, who insure that one or both attend DMFPO Board and Semiannual meetings. As President of the DMFPO Board of Directors I was invited by Mark Verbonich to attend the final planning sessions for the AT&T and Concours d'Elegance. Mark Stilwell, who, at his Vice Presidential level, was in charge of security for the U.S. Open, gave a briefing on transportation, busing, parking, and other detailed event plans.

This brings me to the point of this missive -- previewing the program for the DMFPO Semiannual meeting on Sunday, November 14, 2010 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Spanish Bay. The program will consist of approximately 45 minutes of presentations by the Del Monte Forest Foundation, Community Services District, and the Pebble Beach Company, three of the important entities in the Forest that DMFPO interacts and communicates with. Due to the shortage of time, the Open Space Advisory Committee will not be invited to speak but will be mentioned in opening remarks from yours truly, and during the DMFF presentation. Of course, the purpose is to impart some sense about the inter-relationship of these entities and to educate the attendees about the things that these four (add OSAC and it is five) agencies do to serve the needs of those who own Forest property.



Don Eastman, President
Del Monte Forest Property Owners