

Mission Canyon Association
Minutes of the Board Meeting
July 2, 2002

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Mission Canyon Association, a California corporation, was held at the McVeigh House at the Museum of Natural History on July 2, 2002 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Present were Ray Smith, Randy Reetz, Gillian Launie, Jenny Cushnie, Dorothy Veal, Tim Steele, Mark Carr, Bob Maloy, Tom Jacobs and Kathy Koury. Absent were Nancy Bertelesen and Charles de L'Arbre. Sue Adams (chair of the County Landmarks Advisory Commission), Paulina Conn, Marjorie Detch and Joey McGowan, Bill Gilbert and Ken Taylor, Ralph Daniels, and Vicky Blum also attended.

Ray Smith chaired the meeting. Mr. Reetz' minutes of the preceding meeting held June 4th, 2002 were approved, noting, however, Mr. Reetz' error as to the time of tonight's meeting. **Gillian Launie's** Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted. Payment of \$439.52 to **Jenny Cushnie**, as reimbursement for brush clearance labor costs, was approved.

Sue Adams, an honored guest, opened the meeting with an informative discourse on the procedures followed for landmark designation by the Landmarks Advisory Commission for the County of Santa Barbara.



She stated that there are only 42 County landmarks at present. In instances where a property owner opposes the application for landmark status – as is the case at present with the Botanic Garden – it is “very rare” but still “very possible” that the Commission will landmark the property in question. She notes that the North County appointees to the Commission believe that landmarking verges on a “taking” of property, and are reluctant to vote for landmarking over a property owner's objections. As Ms. Adams observed,

landmarking does impose affirmative obligations (maintenance, e.g. – “you must maintain to a specific criteria, which can be costly”) on the affected owner. Ms. Adams also conceded that landmarking imposes additional constraints on property modifications, particularly if the proposed modifications affect the property's historic character. Nonetheless, the interior of landmarked properties can always be changed. Ms. Adams noted that, while a blanket landmarking for a property

may be excessive, discrete elements of a property might be suitable for landmarking in their own right. As with the Botanic Garden, it is possible that the meadow would by itself be suitable for landmark status, even if the entire 65 acres were not.

Bob Maloy introduced **Ralph Daniels**. Mr. Daniels, who dbas as the California Family Business Institute, is past president of the Oak Crest HOA covering the Sierra madre area, which burned down in the paint Fire. He has been in Mission Canyon for the past year and a half. “Jumping from the fire into the frying pan”, as Mr. Steele observed. Mr. Daniels would be interested in serving on our Board. He appears eminently qualified for the position.

- **Ken Taylor** and **Bill Gilbert** followed on as members of the Committee of One, interested in defining the “spheres of influence” for the new City of Goleta, and possibly as a better choice, pushing for annexation of Mission Canyon and other unincorporated areas outside the two cities into the City of Santa Barbara. The two gentlemen offered a number of reasons why such might be preferable to the status quo, provided that the special interests of Mission Canyon



would be recognized and preserved if such an annexation took place. Taylor and Gilbert asked that our Board give consideration to this proposal, and work to identify the distinct elements of Mission Canyon governance that we need to preserve.

The Board recommended, and directed, that the issue of annexation be referred to the Land use Committee for study and recommendations.

Proceeding to general business, the Board considered and acted upon the following matters:

- **Dr. Smith** advised that the Draft Management Plan update for the Mission Canyon Specific Plan was now complete and would be forthcoming next week.
- **Jenny Cushnie** advised that we won't get a free brush day at the County Dump – a bookkeeping nightmare – but we might get help otherwise from the County and from Marborg – possibly a free dumpster for green waste at select locations in the Canyon.

- **Mr. Reetz** requested Board approval, and received it, for a procedure by which landowners with particularly flagrant Code violations would be called upon to appear before our Board, or a subset thereof, to give cause why they should not be cited in a complaint to County Zoning Enforcement.
- **Tim Steele** reported that Cox Cable would allow us to enhance their proposed barrier wall surrounding a cable splicer box, with stone facing and a capstone. The cost would be \$750, to be paid by the MCA. Mr. Steele as authorized by the Board to expend up to that amount for this project.
- **Tim Steele** reported on the ABR's meeting with Jana Zimmer, regarding the property at 1151 Tunnel Road. The upshot of that meeting is that a survey would be undertaken to determine whether and how many properties might be affected by a policy permitting land development rights to be acquired in exchange for conservation easements on contiguous, undevelopable lots.
- **Joey McGowan** and **Marjorie Detch** chimed in with well- appreciated observations regarding the need for better security against arsonists in the



Canyon – possibly a video camera to track cars coming and going?

- The Association will compliment the neighbor on Tunnel Road who has cleared his property from the dense undergrowth, thus eliminating one potential point of ignition in the Canyon.
- **Bob Moley** reported that the iWorks property will now be available as an alternative route to Las Canoas in the event of an emergency. He will provide us with a map showing the route, plus photos, plus a draft letter to the neighbors advising them of this potential escape route.
- **Dr. Smith** reported that mountain bikers speeding downhill are now out of control.
- **Paulina Conn**, sleepless in anticipation of the upcoming Landmark Commission meeting, reminded us that July 8th was a critical date and urged us all to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, August 6th, 2002 at 7:30 pm.

Randy Reetz, Secretary