

MISSION CANYON ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2004

A regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Mission Canyon Association was held at the McVeigh House at the Museum of Natural History on February 3, 2004, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Present were Ray Smith, Tim Steele, Randy Reetz, Kathy Koury, Jenny Cushnie, Doprothy Vea, Pma tregenza, Ralph Daniel, Mark Carr and Remo Rucciione. Also present were Paulina Conn, Nancy Johnson, Ray Mullin and Ken Taylor.

The minutes of the preceding meetings were approved. The financial report dated February 1, 2004 was also approved.

Ray Smith reported that the County and the Special Problems Area Committee are discussing how the new “Second Unit” ordinance will be implemented in the Mission Canyon area. Stay tuned.

Ralph Daniel reported on progress being made in establishing emergency evacuation routes. Subject to our Board’s approval, Dr. Daniel intends to purchase 101 marker signs for placement along the routes. The signs would look somewhat like this:



Dr. Daniel reported that the Holly Road route was verbally committed with Dr. Koonce, This route will be cleared annually by the County. This route is to be supplemented by extensions over land owned by Glenn Miller and David Gates. The Las Canoas route lies across Mac Jones’ property. Mr. Jones has verbally approved our marking the route, although Mr. Jones is trying to sell this property and probably will not agree to anything in writing. The Mission Oaks Lane route lies across an easement owned by fourteen different owners, and on into Rocky Nook Park. Signage on this route will probably be limited to the Park property, and possibly at the top and bottom of Mission Oaks Lane. Dr. Daniel requested \$2,000 in funding for the purchase of 101 signs, to be placed along these routes. The Board approved this expenditure.

Ken Taylor raised some questions; What is our Board’s liability in connection with these evacuation routes? And what is to prevent these routes from ripening into permanent public rights of way?

Jenny Cushnie said that she had received some preliminary estimates of liability insurance coverage costs – about \$1,500 a year. She will obtain firmer quotes and report back to the Board.

Nancy Johnson, on behalf of the Botanic garden, reported on the eucalyptus tree project at the corner of Tunnel and Mission Canyon Roads. She stated that she had received written quotes of \$17,000 to remove 5 trees, and a separate quote of \$9,500 for extensive pruning and reduction of the trees' mass. The cleanup of the site performed last November cost the Garden \$3,500. Clearly this could be an expensive problem for the Canyon.

Nancy also reported that the Garden, has made no decision as to whether to withdraw the pending CUP application and proceed with restoration of the Gane House, as a separate project. The Garden's Board of Trustees, with some new members, will be making this decision sometime later this spring. Should the Gane House be pursued as a separate stand-alone project, the Garden would incorporate an expanded parking lot adjacent to the Gane House (as described in the pending CUP application), but without the re-grading and re-engineering of the access road. Nancy added that the purchase of an interest in St. Anthony's Seminary was no longer a prospect. She noted that the costs incurred with the Ventura garden acquisition, coupled with reductions in cash flow and endowment valuation, constrain the Garden's ability to undertake new and expensive projects.

Ken Taylor commented that separating the Gane House from the larger CUP project might not be possible – that “piecemealing” a land use project is not permitted under California CEQA, and the Garden may have to obtain a major CUP for the Gane House alone.

Ray Smith reported on conversations with Abe Leiter regarding the consequences of withdrawing the pending CUP, so as to enable the Garden to secure approval of the Gane House as a separate project. The issue is not clear cut, and the County may have some discretion to approve the Gane House project as a separate project, without a new CUP.

Mr. Reetz reported that the MTD had killed the Field Trip Bus, for lack of ridership, but would add the Botanic Garden as a weekend stop on Route 22, if riders were present and asked for service to and from the Garden.

The Sewer Committee was directed by the Board to prepare a letter to the County Board of Supervisors, and to Marty Wilder at Environmental Health, reporting on the results of our recent sewer survey.

Key dates and events upcoming: On February 14th, Salud Carbajal will walk the Canyon looking for votes in his campaign to be the 1st District Supervisor. Our Annual Meeting will be April 20th. The LUC will meet at Kathy's on February 16th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next scheduled meeting of the Mission Canyon Association Board is Tuesday, March 2, 2004 at 7:30 pm.

Randy Reetz, Secretary