

MISSION CANYON ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

JULY 7TH, 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 July 7th, 2004, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Present were Ray Smith, Tim Steele, Randy Reetz, Jenny Cushnie, Ralph Daniel, Bob Maloy, Pma Tregenza, Tom Jacobs, Mark Carr, Remo Ruccione, Sanda Petersen and Nancy Bertelsen. Absent directors were Dorothy Veal (flu), Kathy Koury, Charles Del'Arbre, Bill Menchen (travel), Andréa Marcus (another meeting), Paul Hegarty. Attending the meeting as well were Nancy Johnson (Botanic Garden), Ken Taylor, and Paulina Conn.

As provided under our By-laws, the following officers were elected to serve for the ensuing year: Tim Steele, President; Ralph Daniel, Vice President; Randy Reetz, Secretary; Ray Smith, Assistant Secretary; and Randy Reetz, Treasurer. In addition, Sandra Petersen was designated a member and chair of the Membership Committee.

Minutes of the preceding meeting were approved. No financial report was submitted. Future financial reports from the Treasurer will be submitted on a quarterly basis.

Ralph Daniel and Tim Steele reported on the emergency evacuation route project. The westerly route was graded and cleared of brush. A meeting with Glen Miller is in the offing. "The checkboard is filling in with signage", according to Mr. Daniel. Mr. Daniel proposes a fire drill for the Upper Tunnel Road area.

Comments were made regarding radio coverage of wildfires, citing the KCLU coverage of the Gaviota Fire as an example of timely, informative reporting. Tim's letter to KCLU was approved.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the Botanic Garden's closure of the Pritchett Trail access gate on Tunnel Road, noting that Nancy Johnson characterized that closing in her letter of June 9, 2004 as "proper stewardship of our valuable collections". Other reasons cited by Ms. Johnson included vandalism (or at least the threat thereof); the risk of damage and/or theft of valuable plants; unleashed dogs; the Garden's inability to inform gatecrashers about no-smoking rules, evacuation procedures, etc; public safety; mandates from the Fire Department; and conditions imposed by the American Association of Museums. When asked whether the Garden would also move to close the access gate at the Campbell Trail, the only remaining Tunnel Road point of entry, Ms. Johnson

answered affirmatively. However, Ms. Johnson said that there would be discussions with the neighbors and other interested parties, to determine whether other methods might be available to serve the Garden's interests, while at the same time continuing the long tradition of allowing Canyon residents access through the Tunnel Road gates.

Several of our board members expressed their displeasure with this policy, pointing out that the Canyon community has a long-established right to enter the Garden through these gates; and that the gate-closure was a "declaring war on all of us" (Daniel). Pma Tregenza suggested that, if the Garden's objective was to prevent human encroachment on the Garden's collections, the ultimate solution would be to bar everyone from the Garden. She added, "We can't be good neighbors if you lock us out". Bob Maloy observed that our Association's concerns about anti-Canyon actions at the Garden seem to be ignored, and that we should have the Garden's decision-makers present before us to respond to these issues. Mr. Malloy asked for a copy of the Garden's AAM accreditation letter; Ms. Johnson said she couldn't promise that.

Paulina Conn also offered her critique of the Garden's gate-closures, referring to the AAM's Code of Ethics, the public subsidies received by the Garden; and the need for a "public member" of the Garden's Board of Trustees.

In conclusion, the Board designated a "otanic Garden Focus Liaison Committee" consisting of Ray Smith, Tim Steele, Tom Jacobs, Pma Tregenza and Bob Maloy to pursue this matter. First meeting; Thursday, July 15th at 7 pm at Jenny Cushnie's house.

Capt. Gordon O'Neill and his crew from Station 15 appeared before our meeting, to speak on the issue of Proposition 172 funding for the County Fire Department, in addition to the other public safety entities now receiving the benefits of this 1/2 cent sales tax levy. This eminently reasonable proposal will be resolved either through negotiations with the County, which seem to be progressing favorably, or by placing the proposal on the November ballot for voter approval. The next Board of Supervisors' meeting to discuss that issue will be July 15th.

Ray Mullin spoke briefly on his never-ending crusade to eliminate the \$24 per parcel assessments for septic system inspections and monitoring.

The Board approved reimbursement to Steele (\$19.04 for photos), and Cushnie (\$411.29 for liability insurance at Brush Clearance Day).

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next scheduled monthly meeting of the Mission Canyon Association Board is Tuesday, August 3d, 2004 at 7:30 pm.

Randy Reetz, Secretary