

**MISSION CANYON ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 2, 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 November 2, 2004, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Present were Tim Steele, Randy Reetz, Jennie Cushnie, Ray Smith, Ralph Daniel, Nancy Bertelsen. Absent were: Bill Menchen, Pma Tregenza, Dorothy Vea (election precinct work), Kathy Koury, Remo Ruccione, Mark Carr, Charles Del'Arbre, Tom Jacobs and Sandra Petersen. Ray Mullin also attended the meeting. No quorum was present, but the meeting proceeded as noted below.

The minutes of the preceding Board meeting were presented and approved. The Financial Report is now presented quarterly. No reimbursement requests are pending.

Jenny Cushnie reported on the recent FireSafe Council meeting, at which the Sheriff approved conceptually the Reverse 911 System, but only as a privately maintained system and with further details to be worked out. This System will work on land lines only, not cel phones. Tim has secured the assistance of John Franklin on this project. Jennie will call Salud, to bring him into the picture.

Tim presented a draft dated October 5, 2004 of the proposed "Mission Canyon Fire Plan", as authored by Steve Hobbs (County Fire, Vegetation Manager). Because the short deadline for finalization, Tim and Ralph Daniel will bring this plan to completion, adding sections dealing with endangered species, evacuation planning, and other action items.

The Board approved a fire evacuation drill for Mission Canyon, in concept. The Board discussed how "real" the drill should be. Do we have fire trucks racing up the hill? Do we have sirens? Should this drill be part of our annual meeting activity?

Ray Smith: He has had no contact with Dave Cannell, the Holly Road resident who questioned the evacuation route signage on Holly Road. Ray has spoken with SCE, Cox Cable and Verizon regarding the fire threat posed by sagging, branch-covered power and phone lines. Their response was that, until there are lines down or arcing, the lines will not be repaired or cleared as part of their maintenance programs.

Ralph Daniel says that he has spoken to Donna Eyman, an insurance agent and will obtain quotes from her. She has indicated that the quotes will depend upon whether the

MCA operates brush chippers. She estimates that the quotes would be up to \$3,000 with chippers, and \$1,200 to \$1,500 without.

Jenny advised that the cost of operating a chipper is \$3,000, which pays County Fire for 3 days' work, using 2 people and the chipper.

The Board discussed the Botanic Garden's upcoming Patrick Dougherty reed structure event. According to the May 6, 2004 letter from Abe Leider to Sid Goldstein, the County has determined the event is allowed under the Garden's existing CUP. However, the structure itself may require a building permit. The structure would be exempt so long as it is constructed of plant material; it is roped off from viewers; the height:width aspect is 1:1 or wider; the height does not exceed 12 feet, or [not "and"] if the height exceeds 12 feet the structure is supported by a tree or an existing building. Tim will set up a meeting with Abe Leider and Salud to discuss the event, as well as the larger issue of securing a comprehensive, updated CUP for the Garden. The County has not received any response to the May 6<sup>th</sup> letter. Ray says we should post this letter and "all this stuff" on the Web.

The Board discussed the brush-clearing ordinance used by Ventura County, as compared to the Santa Barbara County brush-clearing ordinance. Since the text of the two ordinances was not before the Board, the discussion was somewhat blurred. However, the Board opined that there should be civil penalties for failing to clear brush, and that the opinion of Mission Canyon residents should be solicited on the issue.

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Randy Reetz, Secretary

The Ventura County Fire Department Uniform Fire Code provides that where the Fire Chief or his designee determines that the condition of a structure or property poses an immediate hazard to life or property, emergency action may be taken. In such cases, efforts will be made to contact the property owner and to request voluntary removal of the hazard at least ten days before abatement work is done. Source: Ventura County Website.