

MISSION CANYON ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2005

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 January 4, 2005, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Present were Tim Steele, Ray Smith, Randy Reetz, Nancy Bertelsen, Sandra Petersen, Jenny Cushnie and Dorothy Veal. Absent were Ralph Daniel, Bill Menchen, Remo Ruccioni, Mark Carr, Tom Jacobs and Kathy Koury. Bob Maloy has resigned from the Board. Paulina Conn and Nancy Johnson (Botanic Garden) also attended.

The minutes of the preceding Board meeting and the Financial Report for the CY were presented and approved.

The Board re-confirmed its standing policy: External communications, unless the Board otherwise directs, should be circulated by e-mail beforehand to the Executive Committee members, as well as to members of any Committee interested in the subject matter.

The resignation of Bob Maloy is accepted, with regrets. Bob's contribution to the Board meetings have been most valuable and he will be missed. Randy will contact Charles Del'Arbre, to determine his intentions regarding MCA involvement.

Board members who will not be able to attend an upcoming meeting should so notify the President or Secretary in advance.

Nancy Johnson, speaking for the Botanic Garden, provided this update on the eucalyptus tree removal project (19 trees at the intersection of Tunnel and Mission Canyon Road): A donor has agreed to fund the cost of removing these trees. The trees are non-native, they provide no butterfly habitat, they are a fire hazard. They have no particular historic significance. No governmental approvals are required for their removal. The parcel on which they sit is not included within the Garden's landmark designation. The trees by their nature are susceptible to limbs falling and trunks splitting. The replacement vegetation will be ironwood, a drought tolerant native species. The tree removal will take place, if all goes according to plan, before the advent of the next wildfire season. The Botanic Garden recognizes that some Canyon residents will object to the project, and has requested our Association's support before proceeding. Our Board has been aware of this project for quite some time, and had discussed the issue at prior meetings. After due consideration, and on motion of Ray Smith seconded by Randy Reetz, it was resolved as follows:

The Botanic Garden's proposal for removal of the eucalyptus trees at the intersection of Mission Canyon and Tunnel Roads, and the

replacement of those trees with ironwood or similar native, drought tolerant species, is in the best interests of the community, and is endorsed and supported by the Mission Canyon Association.

Ms. Johnson next updated the Board with the Patrick Dougherty willow sculpture installation at the Garden. Installation will take place between February 8 and February 27th, 2005. A formal opening will occur on March 15th. The Garden is making extreme efforts to control parking and traffic, and is considering car pooling, reserved tickets and other means of crowd control. The materials used – willow branches – will be fire-safe. The Garden is aware of the new zoning rules requiring permits for “temporary uses”, and will investigate their applicability to this event.

Ms. Johnson added, regarding the gate closures, that the locks will be oiled to make them easier to open.

The Board considered and acted upon the following additional matters:

- Jenny Cushnie advises that nothing recent has developed regarding the Mission Canyon Fire Drill.
- The annual meeting may be in early April. We need to reserve a date to use Fleishman Auditorium.
- Ray Mullin’s request for MCA action on the \$24 annual fee for waste water inspections has been discussed at great length. The consensus is that \$24 a year assessed upon owners without sewer connections in the Canyon is not excessive; the charge is reasonably imposed to cover costs of “inspection, monitoring and administration of requirements for users of private wastewater disposal systems in County Service Area No. 12”; the moneys received by the County are properly expended in full for sewer services provided to the residents of Area 12, both those on sewers (850 who pay a total of \$234,000 annually) and those not on sewers (250 who pay a total of \$6,000 annually. Therefore, in the absence of new information, no further action will be taken by this Board on the issue.
- Jenny will get a specific date for this year’s brush clearance. Randy will set a springtime date for the Canyon’s streetside litter cleanup.
- Jenny says Fire Storm has agreed to do chipping at three locations in Mission Canyon – one location on each of three Saturdays – for a price of \$3,000. Jenny will scout out suitable sites. Dates TBA but maybe 3 weekends in March (?).
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The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next scheduled monthly meeting of the Mission Canyon Association Board is Tuesday, January 4th, 2005 at 7:30 pm.

Randy Reetz, Secretary