

**Mission Canyon Association
Minutes of Board Meeting
October 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 October 4, 2005, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Present were Tim Steele, Ralph Daniel, Remo Ruccione, Jenny Cushnie, Ginger Sledge, Tom Jacobs, Randy Reetz, Sandra Peterson, Dorothy Veal, Ray Smith, and Bill McCullough. Also attending were Dr. Karl Hutterer and Nancy Johnson. Absent were James Madison, Kathy Koury, Nancy Bertelsen, and David Vorbeck.

The minutes of the preceding board meeting (September 4th, 2005) were presented. Randy Reetz filed a motion that the minutes be approved as submitted. Remo Ruccione seconded the motion. Randy then filed a motion for approval of MCA's treasury report for the third quarter. All approved.

Randy informed the group that we had received the written policy for MCA's insurance. The D and O is in place for one year and there has been a small reduction in the premium.

Ginger Sledge updated the board regarding the status of the property located at 1451 Orange Grove Avenue. County Counsel has decided that according to the most recent ordinances and provisions, the owners, David Burke and Paul Cook, own three legal, developable lots within the .9 net acre site. Ginger voiced the concerns of the Orange Grove Neighborhood group and said that they are still awaiting an explanation as to what new ordinances are allowing this type development. Jenny Cushnie asked how the Mission Canyon Specific Plan is being implemented and how its developmental guidelines function in relationship to the County's rules. For example, do the County ordinances supercede the MCSP? Ginger explained the neighborhood's concern that the 1451 OG development is moving too quickly, as there is a Zoning Administrator's public hearing on Monday, October 10, 2005 to review and rule on permits for three septic systems for Burke's and Cook's project when a conceptual plan for the entire site does not yet exist. Tim Steele commented that the Board can glean some knowledge from this case regarding lot developability for future situations, as there are other cases in Mission Canyon that have similar potential to exploit the system.

Ginger Sledge filed a motion for MCA to purchase two copies of Penfield and Smith topographical maps of the upper canyon, originally made as part of a 1995 sewer plan study, but it was agreed to put the purchase on hold as Randy Reetz has two copies in the MCA archive.

Tim Steele introduced Dr. Karl Hutterer, Director of the Natural History Museum, and asked him to bring Board members up to date regarding the Mission Creek Bridge Improvement Area. Dr. Hutterer spoke about traffic concerns and the life risk of visitors who are pedestrians moving between the Mission and the Museum. He said Museum directors are interested in creating a natural flow between the Mission and Museum by walking instead of driving. Visitors could park at each end and walk in between. There is also a valid concern of the bridge being a bottleneck during an emergency evacuation.

There are philosophical issues regarding the many historical resources - the Mission out buildings, remnants of the old aqueduct, St. Mary's Retreat, St. Anthony's, the Rose garden. Dr. Hutterer commented that Tim Steele's letter (written on behalf of the MCA) explains the historic heart of this area really well. Dr. Hutterer believes the City and the County should come together to support this effort to resolve traffic issues and contribute to improve the historic district.

Dr. Hutterer described a type of federal grant that comes from Transportation Enhancement funds. These grants allocated by Congress are fairly large and the criteria for this project would fit eligibility guidelines- a combination of improving pedestrian routes while enhancing an historic area. Dr. Hutterer said that starting with life and safety issues seem like the best hook to get a grant.

There was discussion as to who would make up the coalition to create and develop this project. Dr. Hutterer believed the Sperlings from St. Anthony's would be interested, all though he hadn't spoken with them lately. It was agreed St. Mary's retreat, St. Anthony's, the Natural History Museum, the Archeological Chumash Foundation, MCA, the Mission, the City and the County would make a powerful combination. Tim Steele also suggested getting the Pearl Chase Society involved.

Ray Smith mentioned the problem with the numbers of bike riders that travel through this area and suggested we aim for a comprehensive plan that includes cyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles. Concerned about the speed of traffic, Dr. Hutterer said he has felt pressure to go to the County and City and ask for speed bumps. Ralph Daniel suggested a call to Tully Clifford, a traffic engineer with the City, to perhaps generate a speed survey for the area.

In summary, Dr. Hutterer will write a companion letter to Tim Steele's and together Hutterer and Steele will approach the Pearl Chase Society as the first step to forming a coalition.

Jenny Cushnie reported on the City's engineering survey for the benefit assessment district, as a way to fund the City fire plan. Every City Council member voted to fund survey, which totals \$60,000. It will take about six months to complete the study which would include three zones: A) City B & C) opt in or out of assessment district. Mission Canyon may be included because it is so close to the city. The study will focus on 1) enforcement 2) defensible space 3) actual vegetation clearing. The total

cost to fund the plan will be \$800,000 and would cover 5000 houses (approximately \$100 -\$150/house,) all in high fire areas.

Jenny Cushnie gave a copy of the first FSC Grant report for the MCA files. The report included the Botanic Gardens' clearing of the nineteen eucalyptus trees. We still have not received NEPA clearance due to a pending Forest Service lawsuit. The suit is barring the use of any federal funds for actual work on the ground at this time. Jenny is trying to find out when there might be a resolution.

Tim Steele nominated Jenny Cushnie as the Chair for the Fire Grant Committee. Jenny accepted.

Tim Steele suggested that the MCA committees should have more of a schedule and prompted committee members to plan meetings more regularly. A Land Use Committee meeting was scheduled for October 12, at 4pm. Sandra Peterson asked for additional volunteers to serve on the Membership committee. Remo Ruccione said he planned to schedule a Readiness committee meeting (phone trees, shelter-in-place, and street marshals) next week.

Nancy Johnson gave an update regarding the status of the Botanic Garden's development plan. She reminded the Board that the project had been submitted to the County in May 2005 and was deemed incomplete. Nancy said the folks at BG feel the new plans have taken into consideration public input and they should be complete in the next thirty days. The plans scope EIRS, etc. The BG will hand out more information in the coming days to neighbors. There was mention that community meetings were coming soon. Nancy said that the real community input would come in the County process. The BG had hoped to do more (adding staff housing) with the Cavalli property, but it did not pass the perc test, so it has been taken out of the project. Therefore, BG hopes to build an additional staff residence on the Hanson site (where some staff already resides) and the new building will be put on the sewer system.

Ray Smith reported that he had been to a recent meeting of the Mountain bikers/Hikers Trail Alliance. The Alliance has plans to clear brush on Jesusita, Tunnel, and Cold Springs trails, create an odd/even day biking schedule, and provide public education.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next scheduled monthly meeting of the Mission Canyon Association Board is Tuesday, November 1, 2005 at 7:30pm.

Ginger Sledge, Secretary

