

**Mission Canyon Association  
Minutes of Board Meeting  
November 1, 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 November 1, 2005, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

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

The minutes of October's meeting were presented. Tim Steele made a motion that the minutes be approved. Tom Jacobs seconded the motion. Randy Reetz gave Ginger Sledge (for the MCA records) a summary describing the Botanic Garden documents he recently obtained from County Planner, Alex Tuttle.

The meeting opened with a "round table" comment period allowing each board member to speak one minute about his or her subject of choice. The round table will be an agenda item for alternating months when we don't have the financial report.

- A. Randy Reetz began by describing his desire to work with Peter Boperg to design and develop "Kenmore Garden." The corner property (owned by the County) located at Kenmore and Cheltenham could be turned into a community garden with some assistance. Randy asked MCA for a future endorsement and ideas to manifest this project. Tim Steele suggested applying for a County subsidized, public right-of-way, water meter.
- B. Dorothy Vea used her minute to ask fellow board members to endorse the "Kenmore Garden," but it was decided that Randy would provide more information about the project prior to, or during the next meeting.
- C. Tom Jacobs reported that he had viewed Gil Berry's Botanic Garden plans for the Guild house. He commented that the renovation plans didn't look significantly different

from the structure that currently exists. In the future, the BG plans on storing archives in this structure.

- D. Ralph Daniel said he would like to refocus his attention to the Mission Canyon evacuation routes, and as a priority would like to tackle the subject of the Las Canoas route, even though the prime real estate owners have not yet been lined up.

Ralph also suggested that perhaps the Land Use committee could come up with some sort of “cheat sheet” for board members to contact different levels of County personnel when investigating land use disputes, zoning situations, etc.

- E. Tim Steele said he recently spoke with traffic engineer, Bob Ferris. Bob is a Mission Canyon resident who has spent much time researching and focusing on possible solutions relating to parking in the Canyon. This conversation propelled Tim to go to Salud Carbajal’s office and speak with Jeremy Tittle. He suggested to Jeremy that perhaps the County could support an ordinance that requires new developments/ remodels to be required to carve out a parking space adjacent to the home/hillside using a retaining wall or whatever is needed to keep cars off the roadway. Tim will bring up this issue at the next land use meeting.

- F. Prompted by Ralph Daniels’ idea, Ginger Sledge thought it would be good idea in her spare time to write a book outlining the “neighborly” homeowner’s guide to the County process. She will begin by helping to develop a County “cheat sheet” for MCA board members.

- G. Dave Vorbeck asked if it would be a cost benefit to the MCA to hire the City’s brush clearing crews for the job here in the Canyon? Tim Steele said when Jenny Cushnie returns she will be arranging to hire the County fire crews to do the proposed work listed under the Forestry’s grant. Firestorm, the company who gave the original bid, has left town and is no longer servicing Santa Barbara County. Also, Dave voiced his concern regarding the on -street parking in Mission Canyon Heights. He asked how we as a community enforce parking restrictions? It was suggested

that we contact the Highway Patrol and ask them to come and give warnings every three weeks. It is difficult to give tickets with no side striped streets or no parking signs in place!

H. Nancy Bertelson discussed writing a letter to the News-Press' editor about Lanny Eberstein moving to the City to run for mayor. She was frustrated because the Press would not print her letter, citing that it was too personal...and not about Lanny's issues.

Back to the agenda, as a first step to forming a coalition for the Mission Creek Bridge Project, Tim Steele said he intended to meet with the Pearl Chase Society on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> to recruit the organization. He will be presenting his letter on behalf of Mission Canyon Association and Karl Hutterer's companion letter from the Natural History Museum.

Ginger Sledge gave an update of the status of the 1451 Orange Grove project in the County process. Currently, the applicants, Burke and Cook, are presenting plans for three houses to the County BAR over the next few weeks. They are scheduled to return to the MCA ARDC on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Next, Ginger discussed the desire to understand the most recent (December, 2004) land use and zoning ordinances the County has implemented. Randy Reetz said he would investigate, go back and find staff reports (prior to the December rulings) describing the history of why the contradictory ordinances and guidelines had been written and then certified by the Board of Supervisors. Tim Steele stated that there should be investigations into whether the State has approved a mandate to permit the County Counsel to comfortably make contradictory amendments to previous ordinances resulting in land use and zoning non-conformance.

Ralph Daniel remarked that we as a community in Mission Canyon have two problems: our short-term problem on Orange Grove seems to be the tip of the iceberg and there is a crack in our legal system in which developers have the opportunity to rush in. This will eventually result in a long-term problem in which Mission Canyon could result in housing density similar to the Riviera. We will then

have the sewage, traffic (egress/ingress,) fire danger, geologic hillside instability problems that come with poor planning. Ralph asked what can we as a board do about it... so that we don't "die a death of 1000 small lashes?"

Ralph Daniel said that in the future maybe we should, as a community, consider paving a path to joining the City of Santa Barbara if we want effective rules implemented for Mission Canyon.

When continuing to discuss the non-conformance between land use and zoning within the County, Tim and Ginger brought up the possibility and value of approaching the attorney general in Sacramento to file a complaint or file suit when finding so much discrepancy between what the laws manifest and the County's planning for the community.

Tim Steele suggested a land use meeting for Tuesday, November 8, 2005.

Lastly, Tim described an elaborate dinner he attended, as a representative of the Mission Canyon Association last week, organized and hosted by Fife Symington. Invitees also in attendance were several Botanic Gardens trustees, Salud Carbajal and his entire staff, as well as Planning Director, Diane Meester. Tim thought the MCA should start thinking about planning a future event for the Board of Supervisors.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next scheduled monthly meeting of the Mission Canyon Association Board is Tuesday, December 6, 2005 at 7:30pm.

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Ginger Sledge, Secretary