

**Mission Canyon Association
Minutes of Board Meeting
September 4, 2007
7:30 p.m.**

Present: Dick Axelrod, Jennie Cushnie, Ralph Daniel, Laurie Guitteau, Tom Jacobs, Kathy Koury, Bill McCullough, Milt Roselinsky, Ray Smith, Tim Steele, Jean Yamamura

Absent: Ann Marshall, Dorothy Vea

Guests: Kellam de Forest, Rolf Brinckmann, and a number of guests from the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden (SBBG) including: trustee Bill Koonce and staff members Mary Allcott, Joan Ariel, Ellen Broidy, Joshua Chan, Betsy Collins, Robert Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Steve Junak, Pat Kelly, Sheryl Kelly, David Kershaw, Geege Ostroff, Bob Haller, Don Matsumoto, Bob Muller, Bob Sherwood, Sally Isaackson, Nancy Vivrelle, Cherie Welsh, Dieter Wilken and Andrew Wyatt.

The meeting was called to order by President Tim Steele at 7:30 P.M.

The Minutes of the August Meeting were approved and will be posted on our web site.

There was no treasurer's report this month (read on Jan, April, July & Oct). A reimbursement of \$243.18 to Dick Axelrod for labor to load dumpsters was approved. A letter of thanks to Supervisor Carbajal, who arranged for the County to provide and pay for brush dumpsters during the Zaca Fire, was approved. A bill for \$1,407.50 from Goonell Tree and landscaping for clearing access along Holly Road was also approved.

Nancy Johnson (Vice President, Development & Marketing for the SBBG), who regularly attends the MCA's board meetings was asked to introduce the guests she brought from the Garden that were in attendance. She replied that these were the employees of the Botanic Garden who we, MCA, were trying to hurt by resisting the Garden's Vital plan. In a scolding manner the MCA and FOMC were accused of always opposing their plans, such as, for example, trying to prevent their trying to install fire hydrants in the Garden. Tim Steele countered Nancy Johnson's accusations by saying that she was totally misrepresenting MCA's actions. Trustee Koonce claimed that the MCA is always against the Garden but overlooks other problem organizations and residents within the Canyon. Nancy Johnson felt "deeply offended" by MCA's flyer asking canyon residents to comment on the Garden's Draft EIR. Someone countered that they were deeply offended by the sight of bulldozers in the historically landscaped meadow.

There followed a heated and more-or-less uncontrolled discussion including a very unfortunate comment by trustee Koonce who said the MCA/FOMC were "acting like nazies" in their opposition of the Garden. (Subsequently he

apologized for this comment and attempts to make a distinction between MCA and FOMC was lost in the din.)

VP Ralph Daniel took over the discussion and invited any of the Garden staff to make comments to the Board. Cherie Welsh said that suggestions to move some activities of the Garden off site were not realistic. It was essential to be on site for her to do her job properly and that it also minimized driving. A gardener for 27 years (name??) commented that the Association always seemed to be against anything the Garden wanted to do. Dieter Wilken commented that all the Garden's activities are integrated, thus requiring them to be in one location. The librarian noted that the quality of the Garden's library is unsurpassed and that it is essential for it to be located in the Canyon near the plants. She felt the MCA was adversarial toward the Garden and that this was counterproductive for all concerned. Nancy Vivrelle noted that the Garden was made up of people and that it was not a static thing. That it needed to grow year by year – “that the Garden was a growth industry”. (Subsequent discussion revealed that this was meant as a pun, referencing that the Garden grows plants, whereas some took the comment as revelatory given the piecemeal development over the past decade and the current open ended expansion plans.) Trustee Koonce noted that when ever the Garden Board of Trustees considers a new activity they ask first, can it be done off site. Typically, the answer to this question is no. He asked Milt Roselinsky (who had taken deep offense at the nazi accusation) why there seemed to be such a conflict of goals between the MCA and the Garden. Milt replied that his goals were the safety of his family and the quality of life within the Canyon and that some of the Garden's expansion plans put these goals at risk. There followed a rambling discussion about the Garden's DEIR, its perceived adequacy or inadequacy, and especially the lack of a final Fire Plan within the DEIR.

Key points (as heard by this scribe) made by the Garden staff included:

- The Garden's various activities are closely integrated, consequently none of these activities can be moved off site.
- Many Garden personnel perceive the MCA as adversarial and feel that any opposition to their expansion plans is indicative of opposition to them.
- The Vital plan is “bare bones” and all of it must be approved

Key points made by the MCA board members included:

- It is a misrepresentation of MCA to equate questioning the adequacy of the DEIR with adversarial intent towards the Botanic Garden or Garden employees.
- A box Canyon has a limited capacity and the Garden is pushing, or has already exceeded, those limits – hence the view that the expansion plans must be scaled down for the health and safety of all.
- The piecemeal development by the Garden, under the 1972 CUP, is viewed by many in the Canyon as creeping development done in bad faith.
- MCA supports, and has long argued for, the need for the Garden to bring its facilities up to fire safety standards. That said, it is essential to make sure that

the water supply infrastructure is adequate to support the needs for the neighborhood homes as well as the Garden facilities.

- MCA meetings are open and minutes posted on our website, a relationship we wish the Garden would reciprocate.

The MCA Board thanked the Garden staff for their input and noted that they are welcome to attend regular meetings and express their views at any time.

Tim Steele and Jenny Cushnie gave a brief update on the status of the Fire Safe Council Grant work in progress. The original grant is now completed and work on the second grant is progressing. It was noted that roughly 70 tons of brush and deadwood was removed from the Canyon during the cleanup while the Zaca fire was in progress.

Ray Smith gave a brief update on MCPAC activities. During August MCPAC held a regular meeting to discuss both the Design Guidelines and Specific Plan Update that included discussion of current conditions and issue scoping and expectations for the update. He also announced that there would be a Workshop at St. Mary's Seminary on Saturday Sept. 8th to discuss goals and priorities for the Specific Plan Update.

Dick Axelrod showed parking alert "tickets" to the Board and recommendations for how they could be used was discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting will be October 2, 2007.

Submitted by,

Ray Smith
Acting Secretary