

Mission Canyon Association  
Minutes  
May 1, 2012

**Present:** Dick Axilrod, Darby Feldwinn, Alex Feldwinn, Alistair Winn, Kellam de Forest, Jean Yamamura, Tom Jacobs, Barbara Lindemann  
Guest: Steve Windhager, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

**Absent:** Ray Smith, Laurie Guitteau, Ralph Daniel, Kevin Snow, Susan Davidson, Milt Roselinsky, Richard Solomon

Alistair Winn presided in the absence of Ray Smith, who is recovering from surgery

The **Minutes** of the April 3 meeting were approved as presented.

M Jacobs, 2<sup>nd</sup> DeForest, unanimous

**Treasurer's Report** Will be delivered at the June meeting

**Old Business**

4.1 Annual meeting: suggestions for next year

Have name tags for everyone, and identifying tags for Board members  
Devote more time to the history presentation

4.2 Road work:

Gas line work is progressing on Exeter and Foothill  
Repair at the curve on Tunnel Rd. is scheduled for later in May  
Kenmore speeding problem:

County Public works has decided that speed bumps are not right for that spot, but will trim back brush to improve sight lines.

There is concern that people are parking on the curve to slow down drivers, but the result is a narrow one-lane road that creates danger in an emergency situation, especially for fire evacuation.

Speeding drivers are endangering children and pedestrians. At the same time, the road needs to be open to two way traffic.

4.3 Tunnel Trail

The county has been informed about the two no-parking signs that were ripped out and need to be replaced

Barbara and Jean are to check up on the new signs that are in the works at the county and city.

4.4 Museum of Natural History update

The committee has not met, although Alistair Winn talked with Karl Hutterer, who would like to see the committee involved once again in discussions about the Museum's plans. Members of the committee agreed more involvement is desired.

#### 4.7 Website update

Minutes are being updated punctually. Should be unloaded only after approval by the board at the subsequent meeting.

#### 4.9 Botanic Garden Update:

National Public Garden Day will be celebrated Mothers' Day weekend, May 11. The SBBG will be participating along with other major gardens. Buses of 24 passenger capacity will be shuttling participants, so expect more traffic in the canyon that weekend.

A 3 D model of proposed buildings and landscape is being developed and will be available for public viewing at the end of May.

#### 4.10 Safe Passage:

Thanks to Tom Jacobs for his excellent maps and graphing of the proposed path/walk-way from the Rose Garden to the Natural History Museum. The committee is arranging a "walk-about" of the area for people of the community

#### 4.11 MCPAC Update, meeting of April 23, 2012

Lindemann reported on the meeting:

The Mission Canyon Planning Advisory Committee was convened to hear from County staff about the decision to recirculate the traffic component of the Environmental Impact Report.

The EIR was available for public comments in the spring of 2011.

Thirteen comment letters were received. The concerns of all could be addressed in the EIR without the necessity of recirculating any part of it, except for the comment letter from the Museum of Natural History. That letter expressed objections to the traffic count on several points. County Counsel advised the Office of Long Range Planning that the County could be subject to a lawsuit under the California Environmental Quality Act unless the number of residential units was corrected to reflect the conditions after the Jesuisita fire, and the traffic study was redone. Consequently, a Request for Proposal will be issued for a new traffic study, and when completed, the traffic portion of the EIR will be recirculated.

The proposed schedule:

Spring-Summer 2012, prepare recirculation Draft EIR

Summer-Fall 2012: Public Comment

Fall-Winter 2013: Prepare Final EIR

Winter-2013: Public hearings

Spring 2013: EIR Certified

The county will change the baseline residential housing count on the EIR, counting only those houses already rebuilt after the fire or far enough along in the rebuilding process to be completed by the time the EIR is adopted, 32 of the 68 destroyed by the fire.

The comment letter from the Museum also recommended that Mission Canyon Rd. below Foothill be reclassified from Secondary 1 to Primary 3, permitting 4,000 more average daily traffic without triggering an unmitigatable environmental impact.

The County does not plan to change the road designation.

Members of the MCPAC Board expressed concern that the Museum's Letter objected to the City's involvement in approval of the Mission Canyon Community Plan. They pointed out that the 1983 General Plan for Mission Canyon specifically requires City approval when the General Plan is modified.

Karl Hutterer, Executive Director of the Museum of Natural History, in the public comment period, disavowed that portion of the Museum's comment letter, and asserted that the Natural History Museum favors close cooperation between city and county in the planning process.

In the discussion that followed the report on the MCPAC meeting, the following points were made:

- Anger and frustration that approval of the Mission Canyon Community Plan will now be delayed yet another year.
- The desire that the Mission Canyon Association and the Museum of Natural History resolve any differences about the Museum's expansion plans, and the impact on traffic and fire evacuation, amicably and soon.

M Jacobs, 2<sup>nd</sup> de Forest, that a task force be formed to help formulate the scope of the County's Request for Proposal for the traffic study, the task force to consist of representatives from the Mission Canyon Association, the Museum of Natural History, and the Botanic Garden, to come to some agreement about the assumptions that will shape the analysis of the traffic study. Carried unanimously.

The goal is that if agreement is reached before the study is undertaken, then all will be better able to accept the final result.

#### 4.12 Brush Day

Because of recent resurfacing of their parking lot, the Women's Club is unable this year to host Brush Day, June 9. The Church of Latter Day Saints has generously opened its parking lot for the occasion, corner of Santa Barbara and Los Olivos Streets (and extending to Padre St.)

Notice of the place change should be sent out soon, and signs posted on June 9 at the Women's Club.

#### 4.13 Fire Safe Council

Areas at greatest risk this year are places that did not burn three years ago, and areas of dry grass.

#### **New Business**

Dick Axilrod expressed his anger that the delay in acceptance of the Mission Canyon General Plan means further postponement of painting fog lines along key roads in Mission Canyon Heights. The population of the area continues to increase, and nothing has been done to improve evacuation during wild fires. Axilrod is willing to raise private funds, if necessary, but was advised by County staff to wait until the MCGP was adopted.

Next meeting: June 5, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.  
MacVeigh House, Natural History Museum