

## **Mission Canyon Association**

Meeting of the Board of Directors – February 5, 2013

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by President Barbara Lindemann

Board Members **Present:** Dick Axilrod, Susan Davidson, Kellam de Forest, Laurie Guitteau, Alex Feldwinn, Barbara Lindemann, James Madison, Kevin Snow, Richard Solomon, Ray Smith, Hugh Twibell, Alastair Winn

Board Members **Absent:** Ralph Daniel, Darby Feldwinn, , Jean Yamamura

**Guests:** Karl Luke Swetland (SBMNH)

President Barbara Lindemann introduced Luke Swetland, new director of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. He commented that he welcomes the use of the Museum for organization like MCA and that he is happy to join the community. His objective is to be the best steward for the Museum possible – in thoughtful, considered way.

2. Minutes of the January 8, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Treasurer's report

After some discussion, the treasurer's report was approved unanimously. Kellem inquired if all the detailed expenses should be included in the report. It was noted that previously we provided "detailed" reports only every three months. It was moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed unanimously to return to quarterly reports. It was also noted that a member of our finance committee reviews bank statements before they are passed on to our Treasurer. The Finance Committee will audit these reports once per year.

4. Old Business

4.1 Botanic Garden Update (Steve Windhager, Director)

Barbara read Steve's email reporting that he regretfully would miss tonight's meeting because of a conflicting meeting with Landscape Architects working on the garden's Landscape Master Plan. Key announcements from the Garden included:

- That the Garden will be in front of the County's Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission (HLAC) with 2<sup>nd</sup> review of the gardens Cultural Landscape plan on Monday, Feb. 11 at 10am (he also noted that the commission meeting will be carried on Cox Cable channel 20)
- Also, Steve announced that the Campbell Bridge is almost completely

rebuilt and that the Garden will host a ribbon cutting at 10:30am on February 14<sup>th</sup>. The Gardens Valentine's day gift back to Santa Barbara. He would "love to have representation from the MCA board" and he hopes some Board members will be able to join them.

- Finally, Steve noted that he "would be happy to give an overview presentation to the board covering all our updated building & Garden plans.
- It was moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed unanimously to invite Steve to give this presentation at our Annual Meeting in April.

#### 4.2 Museum of Natural History Update (Luke Swetland, Director)

Luke announced that:

- There was a new exhibit, "The Bishop & the Apothecary", an illustrated baroque garden, opens 8 February at the Museum.
- Also, the annual Mission Creek Gala, to celebrate the work of SBMNH and to generate support for its scientific & educational mission will be 1 March (for details see: <http://www.sbnature.org/>). He also noted that the usual parking protocols will be in place for this event.
- Finally, there will be two "state of the museum" meetings where the campus wide plan for upgrading the Museum will be presented.
- It was moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed unanimously to invite Luke to also give this presentation at our Annual Meeting in April.

#### 4.3 Fire safe grant update (Laurie Guitteau)

Laurie announced the big news, the grant money has arrived. She also reported that the California Conservation Corps showed up so that Palimino and trailhead are finished.

We will also be going ahead with the stone pines – provided certain conditions are met (censored). There followed a discussion of the wisdom of using grant money to keep the Canyon fire safe. The consensus seems to be that writing grants is NOT a sustainable, or efficient, way to accomplish our goals. The Fire Committee will consider alternative solutions and report back to the Board.

#### 4.4 Webcam Update (Ray Smith)

The webcam upgrade to greater bandwidth is progressing – slowly.

There was a brief discussion with respect to the MCA Architectural & Design Review Committee (ADRC). There has been a changing of personnel on the ADRC as well as periodic overturn on the County's South Board of Architectural Review (SBAR). Hugh Twibell agreed to meet with SBAR

folk to establish a working protocol. It was also suggested that the relationship between MCA's ADRC and SBAR, could be a subject of discussion with Supervisor Carbajal.

#### 4.5 Website Update (Alex Feldwinn)

Hugh and Alex will work to bring MCA's ADRC information on our web site up to date.

### 5. New Business

#### 5.1 Meeting with Salud (Barbara Lindemann)

Barbara reported that we met with Salud to fill him in on what is going on in the Canyon. The fire fee was discussed and noted unlikely to be a resolution of this issue until the courts have made some kind of decision. If State fee successfully challenged, could then consider going forward with some kind of local fee structure.

The delays in Mission Canyon Planning Advisory Committee's (MCPAC) Mission Canyon Community Plan (MCCP) were discussed. (Ed note: Rosie Dyste notified MCPAC members on 2/7/13 that the revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the MCCP would be available on 20 Feb. The revised DEIR may be reviewed at Planning & Development offices or on their website at [longrange.sbcountyplanning.org](http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org).)

#### 5.2 Cape Ivy eradication project (Susan Davidson)

Susan reported on the Mission Canyon Cape Ivy Eradication Project, a grant proposal written by Jason Nelson (a local landscape contractor) on behalf of the SB Urban Creeks Council (UCC). The goal of this project is to remove infestations of Cape Ivy and other non-native pest plants that have established near the terminus of the SB water tunnel in upper Mission Canyon. The proposal is to remove the invasive species via several rounds of manual weeding over several years.

Susan suggested that MCA fund this project (grant proposal was for \$5780). It was suggested that we invite Jason to give a brief report to our Board at our next meeting and that we outreach to landowners (likely City and USFS) to help in the project.

- Moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed unanimously to have Jason invited to talk to our board.

During the discussion, it was generally agreed that the overall goal is important for ecological, erosional and fire-safe reasons.

The devils will be in the details, and it is clear we will need to both educate

the public and get their support to go forward. Kevin noted that the SB trails council might be willing to help.

5.3 Encroachments of broken fence (Tunnel Rd.) and overgrown bougainvillea (Mission Canyon at Andante) on the road and parking areas  
Passed over for lack of time.

5.4 Committees for 2013

Barbara reported that we will continue to work on committee membership via email.

5.5 Use of Women's Club for brush day

It was reported that we can no longer use the Women's Club for brush day. It is apparently against their CUP. Several alternatives were suggested for how to deal with this situation. It was agreed that the Fire Committee would meet and return to the board with recommendation(s) at our March meeting.

5.6 Plans for the Annual Meeting

Briefly discussed – see also motions above - to invite both Steve Windhager and Luke Swetland to discuss the Garden's Cultural Landscape plans and the Museum's new master plan respectively.

5.7 Fire Helicopter Program (Ray Smith)

Ray briefly reported on a proposed fire helicopter program and the Board agreed to invite Lawrence Thompson (who is heading up the program) to give a presentation at our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04pm

Next regular meeting March 5, 2013  
MacVeagh House, Natural History Museum

Respectively Submitted,

Ray Smith  
Secretary