

Mission Canyon Association

Meeting of the Board of Directors – March 5, 2013

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

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

Board Members **Absent:**

Guests: Jason Nelson (Urban Creeks Council & The Native Landscape), Larry Thompson (Architect), Luke Swetland (SBMNH), Steve Windhager (SBBG)

1. Call to order & introductions
2. Minutes of the Feb. 5, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.
3. Treasurer's report (Jean Yamamura) – next in April

4. Old Business

4.1 Botanic Garden Update (Steve Windhager)

Steve Windhager announced that the Garden had received a \$220,000 gift from the Hind Foundation to restore the Garden's Meadow section to "its historic glory" over the next two years. He also reported that the Campbell Bridge has been rebuilt and is now open to Garden visitors. Approximately 120 folk attended the opening of the bridge. It was also noted that the MCA has purchased a table at the Garden's Orchid Show Gala (3/9/13). Several board members will attend this Gala.

4.2 Museum of Natural History Update (Luke Swetland)

Luke Swetland announced that the Museum had their gala last Friday night. It was a quiet event with no complaints from the neighbors. He also announced that there would be two community meetings to discuss changes to the Museum's expansion and renovation plan. These community meetings will be held in Farrand Hall at the Museum on Saturday March 9th at 10am and Thursday March 14th at 7pm. Luke commented that in response to community and government feedback the previous plans have been scaled back and details will be presented at these community meetings. Also, the

revised plans will be presented and discussed at the MCA Annual Meeting in April (11th).

There was a brief discussion as to the best way to provide wheel chair access to our meeting room in the McVeagh House.

4.3 Fire safe grant update (Laurie Guitteau)

The grant activity has progressed wonderfully and is approaching the final stages.

Laurie also presented good news that the Rockwood folk has reconsidered and that, for a \$1,000 fee, we could use their parking lot for our Annual Brush Day – now scheduled for Saturday June 8th. By paying a fee, we satisfy their need for a contractual agreement.

Tom Jacobs gave Hugh Twibell the signs for brush day. Hugh will cut and past the old brush day signs for our upcoming event.

Kellem noted that if we lived in the City's fire assessment district we could avail ourselves of periodic chipper pick up days.

4.4 Webcam Update

Ralph Daniel reported that the next upgrade of the webcam is are waiting for partners to connect to much faster connection. Ralph also reported that he must resign from the board because of frequent traveling. He agreed to continue support of the web cam and will work with someone (Alex volunteered) as future needs develop. The Board accepted Ralph's resignation with regret, noting the considerable service he has contributed to the MCA over the years.

4.5 Website Update (Alex Feldwinn)

Alex reported that the website is being updated, including inclusion of the latest Newsletter.

5. New Business

5.1 Fire Helicopter Program (Lawrence Thompson, Architect)

Larry Thompson gave a brief overview of the South Coast Fire Response Initiative. Key objective, to “promote a helicopter program on the South Coast to reduce the response time for fires in the area and add firefighting effectiveness to protect lives, homes and property from future wildfires”.

Larry noted that the large majority of homes lost in wildfire related events were located on the South Coast of the County, whereas the helicopters are located north of the Santa Ynez Mountains. He noted that the Montecito, Rivera and Eucalyptus Hill Associations are supporting the initiative and he asked if the Mission Canyon Association would also do so.

A wide ranging discussion followed with numerous questions and sometimes answers. Larry noted that given the lack of specifics the

Initiative group is requesting a single meeting with Chief Dyer and Undersheriff Peterson with the objective of narrowing down goals and specifics of the proposed project. The MCA board lacked sufficient information to endorse the plan and instead requested Ray Smith to monitor this meeting and report back to the Board via the Fire Committee. (Ed comment – said meeting is to be scheduled for mid-to-late-April according to Salud’s office.)

5.2 Cape Ivy Eradication Project (Jason Nelson, UCC & The Native Landscape)

Jason Nelson presented a brief overview of a proposal he has submitted, last year on behalf of the UCC, to remove infestations of Cape Ivy (Kikuyu Grass) and other non-native pest plants that have established near the terminus of the Santa Barbara water tunnel in upper Mission Canyon. A discussion of the merits and limitations of the proposal followed along with Jason providing a summary of his experience with respect to landscape restoration. He also requested a letter of support for his proposal that will be submitted in late March. The Board agreed that the Executive Committee would evaluate his revised proposal and determine whether or not to write a letter of support. (Ed Note: Grant has been written, excom approved, and letter of support sent.)

5.3 Plans for the Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting date is Thursday April 11.

Set up 5:30pm, social hour 6:30-7:30pm, business meeting starts at 7:30 pm
As noted above, program will consist of Steve Windhager providing an update on the Garden’s plans and Luke Swetland discussing the Museum’s revised plans. Ex Com will assist Barbara on the details of the program. Business aspects of the meeting will be confirmed at our regular meeting in April.

5.4 Audit Committee

James, Richard and Alastair compose the audit committee. Along with Treasurer Jean they will meet to evaluate and report back to the Board the financial record for the past year. Evaluation will especially include auditing the Fire Grant finances as per grant regulations.

5.5 Complying with terms of the Land Trust

A discussion regarding the poor stewardship of the Rowny Property under a Land Trust easement was discussed. It was agreed to first see if the land owner will, as he as promised, remove the dead pine trees on his property. Further discussion/action was postponed to a future meeting.

5.6 Nextdoor.com for Mission Canyon community

A discussion regarding “Nextdoor.com”, an on-line neighborhood site where folks can get to know their neighbors and match needs and resources, was discussed. It was agreed that this is not something the board should endorse.

There was a brief report from Ray regarding MCPAC. It was noted that a meeting, where the public could voice concerns regarding the Draft EIR for the Mission Canyon Community Plan, was scheduled for March 19th.

Steve reported that preparation studies for sewer and water lines up the canyon would be taking place. This would involve plans for going across the bridge over Mission Creek on Mission Canyon Road. Plans are to cover these pipes with planking so that it will serve as a pedestrian and/or pedestrian bridge.

6. Additional Committee Reports (as needed)

6.1 Newsletter (Jean Yamamura)

The latest newsletter was praised and it was opined that Alex & Darby had written a great article.

6.2 Architectural Design Review (Hugh Twibell)

6.3 Parking & Traffic (Ralph Daniel)

It was noted that there is considerable discontent regarding traffic & parking at the top of Tunnel. A parking count of 105 cars was reported. It was agreed to bring this issue up with our 1st District Supervisor.

6.4 Land Use Committee (Kevin Snow)

A multi rental property on Tunnel Road was briefly discussed.

6.5 Membership (Laurie Guitteau)

6.6 Fire Committee (Ray)

6.7 Botanic Garden Advisory Committee (Darby Feldwinn)

6.8 Garden Whys Committee (Susan Davidson)

Susan noted that her committee wanted to work with the fire committee in order to make sure there is no overlap in activities. She plans to have a showcase displaying educational materials regarding invasive species at the Annual Meeting.

6.9 Natural History Museum Committee (Ray)

Next regular meeting April 2, 2013
MacVeagh House, Natural History Museum