

Mission Canyon Association
Meeting of the Board of Directors
May 7, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

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

Board Members **Present:** Dick Axilrod, Kellam de Forest, Alex Feldwinn, Darby Feldwinn, Barbara Lindemann, Kevin Snow, Richard Solomon, Ray Smith, Alastair Winn, Jean Yamamura

Board Members **Absent:** Susan Davidson, Laurie Guitteau, James Madison, Hugh Twibell

Guests: Luke Swetland, Steve Windhager, Bill Menchen, Randy Reetz

1. Call to order and introductions.
2. Minutes of the April 2, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously
3. Minutes of the April 11, 2013 Annual Meeting were approved as amended
4. Old Business

4.1 Botanic Garden Update (Steve Windhager)

Steve reported that the SBBG would be going back to SBAR on May 17th. Action will be based on last time and feedback, primarily dealing with landscape. Some changes in building – in basement. He noted that this is Public Garden Appreciation Month with numerous free lectures around town.

4.2 Museum of Natural History Update (Luke Swetland)

Luke congratulated Steve and the Garden for a lovely ceremony and noted that Mayor Schneider was there to support the Garden. He noted that the Tinkertoy exhibit would open at the Museum on May 25th (see <http://www.sbnature.org/exhibitions/810.html> for details).

Luke announced that their Tech consultant had a meeting with nearest neighbors with respect to noise, parking and traffic, fire evacuation & construction. The Museum is preparing for their DART application and a draft mitigation plan. Issues include:

- application to City requesting annexation of their County property
- requesting a specific plan
- potential construction mitigation measures

The Museum is sending copy of these to the city and will send a copy to Barbara so she can pass this information to the MCA Museum Committee.

4.3 Brush Day Planning - June 8th

4.4 Fire Committee reported that preparation for brush day is complete. The Women's Club parking lot is scheduled as well as Dan Upton. Various folk have volunteered to help including: Alastair's folk if needed, Kevin, Richard, Ray, Jean, and Barbara. The Garden can make a truck available if needed.

4.4 Annual meeting evaluation

Widely viewed as one of the best we've had with a good turn out. Ideas for improvement should be addressed to Barbara. It was noted that Jean and Dick did a great job signing up new members and Laurie and Owen provided excellent refreshments. Susan's table about invasive plants was informative and much visited.

4.5 Upcoming meeting with Supervisor Carbajal (Barbara Lindemann)

We will be going over many things and will be reported at the next meeting.

4.6 Fire Safe Council report (Ray Smith)

It is predicted to be a tough summer since we are in a drought and fire season has begun early. Important to make sure homes have defensible space. The heightened fire season makes it doubly important to push the County to approve our Mission Canyon Community Plan – which has many elements & recommendations pertaining to making our community more fire safe.

4.7 Helicopter for south coast project (Ray Smith)

While generally agreed that more air support would be valuable for our fire fighting folk, it has been noted that additional air support is not listed as their highest priority. County Fire's top priority is more "boots on the ground". Our Board expressed agreement with the priorities set by County Fire folk and felt it would be very difficult to pass an additional tax that did not support the County's priorities. Ray will continue to follow this issue.

5. New Business

5.1 Water rates for Mission Canyon

Randy Reetz reported that Mission Canyon folk pay 130% of what people in the City pay for water. This has been true at least back to 1995. The City is working on a new plan, and Randy raised the question as to whether or not the 30% surcharge continues to be a fair assessment against MC water users. After some discussion it was decided to pursue this issue. We voted to send a letter to the City asking for justification of the 30% surcharge. Randy agreed to draft such a letter and send it to Barbara to get approval from our

Executive committee prior to submission to the City. The Committee to deal with this issue includes: Randy, Ray, Kellem, and Barbara.

5.2 Homeless in Rocky Nook Park

Randy Reetz described a big increase in graffiti and homeless folk in Rocky Nook Park and their encampments on the hillside across Mission Creek from the park. He noted that there are 10 or more folk in this area. The area in question is on the boundary between the County & the City – and it is not clear which has jurisdiction. It was agreed to notify the Riviera Association to help us go to the City & County to seek a solution. It was agreed that a letter to both Mayor and City Council and to our Board of Supervisors would be drafted and sent. The letter should emphasize our concern regarding fire from such encampments. Kevin agreed to work with Randy on this issue.

5.3 Rowny property trust

Barbara Lindemann reported on the 134 acre property at top of Mission Canyon Rd. that was eventually sold to Dan Meisel under an easement to the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County– not to be developed and to be maintained in the natural ecology forever. The conditions of the trust have not been fulfilled – it is an eyesore from the hiking trail and to surrounding neighbors. Barbara sent a letter on behalf of the MCA Board to the Land Trust asking them to enforce their conditions on the property. It was noted that Michael Feeney, director of the SBLT, would be making a site visit soon and that he would attend our June meeting.

5.4 City water department removal of surge tank

Barbara reported that the water surge tank adjacent to the trust property (and not used since 1960's) was being removed by the City and put up for sale. This small property is surrounded on three sides by property of James Massie, who would like to purchase this land from the City. Our Board is supportive of James purchasing this property from the City.

5.5 Keeping Bus 22 viable

Alastair reported that the safe passage group is concerned that service from Bus 22, serving the Museum and upper canyon, may be discontinued. It was noted that there could be greater ridership on this line if there were a more realistic schedule. He will continue to keep us informed regarding this issue.

5.6 Treasurer Audit

The Audit Committee (James Madison, Richard Solomon & Alastair Winn) filed their report and a motion made, seconded and passed unanimously that the audit be accepted. The Committee praised and gave thanks to Jean as Treasurer for excellent keeping of the books. The Board also thanked the Audit Committee for their report.

6. Additional Committee Reports

6.10 Safe Passage (Alastair)

Alastair reported on the last meeting from Safe Passage group that brought together folk from City & County staff. The group would now like to move the project forward. Don Olsen and Fred Sweeney, of the SP group, reported that one of the things that needs to be done next is to put together a proposal that City & County can't refuse. An important initial unknown is the need for an overall survey to know where things (road, utilities, property lines, etc.) are. Such a survey has been estimated to cost about \$70K. Ray suggested that we ask the City & County to pay 25% each and then ask the stake holders pay the rest. It was agreed that the MCA would support this suggestion and Alastair will pass this information on the Safe Passage folk.

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectively submitted

Ray Smith

Secretary

Next regular meeting June 4, 2013
MacVeagh House, Natural History Museum