

Mission Canyon Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors
June 4, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

1. Call to order & introductions

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

Board Members **Absent:** Jean Yamamura

Guests: Luke Swetland, Steve Windhager, Marc Chytilo, Tim Gill, Laura Wilkinson, Suzi Kuromiya, James Massie, Dorothy Perkins Sewell, Bill Menchen, Letty Roselinsky, Milt Roselinsky, Robin Sehrenth (sp??), Michael Feeney

2. Minutes of the May 7, 2013 meeting approved unanimously

3. Old Business

3.1 Botanic Garden Update and Gill parking request (Steve Windhager)

Steve reported that the Garden had been to SBAR with conceptual review for their building. He reported favorable feedback from SBAR with instructions to keep going. The Garden is working with county staff on an amendment to their CUP to combine Gane house and their other building. This will need to be approved by Glen Russell. In August the Garden will host their 4th annual Trails 'n' Tails Event in celebration of National Dog Day. One human will be admitted free per dog. For details see: <http://www.sbbg.org/about/garden-news/current-events>

Tim Gill requested use of the Garden's parking lot for a private event. It was noted that the Museum's wine festival was the same day and that the Garden would be closed should there be a Red Flag Warning. The MCA Board was supportive of this plan.

3.2 Museum of Natural History Update (Luke Swetland)

Luke announced that the Museum opened Tinkertoy on May 28th. This exhibit will run until September 8th. For details see: <https://www.sbnature.org/exhibitions/810.html>

He also announced that the Wine Festival will be held on June 29th and noted that this will be his first year to keep track of the event and the ensuing traffic. Also, there will be a closest neighbor meeting, with technical consultants, on Thursday evening 27 June.

3.3 Brush Day Update (Laurie Guitteau)

Laurie announced and discussed plans for the upcoming Brush Day on Saturday June 8th. Volunteers to bring push brooms and rakes. Owen Guitteau has cut pieces of plywood, to set the dumpsters on, to make sure we take good care of the Women's Club parking lot surface. Volunteers are to show up at 0845.

3.4 Website Update (Alex Feldwinn)

Alex reported that he had a meeting with Ralph regarding the web cam, how to log on, etc. Alex is now the new web cam guy.

3.5 Meeting with Supervisor Carbajal (Barbara Lindemann)

Barbara reported on MCA's meeting with Supervisor Carbajal. One issue discussed was the issue of homeless encampments on and above Rocky Nook Park. It has been determined that these encampments are on County property. However, the Riveria Association is also concerned and is keeping the City informed. County folk were quickly "on top of this issue" and are working on a solution.

She reported that the MCCP will be moving along on schedule with board approval expected later in fall after County responds to the Draft EIR. Rosie Dyste (County Long Range Planning) reported that there were no letters that will cause further delay to the MCCP.

The group meeting with Supervisor Carbajal also discussed Randy Reetz's letter about water rates in MC. It was noted that the County can't do much about this issue. A few members of our Board are scheduled to meet with Councilman Dale Francisco and City Mayor to discuss MC surcharge on MC water rates. It was noted that MC folks are the only residents in SB County without a water district and that have NO vote regarding water rates. Kellam has researched water rate history for the Canyon and reported this history to the Board.

3.6 Homeless encampments in Rocky Nook Park

Discussed above.

3.7 City water rates in Mission Canyon

Discussed above.

3.8 Sale of City surge tank property in upper MCR

The sale of this small piece land, eventually for sale by the City, was discussed at length. It was reported that a consultant for the City will handle the procedure, with eventual approval for the conditions of sale dependent on the City Council. Conditions for sale of the land could include: no residence, no public access, and no development. The sale will be by closed bid with only the two adjoining land owners allowed to participate. Several neighbors expressed several concerns regarding this issue: development should not be allowed, natural topography should be restored to prevent erosion and slides, the site is a "view shed" for much of the City, and the property should be returned to native status. The MCA Board was requested to communicate these concerns via a letter to the City.

4. New Business

4.1 Rowny Trust (Michael Feeney, Executive Director of the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County)

Michael Feeney met with the Board to give a background with respect to the Rowny Preserve. He noted that the Land Trust is protecting over 23,000 acres of natural resources in SB County. See web for list of sites:

<http://www.sblandtrust.org>

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between property owner and the Land Trust. The objective is to protect the land & resource and while keeping the land in private ownership. Michael Feeney gave a brief history of the Rowny preserve: conservation easement established in 1987, conveyed to UCSB Religious Studies Dept. but never used by them, UC sold the property in 2004 to Dan Meisel. Michael noted that while there is a conservation easement, it is still private property.

That said, there have been numerous complaints over the years that the land is not in compliance with the Land Trust conditions and neighbors have repeatedly requested the Land Trust to enforce the conditions of the conservation easement.

The Land Trust folk noted that they are concerned and are working to obtain compliance.

The MCA Board will cooperate with the Land Trust to this end.

4.2 Sign at the trail head (Barbara Lindemann)

Barbara reported on an effort to replace signs at the Tunnel Trail head that were destroyed by the Jesusita Fire. One would be a wooden sign on county property, and the other would be on the gate, similar to the Forest Service sign at the junction of Edison Catwalk and Jesusita trails. Hugh Twibell also requested that the signs be made so that graffiti could be easily removed.

5. Additional Committee Reports (as needed)

5.1 Newsletter (Jean Yamamura)

There will be one soon.

5.2 Architectural Design Review (Hugh Twibell)

5.3 Parking & Traffic (Dick Axelrod)(James Madison)

5.4 Land Use Committee (Kevin Snow)

5.5 Membership (Laurie Guitteau)

5.6 Fire Committee (Laurie Guitteau)

Laurie discussed the possibility of another grant. She and Owen, now that they have done one, are perhaps willing to do another. Requested help in the writing of same and we would need the Fire folk to help select project areas.

5.7 Botanic Garden Advisory Committee (Darby Feldwinn)

5.8 Garden Whys Committee (Susan Davidson)

5.9 Natural History Museum Committee (Kevin Snow)

5.10 Safe Passage (Alastair Winn)

Next regular meeting July 2, 2013

MacVeagh House, Natural History Museum

Respectively submitted,

Ray Smith

Secretary