

Mission Canyon Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors
Sept. 3, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

1. 1. Meeting called to order by President Barbara Lindemann at 7:33pm & introductions followed.

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

Board Members **Absent:** Richard Solomon, Hugh Twibell

Guests: Luke Swetland, Steve Winghager, Bill Menchen, Laura Capps

2. Minutes of the Aug. 6, 2013 meeting – moved to be accepted as amended – re Kellam’s email additions of 9/3/13 – unanimous with 3 abstentions; Susan, Barbara & Laurie

3. Old Business

3.1 Botanic Garden Update (Steve Windhager)

Steve reported that he had been out of the Country for 2 weeks, that trails & tails went very good (over the day had ~1000 people and ~400 dogs). He noted that, in spite of the number, the parking lot was only full a few minutes so they did not go over their parking cap. In short, no problems and all went well with the event. Laura added that she was there with 2 of 400 dogs.

Steve further reported that the SBBG went to SBAR for unofficial changes to conservation plan (which had already been thru MCA’s ADRC). He noted that SBBG can’t go for official development approval because “all the parts” are not yet finished. They expect approval before the end of December. Plans will then go to P&D for final inspection and their time line is on target.

Barbara asked if the Garden would like a 4th person on SBBG

Committee (since Cass no longer on the committee). Steve replied that having 4 folk on the committee would be valuable.

3.2 Museum of Natural History Update (Luke Swetland)

Luke reported that the next event on the agenda was the Annual Art Walk (see <https://www.sbnature.org/about/496.html>). He anticipated that this should be a “non-event in terms of parking”. The event will take place on 28,29 September.

3.3 Barbara reported that progress is being made with respect to signs at the trail head. Signs will be made as soon as the City decides (or OK’s) what the signs will say.

3.4 Barbara also reported on the Rowny Trust.

Apparently pressure from the County noting violation of zoning regulations as well as a letter from the Santa Barbara County Land Trust threatening legal action spurred the land owner to clean up the site. Most of the junk has been removed, the storage unit taken out, and the recreational vehicles moved off the property. Susan noted that many invasive species remain, and she will notify the trust folk with respect to this problem.

3.5 Meeting with Supervisor Carbajal (Barbara)

Barbara noted that Salud has been so helpful in many ways. We discussed more effective ways to check on zoning violations and on difficulties with respect to parking enforcement. Salud reported that there is a new CHP head and that, often, with a change of leadership there is a need to again discuss the issue. His office will arrange for us to talk over this issue with the new CHP folk.

It was also recommended that the BOS give a commendation to Laurie and Owen Guitteau for their outstanding work directing our last Fire Safe Council grant and also to Randy Reetz for his work in spearheading the removal of illegal encampments and his ongoing work in maintaining the beauty of the triangle.

3.6 Status of Mission Canyon Community Plan (Ray)

Ray requested and got a response regarding the status of the Mission Canyon Community Plan as follows, “Our goal is to get to the Planning Commission for the first public hearing in early December. This would be a joint hearing with the City and County Planning Commissions. Depending on how many hearings it takes, we hope to have adoption in spring 2014. Let me know if you have any questions about the schedule.”

Ray also asked if the letters, in response to the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report, were public record – they are, and they were put online today

http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/planareas/mission_canyon/missioncanyon_eir.php

The concern with respect to these letters is to make sure there were no more bad surprises like occurred after the original DEIR. Recall that last time after receiving the objections from the Museum it took the county 10 months to decide to “revise and recirculate the DEIR.

On April 5, 2013 (5 months ago) there were 5 letters submitted in response to comment from the RDEIR – again one from the Museum. It was suggested that a letter be sent to Supervisor Carbajal, Glen Russell (Director P&D, and Jeff Hunt (Deputy director Long Range Planning) noting that none of the 5 letters raises any issue of CEQA compliance, consequently there is no excuse for continuing delay. Alastair made a motion to have such a letter written, Kevin second, and the motion was approved unanimously.

3.7 Barbara reported that removal of the surge tank is moving forward. The issue will go first to the City Water Commission and then to the City Council. Penfield & Smith will soon start the work of grading, etc. The property will not come up for sale for few years since it must first go through the permitting process and be restored.

4. New Business

A request to the County for information regarding noise (e.g., loud parties) was made. County sent the text of the ordinance regarding same. Laurie noted that the neighbors have been quieter recently but long term the issue remains difficult to deal with.

5. Additional Committee Reports (as needed)

5.1 Newsletter (Jean Yamamura)

Barbara noted that the Newsletter Committee has done a wonderful job.

5.2 Architectural Design Review (Hugh Twibell)

5.3 Parking & Traffic (Dick Axilrod)

5.4 Land Use Committee (Kevin Snow)

5.5 Membership (Laurie Guitteau)

5.6 Fire Committee (Laurie) – Laurie proposed that the article recently written by Ray Ford for the Independent be sent as an email blast to Mission Canyon residents. A motion to this effect was made, second and passed.

5.7 Botanic Garden Advisory Committee (Darby Feldwinn)

It was agreed to add another member and Laurie volunteered.

5.8 Garden Whys Committee (Susan Davidson)

5.9 Natural History Museum Committee (Kevin)

5.10 Safe Passage (Alastair Winn)

No news since last report. The group is dividing into task forces to work on various issues.

5.11 Web site (Alex Feldwinn)

Agenda and Minutes of our meetings will be posted on the web site.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:38pm

Next regular meeting Oct. 1, 2013
MacVeagh House, Natural History Museum

Respectively submitted,
Ray Smith, Secretary