

Mission Canyon Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors
August 5, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

1. Call to order & introductions

Board Members **Present**: Dick Axilrod, Pablo Buckelew, Alex Feldwinn, Darby Feldwinn, Kellam de Forest, Barbara Lindemann, James Madison, Ray Smith, Richard Solomon, Kevin Snow

Board Members **Absent**: Susan Davidson, Laurie Guitteau, Hugh Twibell, Alastair Winn, Jean Yamamura

Guests: Lanny Ebenstein, Luke Swetland, Steve Windhager, Alexis Rosenthal

2. Minutes of the June 3 and July 1, 2104 meetings

Approved unanimously.

3. Treasurer's report (Read on January, April, July, October)

4. Old Business

4.1 Botanic Garden update (Steve Windhager)

Steve reported that the Garden will begin construction of the conservation center this month. Construction is expected to take about 15-20 months. He also noted that they have raised \$12M and, if they receive matching funds they will get \$2M more. The chain link fence has been removed. (Ed. Note: Steve failed to announce that he has been selected by the Getty Leadership Institute for the 2014 Executive Education Program. See

<http://www.sbbg.org/about/press/getty-leadership-institute-selects-dr-steve-windhager-2014-executive-education-program>

This is the first time the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden has received such recognition. Congratulations Steve!!)

4.2 Museum of Natural History update (Luke Swetland)

Luke reported that the Museum is operationally cruising thru the end of the summer activities. He is keeping the nearest neighbors informed of the repair and maintenance activities including repair and maintenance of the CRC roof and recoating the asphalt in the parking lot. There is a drop box providing full information to the nearest neighbors.

4.3 Criteria for sending eBlasts

The question was raised with respect to guidelines for when and how to send out email blasts to our membership. Apparently there have been some complaints about too much email. Darby suggested that with the next few eBlasts we include a "survey monkey" to request feedback from email recipients and to get some idea on how & what information folk would like to receive.

We could also include an “unsubscribe” check box for those that do not want eBlast information.

4.4 Officers as Executive Committee:

Barbara asked if the Board members getting the right amount of information between meetings? too much? too little? The consensus was that things are just right – the “Goldilocks effect”.

4.5 Community meetings/neighborhood "captains" for Mission Canyon Heights RE: parking and public safety issues.

There was an extended discussion regarding what or how MCA should address the above issues, especially with respect to parking and the issue to stripe or not to stripe streets other than the main evacuation corridors. No consensus was reached, but there was some agreement that individual neighbors should be encouraged to form neighborhood groups to address these issues. These groups could also then form phone trees and neighborhood watches.

5. New Business

5.1 Opposition to proposed pedestrian bridge at the historic Mission Canyon Rd. bridge (Lanny Ebenstein)

Lanny said that he was “very concerned by the proposed Mission Creek pedestrian bridge that would be adjacent to the existing historical stone bridge.” He felt that “this would be a very bad idea and should be strongly opposed.” He also said that a number of individuals were forming the “Committee For Mission Canyon Historical Preservation” and he listed a number of suggested improvements they felt were important. He noted that Alexis would be the coordinator for this group.

Board members questioned why he was not cooperating with the Safe Passage group and suggested he sit with them and make common accord. (Lanny Ebenstein’s letter of concern was handed out to all Board members.) Barbara also suggested that Lanny check with Rosie Dyste regarding the community’s view of the proposed pedestrian bridge which was discussed and recorded at a previous workshop.

Kevin expressed some skepticism of the Safe Passage and asked if there were any accident statistics that justified all the fuss.

Luke noted especially the desire for school children to pass safely between the Mission and the Museum.

5.2 Meeting with Supervisor Carbajal (Jean and Barbara)

The meeting is scheduled for this coming Thursday (7th) at 3pm.

5.3 Fire Safe Council meeting report and chaparral issues(Ray)

Ray reported that Chief Dyer is retiring and that the FlameSniffer issue would be going to the Board Of Supervisors on 19th of August. He moved, and it was 2nd and approved unanimously to write a letter of support to the BOS in support of Chief Dyer's FlameSniffer proposal.

Ray also gave a not-so-brief history of fuel management discussions (aka brush clearance) within the County for the Fire Committee. This included MCA's trials in writing the County's first Community Wildfire Protection Plan, noting that CWPP's are an important prerequisite for obtaining fire-related grants. He pointed out that Brian Trautwein (Environmental Analyst for the Environmental Defense Center) and Eddie Harris (President of the Urban Creeks Council) had been instrumental in seriously delaying our efforts in creating our MCCWPP.

Also noted were Steve Windhager's good services in having the Garden host several "Fuel Management Discussions" where Fire Agency folk, environmentalists, academics, homeowner associations, etc. gathered to try and reach common ground regarding fuel management. These meetings came to no avail, apparently because of the deep polarization – and the unwillingness of either extreme to compromise - with respect to this issue.

Returning to the announced Chaparral Institute talk scheduled for Sept. 3 at the SBMNH (Fleischmann Auditorium) it was noted that Trautwein and Harris were the organizers for this forum and that there was much mistrust regarding the "intent &/or purpose" for said forum among Fire folk. There is deep concern that this would be a "one-sided" discussion of the fuel management issue.

Ray ended by suggesting that the forum needs to consider:

- a) How can we create defensible space around high risk communities? And how do we do this in a way that maximizes the protection of human life, property and the environment. And to accomplish these goals in a long-term, sustainable way.
- b) How do we do (a) with a minimum of bureaucratic hoops that deplete tax dollars from the agencies/homeowner associations in their effort to sustain a less flammable Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)?

5.4 New member for the Fire Committee (please volunteer!)

Ray agreed to chair the Fire Committee and a request was made for new member(s) for this committee

5.5 Incorporation of Mission Heritage Trail Association –

Kellam reported that the County and City planning staffs have agreed to the concept of a pathway on west side of Mission Canyon Road. Providing safe

passage was the primary goal, but the group realized that a master plan for the entire corridor is necessary. He gave various potential details and noted that the Safe Passage group was incorporating as a nonprofit to give the group status and the ability to find funding for the pathway and for future projects. A name change to “Mission Heritage Trail Association” reflects the group’s long-term goal(s).

5.6 Request for \$1000 donation to Mission Heritage Trail Association

Kellam also forwarded a request for the MCA to support their incorporation and to contribute \$1000 to their new association to augment funds needed to “publicize and interpret the many and varied historic resources in this area along with planning safety solutions and improvement”.

After some discussion it was noted that “incorporation” does not require our support and the issue of a monetary contribution would be postponed until further information was provided with respect to fundraising efforts and what the contributions would be used for.

6. Additional Committee Reports (as needed)

6.1 Newsletter (Jean Yamamura)

6.2 Architectural Design Review (Hugh Twibell)

6.3 Parking & Traffic (Dick Axilrod)

6.4 Land Use Committee (Kevin Snow)

6.5 Membership (Laurie Guitteau)

6.6 Fire Committee (Jean)

6.7 Botanic Garden Advisory Committee (Darby Feldwinn)

6.8 Garden Whys Committee (Susan Davidson)

6.9 Natural History Museum Committee (Kevin)

6.10 Safe Passage (Alastair Winn)

6.11 Web site (Alex Feldwinn)

meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

Respectively submitted,

Ray Smith
Secretary

Next regular meeting, Sept. 2, 2014
MacVeagh House, Natural History Museum