

Mission Canyon Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors
March 3, 2015, 7:35 p.m.

1. Call to order & introductions

Board Members Present: Richard Axilrod, Laurie Guitteau, Kellam de Forest, Barbara Lindemann, Ray Smith, Kevin Snow, Richard Solomon, Hugh Twibell, Jean Yamamura

Board Members Absent: Pablo Buckelew, Susan Davidson, Alex Feldwinn, Darby Feldwinn , , James Madison, Alastair Winn

Guests: Paulina Conn, Mark Schleich, Luke Swetland, Steve Windhager

2. Minutes of the Feb. 3, 2015 meeting – approved unanimously

3. Treasurer’s report (Read on January, April, July, October), Jean Yamamura

5.1 Mark Schleich (Deputy Director, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division, County Public Works Department) discussed new billing proposed for sewage line fees. This new proposal will apply only to those in Mission Canyon who are connected to the City Sewage system. Currently MC sewage is sent to the City for treatment. The annual costs for MC treatment, via a joint powers agreement between City and County, is divided among the number of users and passed on to customers via County Property Tax bill. All hookups, large or small, pay the same fee (which is viewed by some as unfair).

New proposed billing would make the set the sewer fee based on water use. Use more water, pay more for sewer, save water, pay less. The sewer fee would be transferred off the property tax and put on customers water bill. This, presumably, would give customers some control over their own bill and there would be no 30% surcharge for sewer service as for the water. (Editor Note: this implies that the sewer cost will be based on water use not on the water bill.) The County will hire a private contractor to service the sewers in Mission Canyon and somehow sewer users will be charged for this service. The new proposed billing system is estimated to save users about \$25 per year.

Mark Schleich asked the MCA Board to help spread the word regarding this proposed new billing system. MCA will put out and eblast and post information on our website. There is a Board of Supervisor’s meeting on the 30th of March for public input with the hope that the new system would go into effect at the beginning of the nest fiscal year (July, 1, 2015).

4. Old Business

4.1 Museum of Natural History update (Luke Swetland)

4.2 Botanic Garden update (Steve Windhagen)

Steve reported that an email had been sent to all surrounding neighbors announcing a meeting to discuss proposed changes in the Garden’s CUP. Relatively few showed up, and there were no reported problems. The proposed changes to the CUP will soon go to County staff and Steve requested a letter of support from the MCA. It was moved,

second, and passed unanimously to provide a letter of support for the proposed changes to the Garden's CUP.

4.3 Annual meeting, April 29 (Laurie)

4.4 Support for the SBMNH CUP

Kevin reported that the Museum Committee unanimously agreed to recommend that the MCA support the Museum's proposed realignment of the public trail network subject to two conditions: First, that prior to the completion of the annexation of the western parcels, the Museum record a public trail easement for the entire loop trail network designated in purple as "E unimproved trail" and "N unimproved trail" on Map LO.2, dated February 25, 2015. Second, that the new unimproved trail shall be established and made available to the public before the existing unimproved trails are abandoned and re-vegetated. In addition, the Committee also recommended that in the event the Museum applies for permits to remove structures within the Mission Creek setback, the City review and approve creation of the Mission Creek trail as depicted on the Mission Canyon Community Plan Parks, Recreation and Trails Map, Figure 4.10-3 of the Mission Canyon FEIR.

Luke responded that these conditions were asking for more than was previously agreed to and that, at this late date, he could not agree to them. Also, he felt that the current CUP plus the revised trail map accomplished what the public wanted without and dedicated trail easement.

Richard & Kevin countered that without an easement a future Council could undo the Conditions and the public could lose the trail and habitat. With an easement, the public continues to have a say even if the property is sold.

A motion was made (Laurie, 2nd Hugh) that the MCA support the Museum's CUP without the above conditions. Four voted for this motion, four voted against this motion and there was one abstention.

Barbara agreed to speak at the City Council meeting and would note that our Board was divided on the subject of requiring a trail easement.

There was also further discussion of the proposed outside speakers for the Museum, but no further action was taken on this subject.

5. New Business

5.1 Sewage line fees, new billing proposed (Mark Schleich) – see above

5.2 Letter of support for the SBBG CUP revision – see above

5.3 Power pole removal, Windsor Way –

Barbara reported that neighbors had complained about the unsightliness of Southern California Edison leaving the old poles in place when putting in new ones. There were no suggestions as to what could be done about this.

5.4 Septic tank maintenance (Barbara)

Barbara reported that several of us had met with two County folk regarding septic systems in Mission Canyon. Apparently there is money available, from septic fees, to provide rebates when the systems are pumped. We were asked to inform the MC folk on septic system of this in our upcoming News Letter.

5.4 GGRF (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund) Grant proposal (Ray)

Ray reported that we had been asked to submit a full proposal in response to our preliminary proposal. Steve noted at a meeting of the proposal team is scheduled for 16 March.

5.5 Orange Grove Lane residents' drainage concerns

5.6 Mission Heritage Trail Association (MHTA aka., safe passage)

Kellam reported that both City Council and County Board of Supervisors had accepted a plan presented by the Mission Heritage Trail Association.

Paulina spoke against the plan and gave numerous reasons for her opposition.

It was noted that Lanny Ebenstein had written a letter to our Board urging opposition to the MHTA plan as presented.

Several folk pointed out the this plan was not set in stone and that there was room for public debate. Also, there was some concern that the 3rd planned meeting for public discussion was not held prior to going to the City & County for approval.

After much discussion, it was unanimously agreed that MCA would work to find, or be, a facilitator for a community wide discussion on the various points of view regarding this issue.

5.7 In parting, there was a comment that Jay ??? from Verison had a proposal to improve cell phone reception within the Canyon.

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: Dues letter sent; new software for the membership list (Laurie Guitteau)

6.6 Fire Committee (Jean)

6.7 Botanic Garden Advisory Committee (Darby Feldwinn)

6.8 Garden Whys Committee: Project to remove invasive eucalyptus and acacia trees from the debris basin above the Botanic Garden (Susan Davidson)

6.9 Natural History Museum Committee (Kevin)

6.10 Mission Heritage Trail Association (Alastair Winn)

6.11 Web site (Alex Feldwinn)

Next regular meeting, April 7, 2015 7:30
MacVeagh House, Natural History Museum

Respectively submitted,
Ray Smith, Secretary