

Mission Canyon Association
Minutes
July 7, 2015

1. Call to order & introductions (welcome new member, Laurie Dahl)
Board Members Present: Richard Axilrod, Kellam de Forest, Barbara Lindemann, James Madison, Ray Smith, Kevin Snow, Hugh Twibell
Board Members Absent: Alex Feldwinn, Darby Feldwinn, Laurie Guitteau, Karl Hutterer, Richard Solomon, Alastair Winn, Jean Yamamura
Guests: Luke Swetland, Steve Windhager

2. Minutes of the June 2, 2015 meeting – approved as written

3. Treasurer’s report (Read on January, April, July, October), Jean Yamamura – email if not here

4. Old Business

4.1 Museum of Natural History update (Luke Swetland)

Luke reported that the Museum had a successful wine festival and all worked well. He also reported that the oak tree across the path has been cut and the path is clear again. Regarding the timing of 120 ft part of the sound wall, this will occur prior to the first set of construction. He noted that delays are part of the tedious review process.

4.2 Botanic Garden update (Steve Windhagen)

Steve reported that they are working with County HALC with respect to revisions to the demonstration garden. In particular, they are studying various options to replacement of the paver. He also reported that construction of the new horticulture building is progressing well. In addition, there are nighttime events (full moon hike in the garden) on the 1st and 31st of July.

4.3 Ray reported on the brush clearance effort for this year. Rob Hazard (Fire Captain / Pre-Fire Engineer, Vegetation Management Section, Santa Barbara County Fire) and his fire crews will be working along major evacuation routes over the next month. The schedule is flexible due to both road work in the area and possible use for combatting fires. This work is paid for, in part, by our SRA fees re the grant that Rob obtained.

4.4 Cell phone tower in Mission Canyon?

Regarding this question, we communicated with Chief Peterson and Rob Hazard who wrote “From a wildfire perspective lots of communication is happening by cell phone, especially on large incidents where the radio traffic becomes excessive.”

Thus, it seems that good cell phone reception is an important aspect to emergency safety within the Canyon. There followed considerable discussion.

Barbara was instructed to ask Jay Higgins of Verizon 1) to put up 4 story poles to show where a water tower would be; 2) if Verizon is flexible about the design of the water tower, especially in the color of it and 3) how loud is the air conditioning hum? When we get the answers to these questions, the Board will make a decision whether to stay neutral, oppose, or support the building of a cell phone tower. To date, the “best” position for the cell tower is on Garden property. Steve said he will remain neutral on this issue – waiting for the community to make the decision as to how best to improve cellular reception.

5. New Business

5.1 June meeting with Supervisor Carbajal (Barbara Lindemann)

Barbara reported on our meeting with Supervisor Carbajal. County will work on a way to find better enforcement of parking violations on upper Tunnel Rd.

5.2 Effort to get Environmentally Sensitive Habitat designation for chaparral in the Goleta Valley Community Plan (Ray Smith)

Alerted to the fact that EDC had sent out a “Take Action” email urging their supporters to attend County Planning Commission hearing on the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan by supporting “alternative E and to protect chaparral as ‘Environmentally Sensitive Habitat’.” Alternative E, is a plan to protect critical farmland in Goleta and this was, presumably, the principal issue under discussion by the PC. The issue of ESH was, in Ray’s view, slipped in as an attempt to bypass critical consideration of this issue on its own merit. He said so at the hearing, speaking for both the MCA and FSC, and also drafted a letter that Barbara sent to the PC.

Ray to follow up at the County Planning Commission meeting.

5.3 Parking enforcement, upper Tunnel Rd. and Montrose Pl.

Continuing discussion with Salud. It was noted that both CHP and County Sheriff can give parking tickets. Folks are encouraged to call either, or both, when there is a problem. There was also a question of where the revenue from the tickets goes.

5.4 County Long Range Planning hearings about vacation rentals

It was noted that the County plans to hold hearing about vacation rental.

Apparently there is conflicting opinion from county council as to the legality of vacation rentals. A discussion followed with discussions pros and cons and it was decided to keep updated on this issue. Hugh agreed to investigate and keep the Board informed.

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 (Ray Smith)

6.7 Mission Heritage Trail Association (Alastair Winn)

6.8 Web site (Alex Feldwinn)

Next meeting, Aug. 4, 2015
7:30 MacVeagh House
Natural History Museum

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Smith
Secretary