

Mission Canyon Association

MINUTES

Jan. 5, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

1. Call to order & introductions
Board Members Present: Laurie Dahl, Kellam de Forest,
Laurie Guitteau, Karl Hutterer, Barbara Lindemann, Ray Smith, Kevin
Snow, Richard Solomon, Hugh Twibell, Alastair Winn
Board Members Absent: Alex Feldwinn, Darby Feldwinn, James
Madison, Jean Yamamura
Guests: Luke Swetland, Steve Windhager, Sven Nebeluny, Erika Sharghi
2. Minutes of the Dec. 1, 2015 meeting – unanimously accepted as written
3. Treasurer’s report (Read on January, April, July, October), Jean
Yamamura – (ed comment) sent via email after meeting
4. Old Business
 - 4.1 Museum of Natural History update (Luke Swetland)
Luke reported that the Museum will celebrate its 100th birthday with a
special event on the 24th of January. The Community Centennial
Celebration will include free Museum admission for every visitor as
well as a slice of birthday cake at 2 PM. He noted that the
Centennial will also include an effort to “rebrand” the Museum and
for visitors to be prepared “to be surprised”.
 - 4.2 Botanic Garden update (Steve Windhager)
Steve reported that the construction of the Conservation Center is
progressing. Most of the remaining work will now be inside the
building. He reported that his Executive Committee recommended
that the Garden not continue to pursue the issue of a Verizon cell
tower on Garden grounds. This decision could change if a “real
community need would be demonstrated”. This decision was because
of health concerns expressed by some community members. Also, the
MCA supported changes in the Garden’s CUP are a work in progress.
 - 4.3 Call for dues in January. (Jean Yamamura)
After a brief discussion, it was unanimously agreed to maintain
MCA’s dues at \$35/year.
 - 4.4 Rocky Nook Park plans (Kellam de Forest)

There was nothing new to report. County Parks Department apparently is waiting for the Board of Supervisors to provide some guidance. It was suggested that the Park Dept. folk contact the Historical Landmarks Committee regarding this issue. Also, it was noted that Fran Galt had researched much historical material on the Rocky Nook Cottage.

5. New Business

5.1 Proposed walkway along Puesta del Sol, from MNH to Mission Canyon Rd (Luke Swetland)

Luke reported that the City Public Works Department, in considering the Museum's renovation plans, has proposed Puesta del Sol improvements that – for the City – are relatively “soft”. A full description of these current plans was given and Luke noted that the City is required to provide a safe pedestrian path of travel in front of the Museum. The Museum has requested that trees along this pedestrian path be live oaks, to help maintain the “semi rural” character of the area. It was also noted that since the City must maintain this path and is liable for safety, the City will have final say on what is done – with input, presumably, from the City Historic Landmarks Committee. Luke emphasized that the Museum folk are working with the City to do these “improvements” in the least intrusive way as possible.

5.2 Proposal to recommend a centennial donation to the Museum of Natural History (Barbara)

It was proposed that MCA make a donation to the Museum for their Centennial year. After some discussion it was decided to delay this discussion to our next meeting to provide more information regarding how the donation would be used.

5.3 Donation to Mission Heritage Trail Association (Alastair Winn)

Alastair reported that the project is moving along nicely. Folks at Cal Poly are making progress with designs for the footbridge. Alastair noted that the MHTA are “hitting costs” and suggested that MCA make a \$5,000 donation to support the design effort. A design effort that likely will cost about \$1,200,000 of which the MHTA and their supporters will need to raise about one half of this cost. It is supposed that the City, because the MHTA is in their capital improvement plan, would pick up the other one half of this design cost.

There followed considerable discussion – pro and con – for Alastair’s suggestion. It was moved, seconded and passed with a slight majority to donate \$5,000 to the MHTA project.

5.4 Urbany issue.

Hugh reported that the Urbanys’ have appealed their case to the Board of Supervisors and that there are 187 cases before the Urbanys’ case goes to the BOS. Richard argued that the MC Design Guidelines are mandatory with respect to size bulk and scale and said that he and Kevin would testify for the Urbanys at the BOS hearing. He further noted that he thought our Board’s job is to protect the guidelines because the guidelines are to protect the community.

5.5 Rubble on Tunnel Road (Laurie)

There was concern, after our first rains, that much gravel had washed into Tunnel Road from the new road work and that this created a hazardous situation. After calling Public Works, Laurie agreed to write a letter to them suggesting that they put in a better, more permanent, surface for the road way edge.

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)

Laurie reported that the dues letter is being prepared to send out

6.6 Fire Committee (Ray Smith)

Ray gave a brief report regarding Cal Fire’s new proposal to initiate a Vegetation Treatment Program (VTP), in collaboration with community-based wildland fire protection plans that would promote land use planning as related to fire risk. In particular, the VTP would promote collaboration in the development of community defensible space especially in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). The fire committee will follow this issue and inform the Board of progress.

6.7 Mission Heritage Trail Association (Alastair Winn) – see 5.3.

6.8 Web site (Alex Feldwinn)

Adjourned at 2054

Next meeting: Feb. 2, 2016 7:30 pm MacVeagh House, Natural History Museum

Respectfully submitted, Ray Smith, Secretary

