

**Mission Canyon Association**  
**MINUTES**  
**July 5, 2016, 7:30 p.m.**

1. Meeting called to order by President Karl Hutterer.
  - 1.1. Board Members Present: Karl Hutterer, Alex Feldwinn, Darby Feldwinn, Barbara Lindemann, Erika Sharghi, Ray Smith, Jean Yamamura, Sandy Robertson, Hugh Twibell, Jason Saltoun-Ebin, Laurie Guitteau, Kellam de Forest, Kevin Snow, Laurie Dahl
  - 1.2. Board Members Absent: Richard Solomon
  - 1.3. Guests: Luke Swetland, Steve Windhager
2. Minutes of the June 7, 2016 meeting — approved as presented
3. Treasurer’s report (Read on January, April, July, October), Ray Smith. The Treasurer’s Report was distributed to the Board last week. No questions. The Fire Grant account was combined into main account, rather than as a separate account.
4. Old Business
  - 4.1 Museum of Natural History update (Luke Swetland). Three quick updates: The Wine Festival was held on June 25. The Museum was closed and evacuated this past Saturday because of the fire, as a precautionary measure. The Museum goes to LAFCO this Thursday at 1:00pm for the hearing on annexation. Barbara will be speaking on behalf of the MCA at this meeting in support of the annexation.
  - 4.2 Botanic Garden update (Steve Windhager). The Garden has moved into the new building, but phone service is not hooked up yet. The official Grand Opening of the new building is Wednesday July 13 at 10:00am - 12:00pm. The MCA Board is invited. Salud Carbajal and Das Williams will attend, as well as possibly other elected officials. The Garden was closed and evacuated for the fire this past Saturday as a precautionary measure, and had everyone out within 30 minutes.
  - 4.3 Mission Heritage Trail Association/Safe Passage (Erika Sharghi). The MHTA next meeting is this Friday July 8. The flyers have gone out to the Mission Canyon community and they are getting some responses. MHTA representatives went to the June 21 City Council meeting, as well as Karl, and spoke in favor of pursuing federal funding for the bridge rehabilitation and other improvements. Regarding this federal funding, the City Council agenda for June 21 stated “Separately, Public Works received a Highway Bridge Program (HBP) grant from the State of California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) for bridge modifications on the Mission Canyon Road Bridge (Bridge) over Mission Creek. Bridge modifications could include pedestrian and bike facilities however, any modifications to the Bridge would require making safety improvements by bridge

widening and making smoother roadway curves approaching either side of the Bridge.” The bridge widening referenced above was not part of the original MHTA or MCA discussion about making safety modifications to the bridge and, as such, the MCA has not expressed a formal opinion about this matter yet. The possibility of widening the bridge also may be controversial in the community. Discussion ensues. The bridge has already been modified in the past, so the idea of modifying it now is not revolutionary. The bridge is an emergency evacuation exit for Mission Canyon, and Cal Trans currently considers it “functionally obsolete”. (A County traffic engineer was present at the City Council meeting and explained the following: Cal Trans assesses the bridge every two years and rates it 1-100. It is now currently rated at 50 — i.e. almost functionally and structurally obsolete. Once it falls a little bit further below the 50 mark, Cal Trans steps in and may rehabilitate the bridge, without input from community members.). The MCA Board’s letter did not address rehabilitating the bridge itself, and some Board members view this as a very different issue. Ray points out that when the community was surveyed about what issues they wanted the MCA to focus on for the community, the number one concern was fire safety and readiness. Some Board members view this bridge rehabilitation as necessary to achieve fire safety and readiness, via sufficient evacuation channels. MCA’s position is that we support the planning process but will wait to see specific designs based on engineering studies before we support any specific changes.

## 5. New Business

5.1 Meeting with Supervisor Carbajal (June 20). Karl, Ray, and Laurie D attended. Salud was not present, so we met with his aide Jeremy Tittle. We brought up the recent arrest in Rocky Nook park and he was aware of it and had discussed it with the sheriff. Jeremy informed us that the County had approved funding for a non-sworn officer, who could help patrol Rocky Nook Park. Jeremy also reported to us that the County Arts Commission was planning to move into the building in Rocky Nook Park, as well as putting a desk in there for the sheriff’s office to use throughout the day and evening. On a separate note, Jeremy said that he and Salud were not aware of the proposed change of use of the St. Mary’s Seminary. We briefed him on it, and he said that he would talk to the City about it to get more information. He didn’t know if the decision by the Community Development Director was appealable. On another note, we requested that Salud’s office post no parking signs and red flag signs near the Inspiration Point trailhead on Red Flag days. Ray will bring this up at the next Fire Safe Council meeting. We also tried to schedule future meetings with Salud — the next one is tentatively scheduled for August 15 at 3:30pm, but Karl will confirm. Barbara suggests inviting Das Williams to come to one of our MCA meetings. Karl will also try to schedule a meeting with Das Williams prior to that, to brief him on the activities of the MCA.

5.2 Mission Canyon Brush Cleanup and Chipping (Ray Smith). The Fire Department picked up a lot of what was left today. Ray suggests that we consider going back to the original way, where we bring the brush to the Women's Club or drop it off at Marborg, rather than throwing it on the side of the road in high fire season. We could have a list of Mission Canyon residents to give to Marborg, and residents have a week to drop it off at Marborg. This prevents people from outside the Canyon from dropping their brush on the side of the road in the Canyon.

5.3 MCA web cam. Nothing to report because the last Fire Safe Council meeting was cancelled on account of the Scherpa Fire. Ray said that it doesn't work so we will need to replace it.

5.4 Proposed change of use for St. Mary's Seminary. Karl emailed the Planning Department re whether a determination has been made on the substantial compliance application, and was told that a determination has not been made because they are awaiting more information from the applicants. Karl points out that there is not an actual copy of the CUP.

5.5 Proposed new home on upper Tunnel Road. Hugh reports that it was a 4,400 sq ft house with an 11 car garage underneath. Hugh contacted the neighbors, showed them the plans, and they all wrote letters. The Special Problems Committee reviewed the plans and there were issues regarding widening the driveway and removing oak trees, putting in a septic tank system, and building a retaining wall to account for the slope of the land. Hugh is unsure whether the owner is revising the plans or abandoning the project. There is also concern about the upcoming remodel of Dario Pini's house on the corner of Foothill Rd and Cheltenham. The proposed modifications to that house will come before the Special Problems Committee.

## 6. Additional Committee Reports (as needed)

6.1 Newsletter (Jean Yamamura)

6.2 Architectural Design Review (Hugh Twibell)

6.3 Parking & Traffic (Barbara Lindemann)

6.4 Land Use Committee (Kevin Snow)

6.5 Membership (Laurie Guitteau)

6.6 Fire Committee (Ray Smith)

6.7 Web site (Alex Feldwinn)

6.8 The Board moves to write a thank you letter to the County Fire Chief for the quick response to last Saturday's fire on behalf of the MCA. Karl will send it.

Next Board Meeting: August 2, 2016 7:30 pm MacVeagh House, Natural History Museum