

Mission Canyon Association
MINUTES
December 6, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

1. Meeting called to order by President Karl Hutterer.
 - 1.1. Board Members Present: Alex Feldwinn, Hugh Twibell, Richard Solomon, Laurie Dahl, Barbara Lindemann, Karl Hutterer, Ray Smith, Erika Sharghi, Laurie Guitteau, Sandy Robertson
 - 1.2. Board Members Absent: Darby Feldwinn, Kevin Snow, Jean Yamamura, Kellam de Forest, Jason Saltoun-Ebin
 - 1.3. Guests: Steve Windhager

2. Minutes of the October 4 meeting — approved as amended, with Barbara Lindemann’s most recent amendment. The Board did not hold a November meeting because we didn’t have any new business, so there are no November minutes to discuss.

3. Treasurer’s report (Read on January, April, July, October), Ray Smith. No treasurer’s report to present this month.

4. Old Business
 - 4.1 Museum of Natural History update (Luke Swetland — absent).** The following email was transmitted to the Board via email, from Luke Swetland: “I sincerely regret that I will not be able to attend tomorrow’s Board meeting. I do hope that if there is any issue, concern, or question comes up, that you will let me know, and I can respond promptly via email to you. In the meantime, we just finished our last larger event this weekend – our Annual Tribal Arts Festival – and I am not aware of any issues that arose as a result of the Museum’s activities. If I have missed something, please do let me know so that I can look into it. The rest of the year should see our regular daily visitation – and as always, it will be up over the holidays once schools are out. We will continue to monitor traffic, parking and noise as always during these periods. I hope everyone on the Board has a safe and peaceful holiday and that they visit their Museum of Natural History.”

 - 4.2 Botanic Garden update (Steve Windhager).** Today the Garden hosted the memorial service for Dr. Bob Haller at the new Conservation Center, who was a UCSB professor. After retiring, he became the Garden’s Education Botanist. The Garden had approximately 240 people in attendance from all across the state, including a number of botanists. On Sunday January 29, 2017 from 2-4pm, the Garden will be hosting an open house at the Pritzlaff Conservation Center for the neighbors. The MCA will send out an email blast to our members with information about this event. The Garden will also send out information in their newsletter, and post information on www.nextdoor.com. The Beer Garden will be held on Saturday March 25, 2017. If you want to come, buy tickets early because it will sell out. December 1 was Steve Windhager’s sixth anniversary with the Garden (Thank you Steve for all your hard work!). There will be a hearing in front of

the County Planning Commission for changes to the CUP (Conditional Use Permit) that the Garden has already presented to the MCA and that we have already approved. These are minor changes, such as changing the language of how late the Garden's events can run from "sundown" to "9:00pm". The Garden is also planning to move a majority of its events out of fire season, and into a safer time of year.

4.3 Meeting with Salud Carbajal and Das Williams, Nov. 22. Barbara Lindemann and Ray Smith were scheduled to attend a meeting with Salud Carbajal and Das Williams. Das Williams attended, but Salud Carbajal had to attend a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors that was held in Santa Maria relating to the wine ordinance, and his meeting ran over. His aide, Jeremy, attended the meeting in his place. It was a great chance for Barbara and Ray to inform Das Williams about the major issues in the Canyon. Das said that he wanted to meet with the Executive Board every other month for the first six months of his term, and possibly every month thereafter. During the meeting, Jeremy expressed a strong feeling that Salud Carbajal would like one last meeting with the MCA Board before he leaves for Washington, so we have scheduled this meeting for Monday December 19 at 3:30pm. The primary purpose of this meeting is to thank Salud and Jeremy for their service to the residents of the Canyon.

5. New Business

5.1 Managing hiker behavior on Upper tunnel Rd (Barbara Lindemann).

There has been renewed concern about the behavior of hikers on upper tunnel trail at the trailhead. Some recommended solutions include: (1) Installing an additional mutt mitt dispenser, (2) The county using Sheriff Service Technicians to ticket cars that are parked illegally (this has already been approved by the Board of Supervisors, and is in the budget for the current fiscal year), (3) New official signs endorsed by the MCA that are placed prior to the trail on private property along Tunnel Rd that say something like "Help us keep our neighborhood clean and quiet — carry out all waste", (4) Portable toilets next to the trail (this is controversial among neighbors who live close to the trail head), (5) Installing a community water source at the trailhead for hikers to use, (6) A sign reminding hikers of the leash law (dogs are required to be on leashes up to Los Padres National Forest land — i.e. where the asphalt stops and the trail forks, where the Los Padres National Forest sign is) (this is also controversial — some neighbors do not want to press the issue of the leash law because they like the off-leash nature of the trail). Hugh said that if you report a car parked between dawn and dusk, the Sheriffs Department will send someone up to check on it, (7) Taking a new look at overnight parking on Tunnel Rd (the Board might take this to our new Supervisor (Das Williams), (8) Posting reminders about parking, water, etc. on hiking websites that describe the Tunnel Trail.

Karl suggests that we get Supervisor Williams to get the City on board with addressing these concerns. Laurie G suggests that the MCA facilitate a meeting with Supervisor Williams to get a meeting with the City to discuss the issues and possible solutions, including where to put a port-a-potty and how it would be

managed. Steve W points out that the County changed their rules last year and they now allow composting toilets. It could be placed farther away from the trailhead and doesn't have to be serviced nearly as frequently. We could present this to the Los Padres National Forest to put it on their land. Someone would have to assume responsibility to maintain it, but the maintenance is infrequent. Steve suggested that we would have more luck working with the County to put it on County land, rather than trying to get a permit from the Forest Service. There is controversy over whether we should address people 'hanging out' in their cars along the trail parking, since this is not illegal in and of itself.

5.2 Providing mutt mitts (Ray Smith). The MCA currently pays for the mutt mitts. We decided to put up another mutt mitt dispenser and a sign that says something like 'Please keep the neighborhood clean. Pick up after your dog.' Ray has already ordered the additional mitt dispenser, two signs, and 2,000 mitts (for \$387). Now we have to decide where to put them. The Board voted unanimously to approve the expenditure. The Board members who are neighbors to the trail head (Barbara, Ray, Hugh, Alex, Darby) will meet up by the trailhead and decide where to put it.

5.3 Water Surge Tank (Barbara Lindemann). The water surge tank on Mission Canyon Rd, on a small high parcel that is City property, is being removed. They sent a letter to neighbors and to the Board, and went door-to-door informing neighbors. The access road to the tank will remain in place.

6. Additional Committee Reports (as needed)

6.1 Mission Heritage Trail Association/Safe Passage (Erika Sharghi). Erika reports the following information from the MHTA's October and November meetings: (1) Regarding the funding for the bridge rehabilitation: Don Olsen met with Rob Dayton who said that the project has a green light from the State (the Highway Bridge Rehabilitation Project — this is federal funding, but it comes through the state). The City is searching for 3 contractors — engineer, historian, and landscape architect. The contracts for these individuals will go to the City Council in January for approval. City staff is developing a plan to present to HLC (Historic Landmarks Commission) about where the project stands, and the MHTA will give their input on this plan. (2) The MHTA met with the Coalition To Preserve Mission Canyon on November 10. The meeting's purpose was to explore and find common ground between the two organizations. The end result from the MHTA perspective was that the meeting was productive and there was interest in a followup meeting to select common projects. Both sides agreed that something needed to be done regarding improving the olive grove and improving the reservoir fence. The Coalition believes that the East side bridge is adequate, which is not the position of the MHTA. Additional issues discussed included: addressing the sewer pipes, common signs, the Museum stegosaurus wall, calming down traffic, and installing a stop sign at Las Encinas Rd. There were also discussions about underground utilities and improving the road. (3) MHTA members met with Scott Schell who gave them information about how to interpret the numbers

from the traffic study, including: Pedestrian crossings were 150-750 per day (however this was during the I Madonnari event, which may have skewed the numbers). The range for bicyclists was from 107-204 per day. (4) The MHTA did a summary of where they are getting their funding, in the form of a pie chart. The results (entitled “Summary of Source Contributions To Mission Heritage Trail Association From 2011 to 2016”) are as follows: 35% MHTA membership, 27% Private donations, 25% Neighborhood associations (which includes us, the Riviera Association, and the Upper East Association), and 13% Community organizations. The MCA’s \$5,000 donation is not included in this graph, because there is no record of our donation. The Museum of Natural History was the clearinghouse for donations to the MHTA, up until this year, but there is no record of our check. It is shown on the MCA’s bank statements as debited from our account. Ray will look into this and locate the check.

During and after Erika’s presentation, Richard suggests that the MCA discuss whether we still support the project, in order that we can have input on the design of the project before it is too late (provided there is a consensus among the Board). Barbara points out that the MCA has gone on record stating our belief that there are major safety concerns with the current configuration of the bridge, but that is all we have said. Ray said that CalTrans refers to the bridge as “functionally inadequate” — i.e. if there is a car accident on the bridge, it closes the entire bridge and thereby the Canyon. That is a major safety issue for the Canyon.

6.2 Mission Canyon Brush Cleanup and Chipping (Ray Smith)

6.3 MCA web cam

6.4 Newsletter (Jean Yamamura)

6.5 Architectural Design Review (Hugh Twibell)

6.6 Parking & Traffic (Barbara Lindemann)

6.7 Land Use Committee (Kevin Snow)

6.8 Membership (Laurie Guitteau)

6.9 Fire Committee (Ray Smith). The Fire Safe Council applied for a grant for the San Marcos Pass Community Wildfire Protection Plan and they got the grant.

6.10 Web site (Alex Feldwinn)

Next Board Meeting: January 3, 2017, 7:30 pm, MacVeagh House, Natural History Museum