

Mission Canyon Association
MINUTES
February 6, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

1. Meeting called to order by President Karl Hutterer.
 - 1.1. Board Members Present: Karl Hutterer, Darby Feldwinn, Alex Feldwinn, Barbara Lindemann, Sandy Robertson, Richard Solomon, Laurie Dahl
 - 1.2. Board Members Absent: Kevin Snow, Kellam de Forest, Laurie Guitteau, Jason Saltoun-Ebin, Hugh Twibell, Ray Smith, Jean Yamamura, Erika Sharghi
 - 1.3. Guests: Luke Swetland, Paulina Conn, Fran Galt, Tim Owens
2. Minutes of the January 9 meeting — tabled until next meeting. We do not have a quorum so we can't vote on the Minutes.
3. Treasurer's report (Read on January, April, July, October), Ray Smith. We have an account balance of \$50,824.72 as of the end of December 2017. Approval of the Treasurer's Report is tabled until next meeting. We do not have a quorum so we can't vote on the Treasurer's Report.
4. Old Business
 - 4.1 Museum of Natural History update (Luke Swetland).** The renovation continues. The Museum is working on the arrival plaza, front garden, and trash enclosure areas. Work on the Puesta del Sol area will begin shortly. The construction company is working as quickly as possible to make up time from the time lost due to the fires, mudslides, and 101 closures.
 - 4.2 Botanic Garden update (Steve Windhager).** Nothing to report.
 - 4.3 Meeting with Das Williams.** There was no meeting this month so there is nothing to report.
 - 4.4 Recommendations from the Traffic and Parking Committee (Barbara).** Barbara asked Marborg to clean the portapotty twice a week, due to increased traffic on the trail. We will wait a few more months and if the portapotty is still working, and if so we will discuss building an enclosure around it to make it more aesthetically pleasing.
 - 4.5 Letter to Botanic Garden re cell tower. Nothing to report.**
 - 4.6 Large vehicle traffic on Tunnel and Mission Canyon Roads.** Barbara plans to contact Gary Smart about the traffic and parking issues on Tunnel and Mission Canyon Roads. She will wait until more time passes since the mudslide.

4.7 Montrose/Cheltenham fire response (Sandy Robertson). Sandy contacted the Fire Department and they said that there are a few possible reasons for the delayed response time. First, the firefighters might be covering another station and not be in their quarters. This was not the case because the firefighters were in quarters on the night in question. Second, the firefighters might have been at a debriefing regarding the Thomas Fire. Third, there is limited cell phone coverage in the Canyon which may have caused the delay, because cell phone calls go to the Ventura CHP. Finally, it may have just seemed like a long time because it was an emergency situation. Sandy also brought up her concern about the presence and flammability of palm trees in the Canyon. The Fire Department said that the trees that aren't pruned are a safety concern.

5. New Business

5.1 Proposal for historic site designation (Paulina Conn). Fran Galt nominated Rocky Nook Park for historic designation status. Paulina is an honorary member of the MCA Board. The historic corridor in the nomination includes the portion of lower Mission Canyon Road that extends from Laguna St to Foothill Rd, including historic landscapes, roads, vistas, circulation patterns, spatial relationships, and character-defining features. The proposal has been submitted to the City Historic Landmark Commission and the County Historic Landmark Commission. It is available online on their websites. Several prominent architects designed dwellings in the area in question, and these buildings are all still standing. Paulina's rationale for bringing this proposal now is that the City is doing a lot of building, including construction of ADU's, which is changing the look of the community. There is also a lot of signage going up around the Mission. Additionally, Paulina views the MHTA bridge project as a threat to the historic character of the Canyon.

5.2 Brush Cleanup MOU with Fire Department. Barbara, Laurie Guitteau, Karl, and Ray Smith had a meeting recently to discuss the brush cleanup. Ray reported that Rob Hazard (who used to be in charge of brush cleanup for the fire department) said that the Fire Department has money to spend for brush clearance in the Canyon as a portion of the FSA state monies that local taxpayers pay into. Laurie Guitteau understood that the FSA project had been challenged in the Courts and was no longer viable. The Fire Committee wants to propose that the Board work out a program with the Fire Department where the Fire Department does in the County what the City already does. We will create three geographic regions within the Canyon, and rotate brush clearance on an annual basis, such that every three years each region (i.e. 1/3 of the Canyon) may put out their brush and the Fire Department will collect it and chip it. The Fire Committee suggests that the MCA pay for this. Ray has a meeting with Rob Hazard on February 22, and he will discuss it with Rob Hazard and find out an estimated cost. Once we have an estimated cost, the Fire Committee will likely bring this issue back

up to the Board for a vote on the expense. Ray will also ask Rob Hazard where we can best use the goats for brush clearance over the next year.

5.3 History of grants solicited and received by MCA. The MCA has solicited and received grants for brush clearance and fire safety improvements in the past. Laurie Guitteau will provide more information about this topic at the next meeting.

5.4 Agenda for the Annual Meeting. Ray Smith and Laurie Guitteau have been primarily working on this issue. We will table this discussion until the next meeting. Darby suggests that we have an expert attend the Annual meeting (possibly geologist Ed Keller from UCSB) to discuss the potential for mudslides and debris flow in the Canyon.

5.5 Rebuilding Montecito – looming lessons. It is widely believed that the Thomas Fire and the resulting Montecito mudslides were a direct result of climate change. The Thomas Fire burned hotter and eradicated a much greater amount of brush than is typical of wildfires. The rain velocity during the Montecito mudslides is also significantly greater than is typical. It is predicted that Montecito is under threat of dire mudslides for the next 3-5 years, until the brush grows back to a significant degree. All of this raises the question of how we can protect ourselves, both those of us with existing structures and those of us who have to rebuild. With previous fires, the County made allowances to shortcut the BAR process and expedite the permitting process for people who were rebuilding, if they were rebuilding with an identical footprint, height, square footage, “like-for-like” to the structure that was there before. The time has come for a discussion about how we will adapt to the results of climate change in our local community, including whether people should be allowed to rebuild on some of these properties where there is a significant fire, flood, or mudslide risk. There are some areas of Montecito where the landscape may be considered to have changed permanently, such that the mud should not be removed but should be worked around and incorporated into the landscape. The Mission Canyon Community Plan has a provision for rethinking what happens in the Canyon after the fire and considering adapting the Plan to the recent fire patterns. For our purposes, the question is about what lessons can be learned from Montecito, and how these lessons can be applied to Mission Canyon. The Museum of National History has invited the CEC and Brenn School to convene a town hall on this exact topic — changing how our community responds to these natural disasters, including infrastructure, response, and where and how people live. Karl has been attending most of the Montecito community meetings and keeping apprised of discussions on these issues. The Board will consider appointing a liaison to keep tabs on the Montecito discussions officially. We will discuss this further at our next meeting.

6. Additional Committee Reports (as needed)

6.1 Mission Heritage Trail Association/Safe Passage (Erika Sharghi). Erika reported via email that the MHTA did not have a meeting in December or January. The City Council still has not put on its agenda a discussion of whether to authorize the Wallace Group and LSA Senior Architectural Consultant Casey Tibbet to design the bridge redesign.

6.2 Mission Canyon Brush Cleanup and Chipping (Ray Smith)

6.3 Newsletter (Jean Yamamura)

6.4 Architectural Design Review (Hugh Twibell)

6.5 Parking & Traffic (Barbara Lindemann)

6.6 Land Use Committee (Kevin Snow). In November Tim Owens and Kevin Snow brought an issues of a project on Ben Lomond Drive. The Board agreed to write a letter to the SBAR, which we did and it was received. The SBAR told the applicant to get together with the neighborhood and the MCA to work out a solution. Tim and Kevin tried to open a dialogue with the applicant and his architect in November, and the applicant said that he would get back to them but didn't until he contacted the MCA and some of the neighbors last week. There is a new hearing on this topic scheduled for next week. The neighbors are organizing again to attend the meeting and oppose the project, and hope that the MCA will stand by its original letter. Tim and Kevin are concerned about precedent, both for building in the neighborhood and for the viability of the MCA Community Plan's mandatory Architectural Guidelines.

6.7 Membership (Laurie Guitteau)

6.8 Fire Committee (Ray Smith)

6.9 Web site (Alex Feldwinn)

Next Board Meeting: March 6, 2018, MacVeagh House