

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

1. Meeting called to order by President Karl Hutterer.
 - 1.1. Board Members Present: Karl Hutterer, Alex Feldwinn, Richard Solomon, Kellam de Forest, Jason Saltoun-Ebin, Ray Smith, Barbara Lindemann, Hugh Twibell, Kevin Snow, Erika Sharghi, Laurie Dahl, Laurie Guitteau
 - 1.2. Board Members Absent: Darby Feldwinn, Jean Yamamura, Sandy Robertson
 - 1.3. Guests: Steve Windhager, Luke Swetland, Lanny Ebenstein
2. Minutes of the January 9 meeting approved as presented. Minutes of the February 6 meeting approved with two modifications.
3. Treasurer's report (Read on January, April, July, October), Ray Smith. The Treasurer's Report from January is approved as submitted. On a related note, we have received approximately \$9,900 in dues from 272 residents for this year.
4. Old Business
 - 4.1 Museum of Natural History update (Luke Swetland).** Tomorrow the east side galleries will be turned over to the exhibit installation team. By May 3, the entry plaza will be completed and turned over to the Museum. The butterfly garden and back pavilion will be turned over to the Museum by June 28. The trash enclosure is nearly complete. The centennial esplanade will be done by July 4. The Nature cottage will be done by the end of July. The Wine Festival is set for June 30.
On a separate note, on April 25 there will be a free town hall at the Granada to discuss the cycle of drought, fire, flood and human-driven climate change, and how communities can rethink their behavior to address these concerns. The Museum is spearheading this town hall, with assistance from the Brenne Institute and UCSB professors.
 - 4.2 Botanic Garden update (Steve Windhager).** The Beer Garden event will be held on March 24. General admission tickets sold out in 3 hours, and sponsorship tickets have sold out as well. The Garden will be closed the entire day of the event. The Garden urgently has to get their suggested changes to the CUP approved, and is seeking an extension. If the changes are not approved in time, the Garden will have to quickly build something to satisfy the existing CUP. The current deadline for construction is January 2020. The Garden will probably have a better idea of the status of the CUP changes in the next two months.
 - 4.3 Meeting with Das Williams.** Barbara, Ray, and Karl met with Das Williams on February 26. (1) They discussed the issue with the inability of large vehicles to turn around on upper Mission Canyon Road, which has caused traffic problems, road blockages, and tree damage. The MCA proposed

posting a “No Turn-Around” sign before the fork of Mission Canyon Rd and Tunnel Rd. Das was planning to call Chris Snead (head of Public Works) to get this signage approved. (2) They discussed the issue of hiker parking on Tunnel Rd. The MCA proposed that the County restrict all parking except for residents on Tunnel Rd and in Mission Canyon Heights. Das supports that idea, but isn’t sure about the County requirements for resident agreement in order to implement such substantial parking restrictions. We may have to go door-to-door to get residents’ opinions on this topic, in order to meet a threshold requirement (if such a requirement exists in the County). (3) Ray reported to Das about his work with County Fire to get a long term brush clearance program with the County. They discussed what happens with residents who don’t clear their own property sufficiently. The County is able to go in and clear brush on private property, and then bill the resident. The regulations require that the infringing brush be within a certain distance from a building (which makes it impossible for the County to do brush clearance on large or vacant lots). The County has done this in the past, but doesn’t like to do it. (4) Ray brought up the idea of creating another exit route (road) from Mission Canyon, in the event of a fire. Das responded that the County has no power over private land, but they would have no problem granting an easement on County land. The bottom of Palomino Rd would be one possibility, but it goes through a lot of private property. The other possible exit is the road at the end of Spyglass Ridge. (5) Regarding the changes to emergency dispatch, Das said two options are being considered including (a) To split the dispatch and unify the law enforcement dispatch with Santa Maria and the fire dispatch with Carpinteria or (b) to unify everything under the County’s CEO. The Board of Supervisors will ultimately make this decision. (6) Das said that he will look into the Sheriff’s Assistant (to act as a meter maid for Tunnel Rd parking). (7) The takeaway points discussed from the 1/9 debris flow were (a) residents should have a landline, (b) residents should subscribe to Aware And Prepare, (c) the County must do a better job ensuring compliance with evacuation orders, (d) new “set-back from creek” rules will have to be put in place — likely 100 ft setback from the bank of the creek (as opposed to from the center of the creek). (8) They discussed how the loss of hiking trails in Montecito put increased pressure on the hiking trails in Mission Canyon.

4.4 Agenda for the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 10. We have a speaker — Leila Carvalho, a member of the Geography Department at UCSB who studies Atmospheric Science. She will discuss the behavior of sundowner winds and their impact on fire risks. Someone will also be present at the meeting to discuss brush clearance program in the Canyon that Ray is putting together. Also, several Board members are up for reelection, but no changes are currently anticipated. Luke will also speak at the Annual Meeting to make residents aware of the human-driven climate change town hall to be held at the Granada on April 25.

4.5 Recommendations from the Traffic and Parking Committee (Barbara).

See discussion of meeting with Das Williams.

4.6 Letter to Botanic Garden re cell tower. The Garden's Board wants a letter from MCA with clear evidence that the community and the MCA are in favor of a cell phone tower. Ray and Karl will work together to draft this letter.

4.7 Large vehicle traffic on Tunnel and Mission Canyon Roads. See discussion of meeting with Das Williams.

4.8 Brush Cleanup MOU with Fire Department. We are very close to establishing an annual plan for brush cleanup in the Canyon, similar to the program that Rob Hazard had a grant for in past years. It will probably cost the MCA between \$2,000 to \$5,000 per year. We also need a back-up plan because if there is a fire somewhere, then the fire department (who would be doing the brush clearance) will be out of town and unavailable.

4.9 History of grants solicited and received by MCA. The following grants have been received: (1) The MCA received a grant to cut down the eucalyptus trees at the fork of Mission Canyon Rd and Tunnel Rd. (2) The MCA received a grant to clear Cheltenham, Tunnel, and Mission Canyon Rd. (3) In 2008-2009, there was another grant proximate to the Jesusita fire. After that, the grant money was cut back and the MCA decided to find a more sustainable way to pay for brush clearance in the Canyon.

5. New Business

5.1 Request by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. The Museum has requested that the MCA, Riviera, and Upper East neighborhood associations consider contributing some financial support of the restoration of the Museum's stegosaurus wall. The Museum has already hired a mason to repair many of the pickets that were lost or damaged. The Museum didn't have funding for this part of the project, but it was necessary to preserve the historical integrity and aesthetic of the wall. It cost \$8,200. Additionally, the 1930 parrot fountain by Carlton Winslow needs some conservation work. The Museum has hired someone to do this work next week, for a cost of \$6,200. The Museum also didn't have funding for this part of the project. The Museum is requesting that the three neighborhood associations contribute financially to these repairs. The Museum also plans to contact several other organizations for possible support. The MCA's last gift to the Museum was \$5,000 in 2016, in honor of the Museum's centennial campaign.

Ray prepared a brief summary of the MCA's history of giving over the last 5 years, which is as follows: \$3,000 to the Fire Safe Council, \$5,000 to the Mission Heritage Trail Association, \$1,000 to the Botanic Garden for the

orchids, \$5,000 to the Botanic Garden, \$1,000 in 2013 and \$1,000 in 2014 to the Museum's Safe Passage Program as a pass-through to the MHTA. Karl has recused himself from this discussion, given his involvement with the Museum. The Board votes unanimously to contribute \$1,000 to the Museum, in order to express our goodwill towards the Museum and thanks for the continued free use of their facilities, as well as to show community unity.

6. Additional Committee Reports (as needed)

6.1 Mission Heritage Trail Association/Safe Passage (Erika Sharghi). Erika has compiled a "Mission Canyon Multimodal Improvements Plan Chronology of Activity" from 2011 till today. Significant points include (1) MHTA went through the process to get (and ultimately received) the CalTrans Community Based Transportation Planning Grant to promote the conceptual plans for the safe passage project, (2) MHTA published a "Safe Passage - Mission Historical Park to mission Canyon" information packet and held public workshops regarding same, (3) City and County staff drafted and disseminated the "Mission Park to Mission Canyon Multimodal Improvements Plan", (4) In 2016 a grant from State of CA Dept of Transportation Highway Bridge Program stipulated that funding is available and will cover 89% of the project, (5) The City sought bids for project engineers, none were received, and so the City appointed the Wallace Group as engineers for the project, and Casey Tibbett as the architectural consultant (6) Currently the contract is stuck in the City legal department pending City review and approval. They are also determining whether to approve the addition of Ron Nye (historian / consultant) to the project. In addition to everything outlined above, the MHTA has held numerous walking tours with community members and City and County officials regarding the safe passage project.

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). Kevin got an email from Laura Urbany on Cheltenham Rd regarding an ongoing drainage issue with the County. She was concerned that the MCA hadn't done enough to promote the drainage survey that the County is doing this year to residents who might want to participate or contribute information. Several newsletters ago, we included a blurb telling residents to speak up to the County during this survey if they have a concern about roadway drainage issues in the Canyon. We will consider putting another blurb in our next newsletter to residents about this drainage survey.

6.7 Membership (Laurie Guitteau)

6.8 Fire Committee (Ray Smith)

6.9 Web site (Alex Feldwinn)

Next Board Meeting: April 3, 2018, MacVeagh House