

Mission Canyon Association
MINUTES
October 1, 7:30 p.m.

Notes by Karl Hutterer

1. Meeting called to order by Jason Saltoun-Ebin:
 - 1.1 Board Members Present: Jason Saltoun-Ebin, Laurie Guitteau, Erika Sharghi Karl Hutterer, Ray Smith, Kellam de Forest, Kevin Snow, Sandy Robertson, Nancy Weiss
 - 1.2 Board Members Absent: Darby Feldwinn, Jean Yamamura, Alex Feldwinn, Hugh Twibell
 - 1.3 Guests: Steve Windhager, Gary Smart (SB Co. Public Works), Kadie McShirley (Supervisor Das Williams' office), Tom Jacobs & Alastair Winn (Mission Heritage Trail Association)

2. Minutes of September meeting approved.
 - 1st: Karl Hutterer
 - 2nd: Kellam de Forest

3. Treasurer's report (read on January, April, July, October) by Erika Sharghi.

We started with \$52,968.05 and ended with \$50,224.21. We receive \$137.00 from membership dues, a refund of the storage unit rental, a small insurance write-off. We spent \$2,884.62 on D&O insurance, IT communications (Constant Contact), professional services (tax prep), postage, portable restroom (Marborg), trash services (Marborg), and others .

4. Old Business
 - 4.1 Museum of Natural History update (Luke)

Luke Swetland was not present but had provided a report via email. Work on Fleischmann Auditorium has been completed except for a punch list, and the construction trailers and fencing in the parking lot are gone.
 - 4.2 Botanic Garden update (Steve)

In the interest of time, Steve Windhager did not provide a report.
 - 4.3 Meeting with Das Williams
Supervisor Das Williams was represented by Kadie McShirley. She reported that Williams is co-sponsoring a workshop on extreme fire weather, to be held on October 25th. More information will be provided in an email.

5. New Business
 - 5.1 Gary Smart, Traffic Engineer in the county's Department of Public Works discussed possibilities for relocating crosswalks and installing traffic signals on lower Mission Canyon Road to improve pedestrian safety. Aided by power point slides, his presentation focused chiefly on the intersections of Mission Canyon Road and Puesta del Sol, MCR and Las Encinas, MCR and Tunnel Road, and Foothill Road and Exeter. The county wants input from the community before deciding on any specific solutions. Options include primarily moving crosswalks and installing flashing yellow beacons that can be activated by pedestrians.

Regarding the MCR/Puesta del Sol intersection, a likely solution may be moving the crosswalk to the south side of the intersection, which would offer better sight lines and take pedestrians away from the power pole on the opposite side that tends to obscure them to

oncoming traffic. In addition, a flashing yellow beacon may be appropriate. The MCR/Las Encinas intersection has a crosswalk on both the north side and south side. A solution may be to enhance the southern crosswalk with a flashing beacon but retain the northern one as an option for pedestrians. A lengthy and inconclusive discussion ensued about problems of the MCR/Tunnel Road intersection. There seem to be no ready solutions.

- 5.2 Tom Jacobs and Alastair Winn attended the meeting to provide an update on the Mission Heritage Trail Association (“Safe Passage”). Jacobs spoke with the aid of a power point presentation based on a proposal he and Fred Sweeny had submitted to the American Institute of Architects for a Design Award.

Jacobs noted that MHTA has been studying longstanding circulation problems on the bridge corridor since 2011. He thanked MCA for the financial support the association has been providing, together with the Upper East Side Association and the Riviera Association. He noted that the City of Santa Barbara is currently effecting structural reinforcements of the pedestrian bridge that was attached to the stone bridge in 1929. These repairs will, however, not resolve serious accessibility issues. Jacobs also noted that Supervisor Das Williams had facilitated a meeting of MHTA representatives with representatives of SC Edison to explore the possibility of relocating a power pole near the bridge that is frequently hit and destroyed by errant vehicles. Edison is open to that possibility but wants to wait until current studies conducted by the city are concluded and clarify the future position of the roadbed. That meeting also discussed the possibility of undergrounding the power and communication lines in the corridor.

MHTA is currently primarily focused on monitoring the work conducted by city regarding the need and options for a rehabilitation of the aging stone bridge. The association is conducting walk-about to inform citizens about the rich historical resources of the area as well as existing traffic issues. Upcoming walk-about are being scheduled for the Newcomers Club and the city’s Accessibility Committee.

Jacobs then walked through a range of ideas for improvements developed by MHTA, including reconfiguring the Laguna/Los Olivos intersection in front of the Mission and an orientation plaza located in that area, possible reconfigurations of the problematic Los Olivos/APS intersection (among them a T-intersection and a round-about), and the desirability of creating a continuous walkway from the Mission to the Museum of Natural History on the west side of the corridor. He highlighted the problems posed by the “pinch point” at the place where at one time the historic aqueduct had crossed the street. He noted that the consultants retained by the city are expected to produce a design for improvements by 2020.

6. Additional Committee Reports

6.7 Fire Committee (Ray Smith)

Ray Smith noted that he has sent out emails to call attention to the National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 6-12. He reported that brush chipping for next year is assured. The county still has money left over to be used in 2020. Smith also noted that a call has been issued by Cal

Fire for proposals for fire prevention grants. These grants require significant work, and he is not able this year to write a proposal. He appealed for volunteers to step forward to take on the writing of a proposal. A grant would be needed to do fire abatement in the area above the canyon and in otherwise unattended pockets within the canyon.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 5, 7:30 pm.