

**Mission Canyon Association**  
**MINUTES**  
**Dec 3, 2019, 7:30 p.m.**

**Notes by Alex Feldwinn**

1. Meeting called to order by Jason Saltoun-Ebin:
  - 1.1 Board Members Present: Jason Saltoun-Ebin, Laurie Guitteau, Erika Sharghi, Darby Feldwinn, Ray Smith, Kellum de Forest, Kevin Snow, Hugh Twibell, Sandy Robertson
  - 1.2 Board Members Absent: Karl Hutterer, Nancy Weiss, Jean Yamamura
  - 1.3 Guests: Steve Windhager, Jerry Pope, Katharine Kremp, Kathryn Marin, Peter Marin, Kadie McShirley, Pauline Conn
  
2. Minutes of November meeting approved.
  - 1<sup>st</sup>: Lauri
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kellum
  - All approved
  
3. Old Business
  - 3.1  
Museum of Natural History update (Luke not there but sent in an e-mail)  
We received a thank you for the gift for auditorium. It finished on time and on budget, and opens this week.  
The Folk Art Festival will be this weekend (Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>). They will be managing the parking lot but not using shuttles or off-site parking as it has not been needed in the past. They expect strong visitation over the Holidays and they will have some kids camps.
  
  - 3.2  
Botanic Garden update (Steve)  
The Garden expect to break a yearly record with 70,000 visitors this year. In the last few months their visitation numbers climbed by 25%, in some part due to the garden casitas, which have been very popular with visitors. By the end of the run, these will have been up 7 months, which has spread out visitation. This has been great for the Garden and they are looking at doing more of this type of event in the future.  
They had no problems because of the fire, though they did close down for a few days.
  
  - 3.3  
Meeting with Das Williams  
Laurie and Jason met with Supervisor Williams last week. They mostly talked about the dirt road/path through Rocky Nook Park. Kadie McShirely was representing Supervisor Williams at the meeting. They also talked about the vandalism at Evelyn Jack's home (the house with all the decorations) on Foothill. Their giant turkey decoration was stolen. They had a security camera installed, which captured video that showed kids stealing it, but there is not much they can do.
  
  - 3.4 Efforts to add Verizon service to the Canyon (Sandra)

No update. If we want to proceed with this the MCA will have to find a location for them to put the tower. Otherwise, Verizon will not do anything. To consider sites on the Garden's property, they would need broad support from the community and MCA would need to request it, and even then, they might not do it. One possible location for a cell tower might be the staff and volunteer parking lot. Steve will send Sandy a potential location and she will check with Verizon to see if it meets their needs. If it does then Sandy will spearhead writing a letter to the Gardens to try and get their approval.

### 3.5 Historic Bridge/Mission Heritage Trail Association (Erika)

No updates.

### 3.6 Insurance update (Nancy/Ray)

The newsletter will cover this. California Commissioner Ricardo Lara increased the California FAIR Plan combined dwelling coverage limit from \$1.5 million to \$3 million. There are some other improvements with it as well.

Jean wrote an article in the Independent about the changes in insurance. Some highlights include: a longer period before they can cancel coverage, and protects people who did not lose their whole house, but did have damages.

The fire safe council will also discuss this in January. They are the ones that set the "extreme fire danger areas" which the insurance companies use to set their rates. Currently they are not looking at anything that the community is doing when deciding these things.

LA times is also doing a series on fire.

## 4. New Business

### 4.1 Presentation by Ray Smith re: MHTA proposal to underground wires and poles surrounding the Historic Bridge

Alastair Winn ask Ray to get the thoughts of the MCA board on undergrounding utilities. MHTA think that within 4 years the city will do the work in the corridor while trying to preserve the rural look. MHTA wants to know if undergrounding utilities would be a good idea at this point. There are 28 homes in the area that they would need to buy in. The homeowners would need to pay for this for it to go forward.

Jerry (see guests) said that it takes a long time and was worried that if you they wait any longer they will not be ready by the time the work starts.

The undergrounding would using lateral boring machines. They would need to tunnel under the creek to do this. It would be deep enough so that no archeological items would be disturbed.

Jason will write a note to Alastair that the board thinks this is in line with the community plan.

#### 4.2 Proposal to improve and maintain a dirt road from Mission Oaks Ln thru Rocky Nook Park

Peter lives at the back of Rocky Nook Park and claims he was told the path in the back was for emergency access in case of a fire. In the past, cars could drive down the path but now it is so eroded that it has become virtually unusable due to the large rocks.

They are asking to have the Parks Department restore the condition of the path to the state it was in 5 years ago. He says pedestrians do not use the path either because of its condition, but rather, they are walking on the sides of it and making the problem worse. He goes on to say that right now it is “V” shaped and the rainwater is making it worse. He says that a homeowner used to have the key so that the front gate could be opened in a case of an emergency, but now the Parks Department is unwilling to give anyone a key. He wants to know if we will approve the idea of maintaining the path. He also mentioned that the park rangers are still using the path, but they have trucks not normal cars. He wants the Parks Department to bring in dirt to bring up the path to “ground level.”

Laurie wants to make sure that it is not advertised as an escape route. She believes this could be a disaster if you did not know the area well. It would also be hard to get out onto Mission Canyon Rd. once you got to the front of Rocky Nook Park.

Kadie will tell Supervisor Williams that we are fine with grading but we do not want it advertised as an escape route.

Non-Agenda item that came up regarding undergrounding utility poles in the Montrose Area:  
(Submitted by Jerry; see guest list)

They submitted a diagram with what poles they want to take down. Edison is working on coming up with a cost estimate and will then get back to the homeowners.

They are hoping to do the entire Montrose Place loop, but they noted this could be adjusted at a later time. They will keep us updated on what is happening.

## 6. Additional Committee Reports

### 6.2 Newsletter (Jean Yamamura)

Has been submitted will be delivered soon.

### 6.6 Membership (Laurie Guitteau)

We have invited Rob Hazard to speak at the Annual Meeting and Rob or someone else will come in to talk about what we can do as a community for fire prevention/recovery.

They will discuss defensible space and what tools that they fire department can use to enforce it.

In addition, we are hoping to find someone to talk about “hardening your house.” (Asked if Dennis is can do this)

Meeting will be a the Natural History Museum on Tuesday April 21  
Next Board Meeting: 1/7/2020.