

Mission Canyon Association
Minutes
April 7, 7:30 p.m.

Minutes by Sandy Robertson

1. Meeting called to order by Jason Saltoun-Ebin:
 - 1.1. Board Members Present: Jason Saltoun-Ebin, Laurie Guitteau, Erika Sharghi, Darby Feldwinn, Karl Hutterer, Ray Smith, Kellum de Forest, Alex Feldwinn, Sandy Robertson,
 - 1.2. Board Members Absent: Jean Yamamura, Nancy Weiss, Hugh Twibell, Kevin Snow
 - 1.3. Guests: Luke Swetland, Steve Windhager, Seldon Edner, Kadie McShirley (Supervisor Das Williams' Representative)

2. Minutes of March meeting approved.
 - 1st: Laurie Guitteau
 - 2nd: Karl HuttererUnanimously approved.

3. Treasurer's report (read in January, April, July, October) by Erika Sharghi.
 - 3.1. The Beginning Cash Balance from the Custom Time Deposit was \$10, 051.01. The Interest Income was \$.3.66, for an ending cash balance of \$10.018.67.
 - 3.2. The General Checking Account beginning balance was \$37, 859.02 and the ending balance is \$57, 127.52. We received \$11, 775.00 from membership dues and spent \$2,506.50 (insurance, trash/recycle services, portable restroom, bank fees, and print/copy distribution).

4. Old Business
 - 4.1. Museum of Natural History update (Luke)
 - 4.1.1. Luke noted that the Museum is facing challenge dealing with community members who are not respecting the lockdown policy. He echoes the concerns that Steve noted in his letter to MCA asking for help in notifying the community about the consequences on the employees by not honoring this request. In lieu of in-person visits, the Museum is providing the public with virtual learning experiences and hopes to continue to do that, communicating the offerings to the public on a weekly basis. All offerings are at no charge.

 - 4.2. Botanic Garden update (Steve)
 - 4.2.1. Steve thanked the MCA for sending out the notice asking for help from our membership to respect the Garden's closure while staff maintain the gardens and to respect the safety of those workers who are doing important work. Despite the Garden putting up extra fencing, some people

went over and under. The main concern is the possibility of infection of staff. Similar to the Natural History Museum, the Garden is getting into remote learning. A nature learning class is available online with more to follow. The Garden camera has spotted bobcats and great blue herons during the day, which have not been seen previously. The Garden received its Emergency Impact Disaster Loan. Steve notes that the Gardens in Los Angeles have been deemed “essential,” so they have remained opened. It was requested that Kadie pass along to Das a request to help institutions get through this pandemic. Kadie encouraged anyone to reach out to Das’s office if there are they know about similar institutions needing support.

4.3.Meeting with Das Williams

- 4.3.1. Kadie reported that a productive conference calls was held during which they followed up on the 1451 air b&b situation. A site visit was made so the investigation is going forward.
- 4.3.2. A discussion with Rondi Guthrie from SCE was held to encourage them to made the timeline for future closures for work is made transparent to everyone can plan ahead and the fire services are looped in.
- 4.3.3. A Zoom discussion with Monterey Bay power was discussed and the May in-person meeting is cancelled, with the hope to have a video conference instead.
- 4.3.4. The office has been busy trying to balance the public’s need for exercise versus the need for the public’s health to be protected, but they hope to have more definitive answers by the next meeting on how to accomplish this.
- 4.3.5. County Health Services presented a model of how “flattening the curve” would come more quickly. If there were a 5% increase in cooperation with the social distancing policy, we would see a massive decrease in the need for hospital beds.
- 4.3.6. Comments from Board Members include the following: Grocery stores, especially Trader Joe’s, deserve recognition for establishing social distancing policies to keep the public safe. Others, including the Farmers’ Market, Instacart, Berry Man, etc., deserve recognition and thanks as well.

4.4.Efforts to add Verizon service to the Canyon (Sandy)

- 4.4.1. This item will be taken off the agenda for the time being since the current situation makes this project a no-go. Additionally, there are still neighbors who are forcefully opposing it. Steve commented that there is still a place further up the canyon that might serve as a good location. It has an access road that is not on garden property with a view that is 180 versus 360 degrees. The Board asked Sandy to continue to try to get a response from Verizon once a month or so and if there is a response, to bring it to the Board.

4.5. Historic Bridge/Mission Heritage Trail Association (Erika)

4.5.1. Mission Canyon Bridge Studies sent out a communique at the end of March to inform the public that they are still working on various studies that are required for any work to go forward. Public meetings will be postponed until fall/winter. They encourage individuals to send in ideas or issues to infor@missioncanyonbridge.com. The continuing studies are the ones that the geo-tech surveys indicated needed to be done: Cultural hydraulics; hazardous materials; ongoing process. Notices of public meetings will be sent out as appropriate.

4.6. Insurance update (Nancy/Ray)

4.6.1. The issue with this update is that there is a Firewise Community designation which requires a whole number of steps. This was done previously, but it needs to be done again. Once we are designated a Firewise Community, insurance will pay attention, but the lockdown is keeping us from moving forward. Some homeowners have had their insurance cancelled but because of the current situation, insurance companies will hold off increasing their rates for a year. Fair Plan is an option but the amount they will insure is a low. Jason offered to help if anyone wants to pursue Fair Plan.

4.7. Southern California Edison work on Tunnel Trail to Repair Storm Damage (Nancy)

4.7.1. Attached is the report just received electronically from SCE/Rondi Guthrie. Nancy thanked her for her prompt response.

4.7.2. SCE Restoration Plans: Applications for work are expected in by the end of April. The County will ultimately issue the permits however multiple agencies will review. We too should monitor and be prepared to comment. There may be a limited time and availability for public comment. Barbara Lindemann, Seldon Edner and Hugh Twibell are all interested in assisting with this review. Nancy still hoping for a site visit or we will do our own with report in hand (6 feet apart, of course). We are seeking a volunteer geologist to aid us in understanding the plans, since the needs for the slopes/rock may be the most technical.

4.7.3. MCA Board Support: Thanks to the Board for helping be the eyes and ears for the MC community on this issue. It would be additionally helpful if folks could send me items they hope can be addressed in the restoration plans. Das indicated he will help ensure a public comment period. We should follow up with him to help since there is no public process currently planned and it could get lost amid Covid-19. Thanks to Ray for being the reminder that County Fire needs to remain in the loop.

4.7.4. SCE will attend MCA May Meeting: SCE has asked to update us in May.

- 4.7.5. The idea of having another geologist to get another professional opinion so that both MCS and the community have an opportunity to see the plans before work is too far underway

5. New Business

5.1. Election of new member

- 5.1.1. Jason nominated Seldon Edner as a new member and invited Seldon to introduce himself. Seldon came to Santa Barbara in 1967 to go to UCSB, and moved to Mission Canyon in 1973, living next to Barbara Lindemann. He is a retired foundation /building contractor and has been retired for 9 years. He appreciates the beauty of the canyon and has been on the Fire Committee to help protect it. He shared a map that shows community members adjacent to Mission Canyon who have a self-assessment program. Our canyon currently does not have such a program and he attended a city council meeting to discuss such as assessment. The fee is relatively small: for those closest to the chaparral, \$110.00; \$88.00 who are not as close. He suggested that this is a modest fee for the benefit it affords, and that it supports the idea of our being designated a Firewise Community. Background on this effort was given Board members and all agreed that it should be revisited.
- 5.1.2. Darby Feldwinn made a motion to elect Seldon Edner as a Board Member. Laurie Guitteau seconded. Motion unanimously. Jason welcomed Seldon and thanked him for his contributions over the years.

5.2. Discussion of Water Wise Santa Barbara

- 5.2.1. Jason reported that he continues to discuss with the city the water situation. The city is holding workshops on water wise, the first one in April. Jason will attend and ask the city for a long-term plan. He asked for Board Members' input given everyone's experience. How should MCA best support his effort? Anyone who has concerns is invited to contact him. Ray contributed two concerns: one is the surcharge and the other is to make sure that we have sufficient water to combat fires. Do we have sufficient flow and pressure? Increased housing in the canyon in general and on hillsides in particular is a concern. It is also important to represent the garden and the museum. Karl is a great proponent of capturing rainwater from the roof. Can the city promote that idea by providing a subsidy? Regulatory easement would also help homeowners. The question of support from Das Williams was brought up. Kadie said she has heard of it but city and county efforts have not overlapped. She will look into it and report back.

5.3. Discussion of Annual Meeting

- 5.3.1. The question of having our Annual Meeting via Zoom was discussed. Various reasons were given as to why we should not: people are spending a lot of time online already; these issues are not foremost on people's minds now. Discussion centered around the issues that the Board feels are important to bring to the attention of the community. The possibility of a newsletter was discussed but dismissed due to everyone's focus on managing daily chores and dealing with so much uncertainty. The goals of the annual meeting are to hold an election and to disseminate important information. A motion was made to cancel the 2020 April Annual Meeting (via any format) and extend the terms of the current and newly elected Board Members until the next Annual Meeting. Motion made by Laurie Guitteau; seconded by Ray Smith. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5.3.1.1. Laurie asked Kadie if, because the Monterey Bay Power Project was going to be the emphasis of this year's meeting, when that topic comes up, will Das keep us informed so that we can help in any way to let the community know. Will the topic be publicized regarding how people can be involved, via a webinar or a zoom meeting? Kadie said she will ensure that Das knows our concern and will keep us informed.
- 5.3.1.2. Karl Hutterer announced his retirement from the Board. Everyone thanked him for his invaluable leadership and sage advice. Karl stated that it has been a pleasure to serve on MCS and he believes that it is a remarkable organization and a model for other community organizations. Karl will attend the next annual meeting as a member.
- 5.3.1.3. Jason stated that we can use this Zoom link for future meetings.

6. Additional Committee Reports

- 6.1 Mission Heritage Trail Association/Safe Passage (Ericka Sharghi)
6.1.1 See Section 4.5 above
- 6.2 Newsletter (Jean Yamamura)
6.2.1 Decision not to issue a newsletter (see Section 5.3.1 above)
- 6.3 Architectural Design Review (Hugh Twibell) absent
6.3.1 Nothing to discuss
- 6.4 Parking & Traffic (Jason Saltoun-Ebin)
6.4.1 Nothing to discuss
- 6.5 Land Use Committee (Kevin Snow)
6.5.1 Nothing to discuss
- 6.6 Membership (Laurie Guitteau)
6.6.1 Laurie asked how our membership numbers compare this year from last year. The sense was that not that many donate at the meeting, and that since we have so much money in our account now, we don't need to worry about it.

6.7 Fire Committee (Ray Smith)

6.7.1 Ray stated that there has been no contact return from the fire department so he doesn't don't know what the status is

6.8 Website (Alex Feldwinn)

6.8.1 Nothing to discuss

Next Board Meeting: May 5, 2020