

Mission Canyon Association

MINUTES

October 6 , 7:30 p.m.

Minutes by Ray Smith

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

2. Minutes of September 2020 meeting approved.
 - 1st: Hugh Twibell
 - 2nd: Laurie GuitteauAll approved

3. Treasurer's report for 2Q 7/1/20-9/30/30 approved (Erika)

Please see attached report.

 - 1st: Erika Sharghi
 - 2nd: Laurie GuitteauAll approved

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

Luke had two brief announcements:

On Wednesday the Museum would begin being opened for indoor exhibits. Opened Wed thru Sunday from 10am to 5 pm.

Starting Oct. 23rd there would be 6 days of Halloween Museum Mysteries (Oct. 24, 25, 30, 31 & Nov.1).
 - 4.2 Botanic Garden update (Steve)

Steve announced that the Garden is now open to guests every day from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Members can also visit during Members-Only hour 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Also, the Nursery has reopened and plants are for sale.

And, beginning Nov. 1 all trails will revert to being two way.

The potential for accepting a Verizon tower on Garden property was briefly discussed with a location near the current RAWS station a possible location. Once again, this will be pursued with Verizon.

4.3 Meeting with Das Williams

No meeting was held this past month. Kadie reported that things, including handling of red flag day, were going well. Jason reported that someone had complained about graffiti under the bridge near the Natural History Museum and this will be investigated.

4.4 Efforts to add Verizon service to the Canyon (Sandra)

No report

4.5 Historic Bridge/Mission Heritage Trail Association (Erika)

Erika reported that the bridge studies were still in the study phase and that the study team was funding technical studies.

Prior to our meeting Erika had also sent information regarding California Assembly Bills that challenges the current methodology for setting speed limits commonly known as the 85th percentile rule. These new rules could then be useful for trying to reduce the speed limit on Mission Canyon Road between the bridge and Foothill. Some discussion followed regarding the wisdom of a speed limit change and Laurie asked who had the data regarding accidents along that stretch of road. Apparently the MHTA has such data and Erika will work to share this information with our Board.

4.6 Insurance update (Nancy/Ray)

No new information reported.

5. New Business

5.1 “Safe Public Recreational Access and Public Use Ordinance” (Ray Smith)

Ray reported that via the SB Fire Safe Council he had been contacted by Sheriff Butch Arnoldi regarding a Task Force composed of various County Departments, public safety organizations, homeowner associations and the general public with the purpose of crafting a new Ordinance. A copy of the proposed ordinance “Goals and Objectives” was sent to the Board prior to our meeting. In brief the objective is “To establish a County Ordinance to control safe public recreational access and public use to our local beaches, foothill hiking trails and mountain areas.” Key concerns included “illegal parking, illegal camping, illegal campfires, fireworks, debris, litter, theft of mail, auto burglaries, theft from autos, vandalism, and human waste dumped at the various recreational areas and neighborhoods.” Among other issues, the proposed ordinance would limit overnight parking and questions for our Board were: would we wish to join the Task Force, and if so, what parking restrictions would we propose?

There was general support for the Task Force with specifics to be determined later. One question which Ray will ask of Sheriff Butch, is the proposed ordinance for the “Covid-period” only or long term beyond this unusual period?

5.2 Water Vision Santa Barbara (Ray Smith)

Ray reported that the City of Santa Barbara is developing a comprehensive water supply plan, called Water Vision Santa Barbara “to help deliver a reliable, resilient, cost-effective, and environmentally safe water supply”. Several months ago, MCA was asked to join (Jason with Ray as alternate) the “Water Vision Stakeholder Group”. Subsequently, there were several Stakeholder Group (zoom) workshops. Jason and Ray asked to make sure the vision included adequate water supply for fire prevention. Currently the month of October has been declared Water Vision Month. For more information or to register for a Lunch and Learn session, visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterVisionMonth or call (805)564-5396.

Discussion included Steve briefly describing the Garden’s water source and Selden asking about water rates. By law, Mission Canyon water rates are now the same as for city folk for similar services.

More Old Business

Nancy was asked for a brief update on the status of SCE’s work on Tunnel Trail. She reported that things were going as well as expected. As watchdogs, her committee has the attention of SCE and relevant City, County, State and Federal agencies. SCE is working the first phase quickly to avoid the rainy season. Subsequent phases will take more time, require environmental review with public input, and could take a year or so. Her committee requested permission to check SCE’s work and were told, “no.” Selden noted that the Planning Department was planning an inspection tour and he hoped the committee could find a way to accompany their inspection tour. He also noted that SCE has worked to remove the seeds of invasive species from the berm material. Laurie thanked the committee for the video information they had posted. All expressed thanks for the excellent job Nancy’s committee was doing.

Jason inquired about the possibility of an MCA News Letter. After some discussion, Ray suggested the possibility of a post card mailing instead of a News Letter emphasizing the MCA’s newly designed Web Site as a place for our community to gain up-to-date information. He also complimented Alex for the new design (see 6.8 below)

6. Additional Committee Reports

6.3 Architectural Design Review (Hugh Twibell)

Hugh reported that things have been relatively quiet during the covid-period. There followed a meandering discussion concerning the “project” at the corner of Tunnel & Montrose. Some points from this discussion:

Apparently, there was unpermitted excessive grading, some within the dripline of an oak. County Grading Department has inspected but what transpired was not clear.

The small stone towers placed along Tunnel Road were originally too close to the pavement and were required to move further back from the road.

Planning Department has also been involved because of much unpermitted disturbance.

6.8 Website (Alex Feldwinn)

Alex discussed the rationale for the redo of the MCA website. It was moved to the WordPress content management system. This will enable us to more quickly and easily update the website, as well as allow multiple editors to have access. The simple WYSIWYG editor should make it easy for anyone with access to contribute to the site. He also requested folks contribute Mission Canyon photos for possible inclusion on the website.

Next Board Meeting: The next board meeting will be Monday November 2nd to avoid conflict with election day.