

**Mission Canyon Association
MINUTES**

11/2/21, 7:30 p.m.

Minutes by Alex Feldwinn

1. Call to order & introductions (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, Kevin Snow,
 - 1.3. Guests: Luke Swetland, Steve Windhager, Fred Sweeney, Romani Moreno, Kadie McShirley

2. Minutes of October Meeting Approved
 - 1st: Ray Smith
 - 2nd: Hugh TwibellAll approved

3. County Update: Supervisor Das Williams/Kadie McShirley
 - No big updates
 - St. Mary's Seminary is still being discussed

4. Museum of Natural History Update: Luke Swetland
 - Quiet during the week; school groups on site 2 mornings per week (hope to go back to 4 days/week in the Spring); SBCC Astronomy students on site 4 evenings/week.

We are back open 6 days per week – Wed. through Mon., 10:– 5:00.

Next big event is our very popular Folk & Tribal Arts Marketplace on the first weekend in December – I will have more details at the December MCA meeting.

The last two HVAC units for the Collections & Research Center are to be delivered and installed at the end of this week, construction fencing in CRC drive is down, and the Contractor's trailer and lay-down area in the parking lot will stay until the end of the month.

5. Botanic Garden Update: Steve Windhager
 - Applied to the county to change their conditional use permit so they could have 130,000 attendees this year. Just got a planner. They will not surpass the 110,000 by that much, most likely 5,000. They will not be able to get back to them until early next year, which is after the time they need the additional allocation. If it does not get approved then they will have to subtract the numbers for next year.

Meeting with Nancy and Bob Malloy to get a safe walking path on Garden grounds to get people off Mission Canyon road. The Bucket Brigade and the county have been working on some of these public /private projects in Montecito. Abe of the Bucket Brigade said that these projects can get expensive.

This would run from the “Y” of Mission Canyon Rd and Tunnel, to the exit of the parking lot on the Garden grounds.

Hugh requested that the gardens make a small path between Tunnel and Mission Canyon in the same Y area while they do the project.

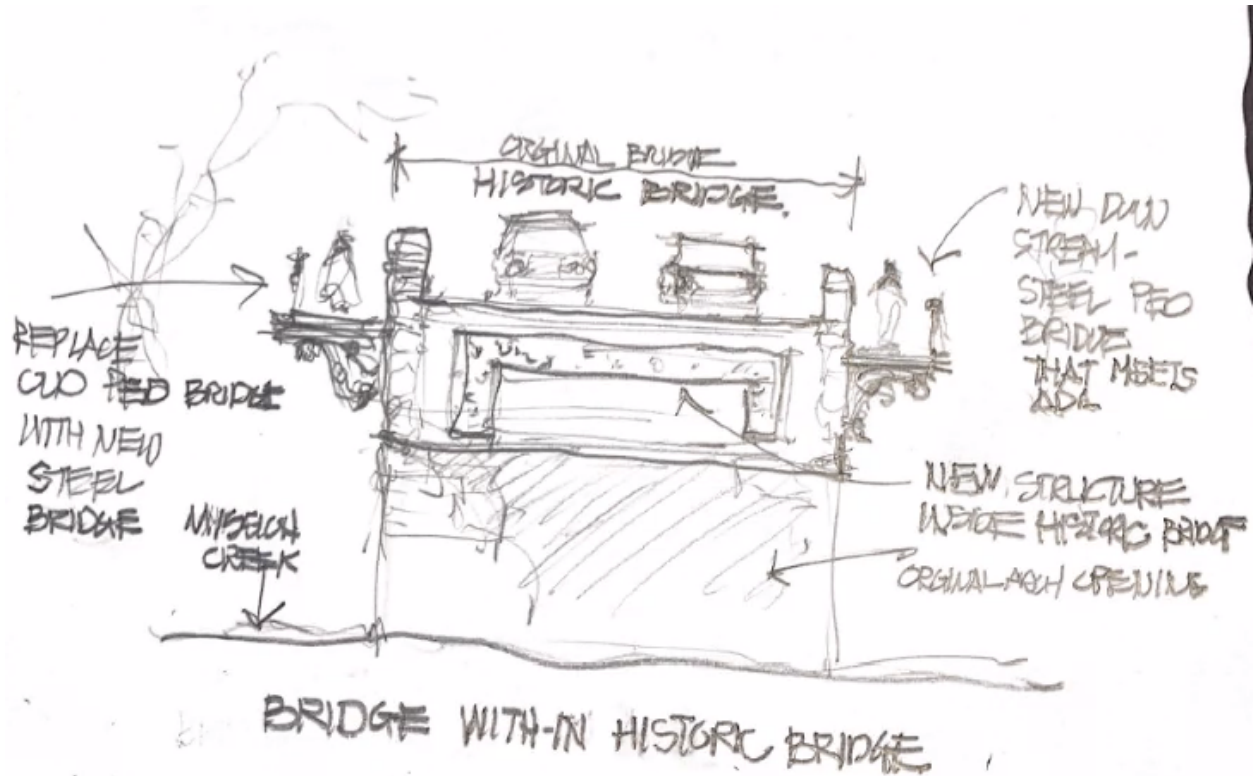
They will go through a full planning process and the MCA will be able to comment on the path and surface.

6. Treasurer’s report (if needed): Erika Sharghi
N/A

7. New Business

7.1. Update form Mission Heritage Trails Association (MHTA) - Fred Sweeney

- Bridge has been hit twice during the last rain but it has already been repaired
- The local chapter of the Sierra Club is supporting MHTA
- COAST (Coalition for Sustainable Transportation) is also supporting MHTA
- They are starting to have people sign the petition to say that they support MHTA. They are getting a lot of these from people who are using the lawn that are from all over and many are young people.
- Another option is to preserve the bridge but dig out the middle and then reinforce the center and add on pedestrian bridge
- In the beginning they thought about adding two pedestrian ways that are not attached to the bridge. But CalTrans would not fund separate pedestrian bridges so this idea was dropped. They had to give the money back because they now do not have a plan.
- The problem now is: where will the money come from?
- One problem is that you need to be able to get cars across the bridge while it is being repaired so that people can get out of the Canyon in case of emergency.



8. Committee Reports

- 8.1. Mission Canyon Brush Cleanup and Chipping: Ray Smith
 - N/A
- 8.2. Newsletter: Jean Yamamura
 - N/A
- 8.3. Architectural Design Review: Hugh Twibell
 - N/A
- 8.4. Parking & Traffic: Jason Saltoun-Ebin
 - N/A
- 8.5. Land Use Committee: Kevin Snow
 - N/A
- 8.6. Membership: Laurie Guitteau
 - N/A
- 8.7. Fire Committee: Ray Smith and Selden Edner
 - There have been a couple of bear incidents in the community, Ray will send out an email of what to do about this.
- 8.8. Website: Alex Feldwinn
 - N/A
- 8.9. Tunnel Trail Working Group: Nancy Weiss/Selden Edner
 - The Appeal

- There has been little action regarding the SCE Appeal this month since we filed. Neither the County Planning & Development Dept nor SCE has been in touch to formally discuss the Appeal or when the Appeals might be scheduled in front of the Planning Commission. Similarly, Friends of Mission Canyon has not been contacted.
- Consultants Hired
- The expert consultants on watersheds, Pacific Watershed Consultants, have been hired and have given some preliminary comments on the SCE proposed project and are working on a fuller report.

Budget

- At its October Board meeting, the MCA Board approved up to \$7,000 to support the Appeal. To date, only the Appeal filing fee of \$669.06 has been expended by MCA. The next expense anticipated will be to share the cost of the consultants, exact number TBD based on their invoice most likely in November or December.
- Funding Agreement (for Evacuation and Circulation Projects at the Trailhead and Upper Tunnel Road, related to the Appeal but not tied to the SCE Permit)
- In early October, Supervisor Das Williams sent an email to SCE flagging the problematic issues raised by MCA and County Counsel. My understanding is County Counsel and Planning & Development have offered some new language to SCE. Kadie McShirley is following up to see what the status is in this area.
- SCE Activity in the Canyon
- Last week, SCE had a few workers on Tunnel Trail clearing debris/doing routine maintenance after our recent rain. Chris Schmuckal has asked them to alert the County when they do future work of any kind.
- Marc and I also noted what seemed to be some recent survey work very close to Mission Creek (Road Areas 1 - 2) under one of the largest sidecast/dumping areas.
- And, just today, the County and I received notice that SCE will be doing additional survey work with two new contractors surveying the site re habitat and noise (ostensibly related to construction/clean up activities).
- Next Steps
- With the help of Marc Chytilo, we will work up a list of areas we want SCE to address in preparation to share with SCE, and if no traction there, with the Planning Commission when they hear the two Appeals (in January, at the earliest). SCE always has the option to approach us to resolve the Appeals without the Planning Commission's involvement.

8.10. MHTA/Historic Bridge Update

- See Fred's notes from New Business

Next Board Meeting: 7:30 pm on December 7, 2021, via Zoom