

**Mission Canyon Association
MINUTES**

February 1, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Minutes by Darby 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, Kevin Snow, Laurie Guitteau, Nancy Weiss, Ray Smith and Seldon Edner
 - 1.2. Board Members Absent: Jean Yamamura
 - 1.3. Guests: Luke Swetland, Steve Windhager, Kadie McShirley, and Mark Chytilo

2. Minutes of November Meeting Approved

1st: Nancy Weiss
2nd: Seldon Edner
All approved

Minutes of January Meeting Approved

1st: Nancy Weiss
2nd: Seldon Edner
All approved

3. County Update: Supervisor Das Williams/Kadie McShirley

AB 43 is possible for reducing speed limits.

(Assembly Bill 43 It. gives cities more autonomy in reducing the speed limit of certain roadways. This might be a good time to write a letter to County Supervisors and/or City Council supporting a speed reduction on Mission Canyon Road and on Foothill Road (HW192). For years, MC residents have been complaining about how fast the cars are driving. Please add to February's BoD Mtg agenda.)

Need to meet a minimum density to post a speed limit. Mission Canyon may qualify for the safety corridor but the details will not be out for a couple of years.

Puesta Del Sol 25 MPH will be the only street that has a change in speed limit.

Overhead lighting appeared in Mission Canyon and it was very sudden. Public works said that they replaced the other bulbs with LEDs that made them brighter, checking to see if they can put on shielding.

Below foothill up to the fire station not sure if they are new or not.

Asked Kadie to look into the lights on the water tank that are on all night.

Meeting with Fish and Wildlife on Thursday to talk about mission canyon creek.

4. Museum of Natural History Update: Luke Swetland

Email:

After closing for just over two weeks, we reopened last Wednesday (the 26th) for visitation.

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

As in January, we have a quiet level of attendance during the week and average attendance on weekends.

School group visits are on site 2 – 3 mornings per week.

SBCC Astronomy students on site 4 evenings/week.

5. **Botanic Garden Update: Steve Windhager**

Underway in the backcountry, 4.5 acre Children's Garden, opening in June. Lower gate in Tunnel closed; working on getting it open.

You can find out more about it <https://www.sbbg.org/the-backcountry>

Still waiting to hear back on their CUP numbers. They will tell them if they can have the number they did in 2021. If not approved they have to remove the numbers from this year's numbers. Have been working on this since August. The county said they thought that it would be approved. The Garden would have shut down in December if they thought it was not going to get approved.

Will have timed-ticketing starting in the spring. This will help make sure the parking lot is not too full.

Garden is putting in a composting toilet. Has put in a permit to county staff and they will decide if it needs to go to BAR. They will not be doing more than 49 cubic ft of grading so do not need a permit. It will be located in the area around the maze (SW corner). This is the only toilet on the Tunnel side of the Garden.

The upper entrance on Tunnel Rd. will stay open. But they are trying to put on a gate that can check your membership so you will have to check in if you are coming in. This is because the lower gate is next to the kids' garden and they do not want a child to disappear.

6. **Treasurer's report (if needed): Erika Sharghi presented in January but voted on now**

The CD at 1st Republic Bank earned \$8.96 in interest and has a cash balance of \$10,026.04.

The checking account balance on 10/1 was \$42,250.21. Receipts came to \$420.00 while expenditures totaled (\$3,839.31). As of 12/31, the account balance was \$38,830.90.

Combined available cash is \$48,856.94.

A membership transacted through Paypal was refunded because the individual did not meet the membership qualification as per Bylaws (neither a resident nor owner of property in Mission Canyon).

Paid for supply of Mutt Mitts.

Paid for MarBorg services.

Paid filing fee for SCE appeal and engineering consultancy services.

1st: Nancy Weiss

2nd: Seldon Edner

All approved

First Republic CD (\$10,026.04) will mature on the 9th of Feb there is a 9 day grace period. The interest rate for renewal will be posted online on the 9th it will be roughly 0.30%. When we opened it it was 0.35%. If we wanted the same rate we would need a 18 month CD. We made \$35 last year. We are not getting much money but it is not hard to track. We do not think we will need the money in the next year.

Motion: Renew the CD for another 12

1st: Laure Guitteau

2nd: Ray Smith

All approved

7. New Business

7.1. Cal trout (Nancy Weiss and Mark Chytilo)

A group of watershed advocates is trying to declare steelhead trout as an endangered species under the CA endangered species. This would apply to Mission Canyon Creek because rainbow trout have been found in it. The steelhead use every part of the watershed. Putting them on the endangered species list opens up money to help with preservation. The historic larger runs are no longer viable because of dams. So smaller runs like mission creek are even more important. They are already on the federal endangered species act but this would give additional attention and resources to help. The federal government considers the Mission Canyon dam at the gardens as a place where they cannot pass. But there is a population above the gardens so there may be a resident population that stays above the dam and never goes to the ocean. This population has been there for at least 15 years and flourished when they would open the tunnel and at the bridge and let out water.

If they are on the federally endangered species, CA will have some redundancies but it might let us protect the steelhead above the dam.

The Garden is trying to find a way to modify the dam so that fish can pass. The initial study that was done by NOAA did not find a feasible option but Garden has asked them to go in and look again. They might be able to modify the dam to make it work. But are still exploring their options.

The friends of MissionCanyon are trying to find a way to let more water through the tunnel (tunnel from Gibraltar to the trail). Currently the city is not willing to release the water that they have. Friends of Mission Canyon would like this water to be left in the water shed instead of used for human use.

7.2 Heritage Trail Association

Highlights

Advocating for road and bridge deficiencies

Safe path for bike and people in Mission Canyon corridor

Walk to highlight problems

Received endorsements from COAST, SB bikes, and the Sierra Club

Published walking guide that shows historical areas of interest in the corridors.

They want MCA to support them at the institutional membership rate: \$500.

Will continue to work on ways of improving the corridor including undergrounding utilities, remove the barbed wire at the reservoir.

SB city council will start a working group Eric Freedman Krinten Snedin (these are city council people look up names) will lead the committee. Have started a committee to determine how to have a safer walking path on the Mission Canyon corridor and alleviate problems with traffic flow. Will get started by August. The Heritage Foundation supports this group.

MHTA wants bicycle and pedestrian path on both sides of mission canyon

Motion: To join the Mission Heritage Trails Association at the institutional level.

1st: Ray

2nd: Seldon

Ayes: All but Kevin

Nays: Kevin

Cell phone service (mission canyon - Ray)

Garden is not looking into this anymore. No one has contacted them and the only location that they thought would work for the neighbors was a no-go with the Botanical Garden staff.

We might want to ask for them to put on the small repeaters on the poles.

Might try to go to Verizon because they have the worst service in the canyon.

Can we raise this again at the fire council meeting and see what they say.

7.5

Motion: MCA will write a letter of support of the Cal Trout petition to list the southern steelhead under the CA endangered species act.

1st: Lauri

2nd: Kevin

All approved

Nancy will draft it and send it to Jason

Supporters:

Watershed alliance

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

Coastal Ranches Conservancy

Santa Barbara Surfrider

Santa Barbara Audubon

Goleta Coast Audubon Society

Gaviota Coast Conservancy

Urban Creeks Council

Channel Islands Restoration

CalTrout

LWV of SB

EDC

Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter

CEC

Bucket Brigade

Explore Ecology

Los Padres Forest Watch

Chumash Barbareno Band

Has 17 different organizations. It existed years ago and is not getting resurrected to compare what is happening in different watersheds. We could join the group. When we are cleaning up Mission Canyon creek they could also help us. They have lawyers that could help us when issues come up. Nancy would be our representative from MCA if we joined. There is not a financial ask from us to join

the group. It is about support and writing letters. We will be able to decide on each issue individually.

The Community plan supports the idea of designating mission canyon creek as environmentally sensitive habitat which is in line with this

Motion: We join the watershed alliance.

1st: Darby

2nd: Kevin

All approved

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

- Review a couple final plans
- The house on the corner Tunnel and Montrose brought in several trucks and dumped it in the drainage ditch almost filling it in. Hugh reported them to Planning and Development. He has \$60,000 in fines but nothing is stopping him. Kadie will try to look into it to see if there is something that Das can do.

8.4. Parking & Traffic: Jason Saltoun-Ebin

- N/A

8.5. Land Use Committee: Kevin Snow

- N/A

8.6. Membership: Laurie Guitteau

- We usually send this out in Jan. Laurie will be gone in March and April so someone else will need to do the inputting of who pays

8.7. Fire Committee: Ray Smith and Selden Edner

- Fire safe council is raising funds for a regional wildfire mitigation program. They have gotten a grant to start it and will raise more as they go.
- Want to integrate all the community wildfire plans (Ray will send me an email)
- They want us to be part of this with our wildfire protection plan

8.8. Website: Alex Feldwinn

- N/A

8.9. Tunnel Trail Working Group: Nancy Weiss/Selden Edner

- There is a revised funding agreement that will go from the county to SCE to see if we can get the money for improvements. The county has backed us up that any agreements they make will not protect SCE in the future from damages that we do not know about yet.
- The hearing for the appeal will be sometime in the spring but no date set yet.

- Habitat restoration plan is still underway; they were supposed to have a draft by last November but no one has seen it yet. We want the whole watershed area not just the side castings.

8.10. MHTA/Historic Bridge Update

- N/A

Next Board Meeting: 7:30 pm on March 1, 2022, via Zoom