

**Mission Canyon Association**  
**MINUTES**  
**8/1/23, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Minutes by Darby Feldwinn**

1. Call to order & introductions (Nancy Weiss)
  - 1.1. Board Members Present: Alex Feldwinn, Darby Feldwinn,, Hugh Twibell, Hutch Axilrod, Jason Saltoun-Ebin,, Nancy Weiss, and Seldon Eder
  - 1.2. Board Members Absent: Gustave Agredano, Jean Yamamura, Kevin Snow
  - 1.3. Guests: Luke Swetland, **Steve Windhager, Kadie McShirley, Ray Smith**
2. Minutes of July Meeting Approved
  - 1<sup>st</sup>: Hutch Axilrod
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Seldon EderAll approved
3. County Update: Supervisor Das Williams/Kadie McShirley  
Public works sent out a letter to Tunnel Road residents about vegetation management. They sent out a blanket letter to everyone. Kadie is working on finding out which areas are actually a problem.

Selden has also contacted Public Works so that the County will also clear this area. But currently their machine is broken and they are awaiting parts. Once they get this they will come up and do some of their clearing.

Tunnel and Andante Rd. two port-a-potties were sitting there for months and Public Works just removed them (this was an out-of-town company (United) not Marborg)

4. Museum of Natural History Update: Luke Swetland (via email)

*"We have camps for three more weeks here at the Museum.*

*Butterflies Alive is open through September 4.*

*On any given day over 1,000 butterflies are flying, representing more than two dozen tropical species from Costa Rica.*

*And in the Gladwin Planetarium, we have just unveiled our new Evans & Sutherland Digistar 7 dual-projection system with 4K resolution – please do come and enjoy a spectacular high-def look at the universe. Show times are listed on our website.*

*Other than that, we are just pleasantly busy this Summer."*

5. Botanic Garden Update: Steve Windhager  
They are doing camps that are doing well.

Hugh and Nancy talked with Steve about dead trees that are on the 1100 block of Tunnel Road. They are removing the small fuels but leave the trunks that are less of a

fire danger. They are also generally working on fire clearance on Tunnel and Mission Canyon.

They are storing mulch at the old director's house on Tunnel Road. They are going to put in screening (trees) so that it is less visible and they will start storing less there.

In August they are going to start making a new Eastside trail from the nursery area to the weather station. This will be approx. a 2.5 mile trail. They plan to open it to the public this year on national trails day (June of next year). They will be using hand tools and have water in case of any problems.

They will eventually build a house in the burnt down director's house but probably not until 2027.

They are trying to maintain at least 4 ft off the road so that people that are walking can be off the road.

Non-members have to have reservations at all times. They try to leave room for members but on weekends, during the summer, even if you have a membership, you might not be able to get in so you should make a reservation. People are told to get a reservation on their website. The word about this is getting out and they are having fewer problems with this.

The gate on Tunnel Rd. is not yet open. They have the conduit and electrical line. They are working with the gate company on installing the card reader. As soon as it is in they will let the MCA know as well as members.

They are also working on a traffic/circulation Request for Proposals where they look into what is happening in their parking lot and circulation elements. Steve will share the RFP with the MCA one he has a draft to get input to ensure the core questions will get answered.

6. Treasurer's report: Selden Edner

**Mission Canyon Association  
Treasurer's Report, July 31, 2023**

Accounts in banks:

Montecito Bank and Trust (checking)	\$19,538.45
Union Bank / now U S Bank (checking)	\$21,675.08
First Republic / now Chase Bank (C D)	\$20,465.21
10 month @ 4.5% APR, matures 12-9-23 (interest estimated)	

Total checking + CDs	<hr/> \$61,678.74
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Memberships 5/1/23 to 7/31/23 26 @ \$40.00

Outstanding Billings:

Philadelphia Insurance (for directors' and officers' liability)	\$1,284.00
Searle Financial (for QuickBooks setup and training)	\$233.75
Marborg (Potty + trash and recycling at trailhead)	\$298.41

Explored CD options from Montecito Bank and Trust. "Access" CD is currently available with a 7-month term, 4.29% interest. Allows one withdrawal without penalty, and unlimited additions.

Motion: Approve Seldon for one-time payment of \$900-\$1100 for training and then recurring payment of \$55/month that will be automatically deducted from our checking account.

1st: Darby Feldwinn  
2nd: Hutch Axelrod  
All approved

Motion: Accept the Treasurer's Report (above)

1<sup>st</sup>: Darby Feldwinn  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Hutch Axelrod  
All approved

## 7. New Business

### 7.1. Vote to elect Jason Jewell to the MCA Board of Directors

Motion: Elect Jason Jewell to the MCA Board

1<sup>st</sup>: Jason Saltoun-Ebin  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Seldon Edner  
All approved

He is our representative to Foothill and below.

Jason J. has gone to some of the Mission Heritage Trails Association meetings and might be interested in serving as our liaison to that organization.

### 7.2. Discussion on possible vote on next steps with Southern California Edison

- Nancy (as a Chair and representative of the Working group) has worked with Larry Chung (government relations) to try to work things out.
- California Fish and Wildlife, SB County, and MCA and are all working to hold SCE accountable for their grading on Tunnel trail.
- In their last working group meeting they felt that SCE is heading in the right direction but they still have not given the working Group a concrete plan (Habitat Restoration Plan plus environmental analysis document). The highest priorities of the working group are: habitat, minimizing silting in the creek, safety, recreation experience, and fire risk. These priorities are shared with SCE.
- SCE rescinded their permit application for Road Areas 10-16 (which we had appeals on with Friends of Mission Canyon) therefore, they are mute. Instead, they did much of the work under County permission for "storm cleanup". They cleared rocks and debris compacted the road, but they did

not do any of the drainage work that we would have liked them to do to avoid over silting Mission Creek.

- We will be able to ask for our appeal money back (around \$600). Nancy will follow up on this.
- We have come a long way on the incident site. Wanted environmental review on the creek and road and entire area and they will do this.
- Given the HRP and CEQA document are not yet out it is unlikely they will be able to do work on the trail this summer or fall.

Back on the table is \$300,000 for Tunnel Road and the Trail Head improvement projects to compensate for their damages. The Working Group has signaled that they should write this up - they welcome this. At one time Supervisor Williams thought that he could find 20% matching funds, but that was about 2 years ago, so not sure if it is still there.

Not sure if they are done with weed abatement. SCE might not do the area with side casting until they do the work with the creek.

The Garden is removing invasive pampas grass from the top of the watershed. They are only targeting invasive species that they think they can get rid of.

Nancy will let us know the next Working Group meeting date and the entire board is always welcome to attend if they are interested.

## 8. Committee Reports

### 8.1. Mission Canyon Brush Cleanup and Chipping:

- Firemen are almost done with their work on the Tunnel Trail. They may do some tree trimming on Tunnel Rd. when they leave.

### 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:

- N/A

### 8.7. Fire Committee: Ray Smith and Selden Edner

- N/A

### 8.8. Website: Alex Feldwinn

- Paypal is back so people can pay online.

### 8.9. Tunnel Trail Working Group: Nancy Weiss and Selden Edner

- See above

### 8.10. MHTA/Historic Bridge Update:

- N/A

Next Board Meeting: 7:30 pm on September 5, 2022, via Zoom