



**Mission Canyon Association
MINUTES
Sep 5, 2023 7:30 PM**

Minutes by Alex Feldwinn

1. Call to order & introductions (Jason Saltoun-Ebin)
 - 1.1. Board Members Present: Alex Feldwinn, Darby Feldwinn, Hugh Twibell, Hutch Axilrod, Jason Jewel, Jason Saltoun-Ebin, Kevin Snow, and Nancy Weiss
 - 1.2. Board Members Absent: Gustave Agredano, Jean Yamamura, and Seldon Edner
 - 1.3. Guests: Steve Windhager and Kadie McShirley

2. Minutes of August Meeting Approved
 - 1st: Hugh Twibell
 - 2nd: Hutch AxilrodAll approved

3. County Update: Supervisor Das Williams/Kadie McShirley

Met with SCE, gave update on habitat restoration plan which is on schedule
CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) document will be published in September
Will pull permits in October, construction in November
On Sept 12 the board of supervisors will review the emergency storm repairs (done earlier this year) that now allows them to get up to the towers. It is worth noting that they did not do anything on the drainage. This allowed them to get what they needed (access to the tower) without having to do the restoration work at the same time.

Jason asked Kadie to look into the illegal parking that is happening next to the Mission.

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

Summer camps have wrapped up and Butterflies Alive closed this weekend.

We are now in a relatively quiet time as we await the return of school group visits starting the week of September 18 five days a week.

The roof repair work on the Library is largely complete.

We are replacing lights in the parking lot over the next three months when visitation is lowest. We are changing locations of some of the existing poles and putting existing lights that are on trees onto poles instead. We are going to use the same green downlight fixtures that we have in front of the Museum on the Puesta del Sol pedestrian pathway. The night sky guidelines for lighting in a

residential area were factored into the design process. All of the lights are on timers and will go off at or before 11 p.m. when the parking lot is secured.

Our next fun event is on Friday September 29 – the Artist’s Table dinner in the Auditorium – this dinner kicks off a two week plein air art show and sale at the Museum – this exhibition and sale is organized by Diane Waterhouse of the Waterhouse Gallery - the art will be on display in our Courtyard Gallery during regular Museum hours.

5. Botanic Garden Update: Steve Windhager
See new business.

6. Treasurer’s report (if needed):

Accounts in banks:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Montecito Bank and Trust (checking) | \$17,482.55 |
| Union Bank / now U S Bank (checking) (interest estimated, no statement available) | \$21,675.18 |
| First Republic / now Chase Bank (C D) 10 month @ 4.5% APR, matures 12-9-23 (interest estimated) | \$20,577.21 |
| Total checking + CDs | <hr/> \$61,678.84 |

Memberships 8/1/23 to 8/31/23 2 @ \$40.00=\$80.00

Outstanding Billings: None

Explored CD options from Montecito Bank and Trust and US Bank.

- Montecito Bank and Trust has the "Access" CD which is currently available with a 7-month term, and 4.29% interest. Allows one withdrawal without penalty, and unlimited additions. Helpful with flexibility if we need to move money back to checking or add as we see fit.
- US Bank has a higher rate on 7-month CDs of 4.65%, however, they don't offer any flexibility to withdraw or add to the amount without penalty.

“Assuming \$20,000 in a 7-month CD, We would earn \$501 at MB&T, and \$542 at US Bank.

In my opinion, the \$41.00 difference is not important. MB&T is a local community-oriented bank with much better customer service.

I would like to see us move our remaining balance from US Bank to MB&T. There, I like the idea of keeping about \$15,000 (our normal annual budget) plus a contingency of \$5,000 in checking and staggering around 3 short-term CDs every 3 months or so with the rest of our funds. The "Access" CDs make this an easy and risk-free strategy to execute.”

Motion: Keep \$20,000 in checking and staggering around 3 short-term CDs every 3 months or so with the rest of our funds. As well as in the long term consolidate our funds at Montecito Bank and Trust.

1st: Nancy Weiss

2nd: Kevin Snow

All approve

7. New Business

7.1. 1.1 Question and Answer with Botanic Garden Executive Director Windhager on the draft RFP Transportation, Circulation and Parking Study (see attached)

The Garden is looking to do a study to help the flow of cars, bikes, and pedestrians. Right now they are looking at what questions they want them to look at. A current draft of their questions is seen below. Steve would like the MCA to give the feedback on these questions by September 21st so that the Garden board can review them at their board meeting on September 27th. These questions will then go out to several firms for bids.



Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

RFP Transportation, Circulation & Parking Study

Project Description:

Study pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic flow within and around the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden to enhance safety and reduce conflicts between Garden visitors and neighborhood traffic.

Assess the feasibility of increasing the current annual visitation limit of 110,000 visitors annually, without adverse effect on (and hopefully improvement of) traffic, safety, or evacuation in the Mission Canyon area.

Offer options/alternatives for pedestrians, including people with diverse mobility needs, bicycle and vehicle circulation flow on Mission Canyon Road, in parking areas, and creating a unified (East/West) Garden experience for visitors, volunteers, and staff.

The Garden should serve as a model for not only a positive reciprocal relationship between humans and the rest of nature, but also between the Garden, one of the top visitation attractions in the area, and our neighborhood. We seek to maximize the transformative power of the Garden to inspire an appreciation and use of native plants as way to support biodiversity and mitigate some of the impacts of climate change by finding ways to increase annual visitation to the Garden while improving the lived experience of neighbors living near the Garden.

This physical plan should support the strategies laid out in our action plan (Grow the Native Plant Movement, Regenerate Ecosystem Health, and Build a Lasting Legacy) as well prepare our physical plant to meet the opportunities and challenges of the next 100 years of our institution.

The Consultant should recommend if it is best to undertake this research and design in phases or as part of a single report, but the recommendations should identify several phases in order to achieve full implementation if it is not possible to undertake all at once.

Background:

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's current Conditional Use Permit and Development Plan was initially approved by the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors in June 2010. Subsequent to the initial approval, several amendments/revisions have been approved by the Planning and Development Department. In 2021, the Garden exceeded its annual visitation of 110,000 by an amount of 10,180.

Amendment 21AMD-00000-00008 was approved by the Planning and Development Department to allow 130,000 visits for the year 2021. The Garden has explored operational adjustments and facility modifications to mitigate parking and accessibility challenges that need further refinement and consideration.

In 2006, as part of the EIR associated with the approval of the current master plan, a traffic study was completed that predicted that the annual visitation at the Garden would reach 150,000 annually by 2026 (see 2009 EIR, Traffic Section, and Appendix F) with less than

3. **Qualifications:** Provide a statement of qualifications that responds to the project background given above. You are invited to include examples of projects with similar characteristics.
4. **Personnel:** Provide a list of personnel and their positions who would be committed to this project. Provide specific information as to their experience on projects similar to this one.
5. **Consultants:** List professional consultants outside your firm whom you propose would provide services not available in your firm. Provide specific information documenting their work on similar projects.
6. **Project Schedule:** Please include a schedule that proposes timing for design services, milestones and completion time frames. Project phases, as applicable, should be included.
7. **Fee Breakdown:** Provide your fee structure as it relates to your approach to the project.
8. **References:** Provide references for your work that are similar in scope, design and budget.
9. **Questions and Clarifications:** Please send all questions to Steve Windhager at swindhager@sbbotanicgarden.org no later than Friday, September 29th at 5 pm.
10. **Due date:** Submittals are due via PDF, Dropbox link or equivalent on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 no later than 5 pm PDT to Steve Windhager at swindhager@sbbotanicgarden.org.

Exhibits:

Director's Action Letter dated May 31, 2023
2009 SBBG EIR, [Traffic Section](#), and [Appendix F](#)
Approved 2010 [Development plan](#) & 2017 modified [phases](#)
[March 2019 Updated Conditions of Approval](#)
[2016 Evacuation Study](#)
2022 Proposed Parking Plan, [Phase 1](#), [Final](#)

significant impacts to local roadways and intersections. This study should be reviewed to ascertain if the assumptions made nearly 20 years ago remain accurate today and what changes could be made to the plan to further reduce impacts on traffic conditions.

Considerations:

- What are the viable options for public and staff parking given the historic nature and limitations at the Garden, safety concerns, and the need to restrict access as required by the CUP?
 - Is there a way to address both neighbor and Garden concerns while keeping the current traffic flow (north to south) to the main parking lot, with the large vehicle turnaround at the south end as approved in the 2010 Development plan?
 - What are the strengths and weaknesses of the current proposed plan of entering at the south (with a large vehicle turnaround) and exiting at the north? What additional problems could this cause which have not been considered?
 - Is there a way to shift more (or potentially all) visitor parking off-site that would be economically viable (in cost and willingness of visitors to use), while addressing safety and fire evacuation concerns?
 - What other considerations or models should be incorporated into our planning to improve safety and traffic flow in and around the Garden?
- Once a new configuration of visitor vehicular access to the Garden is determined, is there a viable method to allow the Garden to remain open to visitors, or at least to members, while the parking lot is being redeveloped?
- Explore an effective way to reduce or eliminate the need for on-site parking for staff, either temporarily (during construction of east side structures) or permanently (allowing the Garden to reduce or eliminate much of the parking on the east side). This could involve an off-site parking location and some option associated with shuttle services and/or electric bikes. Offer alternative models for consideration.
- How can pedestrian traffic flow between the two sides of the Garden and throughout the east side of the Garden be improved for pedestrians as well as those with different physical abilities? What are the options to minimize or eliminate interaction between vehicles and pedestrians?
- What improvements should be considered to improve the experience of the visitor?
- What other improvements should be considered to improve the experience of roadway use not associated with Garden visitation?
- Other considerations proposed by the respondent?

Scope of Work

The proposal shall include a conceptual Scope of Work to demonstrate knowledge and expertise in providing data/studies required to achieve project goals. The selected consultant, in consultation with the Garden, shall develop a detailed Scope of Work and schedule of deliverables.

RFP Instructions and Format:

1. Cover letter: Cover letter should include, but not be limited to, a brief summary of the respondent's qualifications and your approach to the project.
2. Conceptual Scope of Work: Provide sufficient detail to demonstrate respondent's expertise and knowledge to accomplish the project's goals.

- 8.1. Mission Canyon Brush Cleanup and Chipping:
 - 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:
 - N/A
- 8.7. Fire Committee: Ray Smith and Selden Edner
 - N/A
- 8.8. Website: Alex Feldwinn
 - N/A
- 8.9. Tunnel Trail Working Group: Nancy Weiss and Selden Edner
 - N/A
- 8.10. MHTA/Historic Bridge Update: Jason Jewel
 - Jason J. reached out to them to let them know he would be our liaison but has not heard back yet.

Next Board Meeting: 7:30 pm on October 3, 2023, via Zoom