

Newport Bay Conservancy

Board of Directors' Meeting May 16, 2012, OPEN SESSION, Back Bay Science Center

Approved June 6th 2012

Call to Order

Present: Debbie Moore, Rita McCoy, Jack Keating, Holly Fuhrer, Peter Fuhrer, Rob Ellis, Dennis Kelly, Laurel Mann, Cecelia Patterson.

Absent: Steve Bender, Kristine Simon, Peter Bryant, Anthony Christopher, Catherine Hollinger.

President Debbie Moore called the Open Session to order at 8:20 pm with a request for Committee reports:

Education Committee

Dennis Kelly reported that he is setting up the Naturalist Training that is scheduled for ten weeks, September 27 – December 13, Thursdays 6:30-9:00pm and Saturdays 9:00am-noon. Patrick will still be involved in running the program. A Board member is required to attend every session. At this time, very few recruits are signed up. There have been no one day Associate Training sessions this year, which is usually the feeder for the program.

Dennis introduced Mary Bishop, an NBC Naturalist who graduated in the Class of 2011, who presented a proposal to the Board for a position entitled "Information Administrator". In her year-long association with the NBC as a volunteer, she has noticed "the need for a fundamental re-evaluation and restructuring of the Conservancy's information and its handling." She believes that she has the qualifications to accomplish this and would like to be hired to do it. Notwithstanding recognition of the need for such a task to be accomplished, Debbie informed MS Bishop that the NBC is not in a position to hire any new employees at this time.

Rob Ellis reported that he is working to establish a college-based program teaching students to protect the Bay through diverse approaches involving terrestrial restoration (plants) and marine life research (bivalve study). He would also like students to be involved in monitoring programs in the Bay.

Strategic Planning Team

Holly Fuhrer reported for the Team, headed by Howard Cork and including Cecelia Patterson and Catherine Hollinger, that is conducting an extensive evaluation of NBC's current resources (finances, volunteers, facilities, partnerships) versus its primary programs and goals (education, restoration, research and monitoring, and watershed) for the purpose of creating a workable

action plan for the next six months and for the next three years. The Team was assembled as the next step in our Strategic Planning process resulting from the Retreat in February. A handout describing the Team's progress was distributed. Holly explained that in order for this effort to be worthwhile and successful, it will require the full understanding, support, and participation of the Board. Howard and the Team have requested a Special Board Meeting to be held on June 6th at which all findings and recommendations will be presented for the Board's review, discussion and approval. They are hoping that members and volunteers will also feel welcome to attend the Open Session.

Reports from Research, Education, and Strategic Planning committees have been submitted and are to be attached to the May Board minutes.

Volunteer/ Program Coordinator

Holly Fuhrer brought up the fact that Patrick McCaffrey, our Volunteer/Program Coordinator, will be taking two weeks off at the end of July/early August. Since he is our only employee now and often the contact person and liaison between the NBC, our partners, and the public, as well as the volunteers, it seems important to organize coverage of his position and the various activities that have to continue while he is absent (e.g., kayak tours). Holly offered to organize this task, find out what needs to be covered while he is away, make a schedule, and line up volunteers. We already have several people willing to cover for him but they need to be trained by him.

Jack Keating made brief announcements of several on-going issues and activities regarding the NBC. He then resigned from the Board. He stated that he would send out a statement to the membership.

Cecelia made a motion to adjourn the Open Meeting. Holly seconded. Unanimously approved.

Board Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Minutes recorded by Holly Fuhrer for Rita McCoy, Secretary