

**NEWPORT BAY CONSERVANCY**  
MINUTES, JANUARY 20, 2016

Attending: Board members Peter Bryant, Frances Cork, Donna Flower, Liz Flynt, Nancy Gardner, Molly Stallcup, Jean Whitaker, Danielle Zacherl, Dick Zembal; Past President Peter Fuhrer; Guests Michelle Clemente, Howard Cork, Bettina Eastman, Kathleen Kort

Meeting called to order at 2:10 and went into closed session with board members to approve the minutes of the December 16 Closed Session. Minutes approved on motion by Zembal, second by Flynt, Zacherl abstaining.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Query by Zembal re Brown Act. Discussion: NBC under Robert's Rules of Order and California Corporate Code.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** on motion by Stallcup, second by Flynt

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Bryant meets weekly with Operations Director. He reminded everyone of the upcoming symposium on El Nino.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Flower presented the operating budget and asked committee chairs to start preparing budget requests for upcoming budget. It was agreed that the Treasurer's Report would be posted on NBC website.

**CURRENT BUSINESS**

1. **Newport Beach's Proposed Coyote Management Policy**--moved by Gardner, seconded by Zembal to send a letter of support. Discussion as to further action by NBC such as an article in Tracks or a speaker. It was decided to wait and see what actions the city proposes before determining further action by NBC.
2. **Board Annual Retreat**--March 3, 9-4 were the date and time selected, site to be determined, Howard Cork to facilitate. President Bryant and Past Presidents Fuhrer and Cork will contact Bo Glover to see if he will attend. (He has offered to hold focus groups among the various NBC stakeholders to help in strategic planning.) Among the topics for potential discussion at the retreat: committee responsibilities, mission and vision, review of 2015 goals and determination of 2016 goals and priorities, development of better follow-up methods regarding the goals.
3. **Styrofoam Ban**--President Bryant suggested working to expand Newport Beach's styrofoam ban to other cities. This would be led by the Advocacy Committee. After discussion, it was agreed to postpone a decision until the retreat.
4. **Naturalists Nights**--Director Cork stated that irregular scheduling has led to a drop-off in attendance, reducing the opportunities for volunteers to interact. She urged monthly meetings between January and June or July, on Thursdays since that's the night for Naturalist training in the other months. Ms. Eastman felt that the Naturalist science training is excellent, but that there could be more information for volunteers on the interpretation and also on the organization. Among the suggestions for improving the meetings besides a regular schedule: include a more social aspect to the meetings, let the volunteers help set the agenda, have more differentiated meetings such as kayakers' night, better publicizing of the meetings. Other suggestions should be sent to the Operations direction. Also

suggested was some form of electronic communication among volunteers such as a closed FaceBook page.

## **CONTINUING BUSINESS**

### **Committees:**

1. **Research:** Director Zacherl presented the Call for Proposals for mini-grants related to El Nino and asked that NBC use the \$3,000 remaining from the previous round. Treasurer Flower moved to place the \$3,000 in the 2016 budget, second Zembal, passed unanimously.
2. **Restoration:** Director Zembal reported that the committee was working on plans to have a greater emphasis on salt marsh which would include greater sensitivity to salt marsh needs with work done on upland areas. The committee was also looking at the removal of sight barriers of weeds. In Big Canyon, there was work to remove non-native trees, and there needed to be coordination with CDFW in the occasional removal of a native tree for the greater good. There is also interest in Hot Dog Island where volunteers could be used to remove non-natives and plant pickleweed as habitat for Belding Savannah sparrows.
3. **Fundraising:** Director Cork reported that membership is approaching target. A follow-up reminder is going out. She feels the emphasis should be on corporate grants instead of corporate memberships. The committee will work on proposed underwriting guidelines. Past President Fuhrer is meeting with the Operations Director to review 2015 grants and determine the approach for 2016.
4. **Marketing:** The Hidden Gems brochure is being redone, but meanwhile, 1000 will be printed. It was agreed that Director Cork and Past President Fuhrer would meet and coordinate Marketing's brochure efforts with interest in updating the Franco brochure which includes a map and information on UNB. Kathy Kort is handling Tracks, and because of the late start, there will be three issues instead of four this year.
5. **Advocacy:** The committee is pursuing RAMSAR designation for UNB which would make it a wetlands of international significance. The Tijuana Slough is so designated. It is expected that there will need to be close coordination with CDFW.

### **Operations Director Report**

OD Cieslak requested a board member participate in the Annenberg Alchemy Leadership Training. Director Flynt volunteered. On January 29 at 5:30 at the Muth Center there will be a presentation by UCI students on their plan to bolster the number of NBC volunteers and corporate memberships as well as enhance the web site. This was in addition to her previously- submitted written report.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

President Bryant forwarded a request by Jack Keating to support Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks regarding the Environmental Mitigation Program associated with Measure M funds. After discussion, it was decided that there was not enough information to evaluate the request properly, so no action was taken. Director Flynt volunteered to see if she could find more information on the proposal.

**ADJOURNMENT** at 4:15