

Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends Board of Directors Meeting

Date: February 16, 2006

Location: Marriott Suites Hotel

Members Present: Regina Fodor, president, Dennis Baker, Jack Keating, Tom Mooers, Carol Starcevic, Pam Ryan and Paul Kuhn

Staff: Donna Carroll

Guests: Sue Lau, Lori Kiesser and Allen Morse

1. **The meeting was called to order** at 6:07 P.M. by president Regina Fodor. The guests were introduced to the members and staff.
2. The **minutes of the January meeting** were approved as amended.
3. The **Executive Director's Report** was reviewed. Discussion was held regarding help with fundraising and grants.
4. The **Accountant's Report** was reviewed. Jack complimented Donna on her good report.
5. Tom Mooers announced that attorney David Gerlt has been added to the **Finance Committee** and he will be helping with the review of current financial policies and recommending changes. One of these items will include how funds are invested. It is expected that some money will be spent on upkeep and repair of Interpretive Center exhibits.
6. **The Fundraising Committee** reintroduced discussion of administration expenses to be charged to restricted gifts. Dennis Baker provided us with research on the subject which indicated that a low administration fee does not correlate with efficiency in the use of donated money. Part of the administration fee is used for donor recognition and costs of fundraising. The committee will report back next month on these subjects.

A motion was passed to send the next issue of TRACKS to our usual mailing list along with a note soliciting membership. The message will indicate that future issues will be sent to members only.

7. Dennis Baker gave a detailed presentation, as the chairman of the **Advocacy Committee**, on a proposed horse arena in Santa Ana Heights. The site discussed is in county flood plain land and is being conditionally used by the city of Newport Beach and the Santa Ana Heights Equestrian Association. It is adjacent to the Delhi Channel flood control wall. The possible positive and negative aspects of an arena were presented.

At the present time the application to the California Coastal Commission is incomplete and no CEQA document has been submitted. **A motion** was passed to inform our membership of the details of the application process as it unfolds.

8. Jack gave the **Board Development** report indicating he will have firm recommendations at the next meeting.
9. **Key Board Initiatives.** Regina gave a summary of the Bay Planning Committee, which consists of board members and members at large. This committee has been meeting to discuss possible changes in the management of Upper Newport Bay. The committee has agreed that a problem exists due to lack of coordination among government agencies and limited funds. The findings of this committee will be reported to the membership at the general meeting on March 2nd. In the meantime it was suggested that we keep the membership informed of our progress through E mail, *Joe Naturalist*, our Web site or mail.

Jack presented an update on the construction and management of the Back Bay Science Center. This is another topic of concern and the committee is gathering information regarding this. Construction is scheduled to begin next month. Responsibility for the education programs is still an open question. There are problems with the transition of management of the center considering there is no water access without a paid Fish & Game representative on Shellmaker Island. Boat and Kayak tours may be resumed at another site.

10. Under **New Business**, Carol was assigned to contact Rita McCoy and Roger Mallett regarding nominations of volunteer and staff people for an award to be presented by the Environmental Nature Center.

Dennis announced that the Newport Bay Watershed Management Committee activities shall be discussed at the next meeting.

It was noted by one of the naturalists that the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve Trust had the Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends listed on their website as a "partner." This has been corrected and our name has been removed.

11. Pam Ryan was thanked for providing a fine meeting room and excellent refreshments. **The meeting was adjourned** at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul R. Kuhn, M.D., Secretary