

**Newport Bay Naturalist and Friends
Board of Directors Meeting
Back Bay Science Center
September 16, 2010**

1. Call to Order

President Blake Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

Board members present: Blake Anderson, Don Krotee, Jack Keating, Krista Sloniowski, Jerry King, Cathy Lam, and Lawrence Jones

Board members absent: Peter Bryant, Steve Bender, Larry McKenney, and Kristine Simon

Staff present: Roger Mallett, Donna Carroll

Others present: no one

2. Minutes

The minutes for August, 2010 were reviewed and approved w/o Amendments.

3. Board, Executive Director and Committee Reports

4. Board Development Committee

Committee Chair Jack Keating proposed Richard A. Wang and Laurel Mann as potential new board members. Following some discussion and background information, Jack made the motion to add these new members. The Board voted to add the new members and instructed President Anderson to assign them to committees.

Committee Chair Keating also discussed inviting Dennis Kelly and Mike Wellborn as potential new board members and advised that he would include their names on the slate for election to the board at the November Annual meeting after they have submitted their Applications for Board Membership.

5. Reports of the Treasurer and Accountant

Board was referred to the Accountant's Report provided in the packet and with no questions or corrections, the Board received the report for file.

6. Report of the Executive Director – Roger Mallett

The Executive Director referred the Board members to his report included in the packet. Without questions the Directors report was received and filed.

7. Committee Reports and Events

Sunset Celebration: Cathy Lam

The Board was referred to the promotional cards for the October 23 event and encouraged to attend and support the 'Celebration'.

Re-branding Committee – Cathy gave the committee report and indicated that a possible name change for the organization was being explored. DFG, County and City staff and members of the NBNF Advisory Board have been asked for their opinion, as a first step. The Board was advised that Jay Robinson had been contacted and the re-branding proposal had been discussed in detail with Jay adding his support.

The Board agreed that the reaction thus far was very positive and a possible change in name should be presented to the Naturalists for consideration. Board member Jones proposed that the general membership be advised with an explanation of the advantages as they related to funding and a changed function. The organizational reach related to grants and identity was also referenced.

The Board discussed a member workshop with D. Krotee and J. Keating proposing the following:

Anderson, Keating and Mallett to first contact opinion leaders to get input. A letter would then be prepared for the general membership with an invitation to an open meeting and discussion of issues.

Motion by D. Krotee, 2nd by Cathy Lam to present a suggested change in the name of the organization to the NBNF membership for consideration. Motion was approved.

If sufficient support for a change in name is heard, an amendment to our bylaws will need to be placed on the agenda for the Annual Meeting on November 4.

Big Canyon: Board member Krotee provided an up date on meetings with the City of Newport Beach related to Big Canyon. \$ 1.5 million of funding continues to be available and the City would like to implement a less ambitious project with the NBNF managing the work. The Executive Director was instructed to provide a proposal letter to the City Manager, D. Kiff related to the understanding. Board motion by D. Krotee, second by J. King to prepare the letter and have the Exec. Dir. Follow up with the City Council for Approval. Board supported the motion.

Watershed Issues: The Exec. Dir. discussed a meeting that he had with Orange County Public Works Watershed Manager Mary Anne Skorpanich to discuss support for a grant application that NBNF is submitting to the state Department of Conservation for a watershed coordinator position. Mary Anne is supportive of the proposed NBNF role. A meeting between Blake and County Supervisor Moorlach was suggested to further define roles for all parties.

8. Old Business

The CRMP: has been delayed due to lack of funding to move on projects.

Executive Directors Employment Agreement: Financial obligations are reflected in the organization's internal financial statements. Expert independent advice will be sought as needed to ensure that our 2010 Annual Report will show obligations appropriately.

Celebrate the Species Event: Board member L. Jones provided an up date to the Board as having a set date of November 20, 2010. Event will include Booths, field trips and information on endangered species, native oysters, pond turtles and have other subjects pending. Lunch will be provided to participants that include special prices for student attendees. Board member C. Lam is working with potential advertisers.

Shark Mobile: Board member Krotee reported that the City is looking at an old water quality grant that may be available for the vehicle. The estimated cost for a new vehicle is expected to be about \$70,000.00. Local automobile dealers have been requested to provide proposals. Roger needs to discuss with DFG and City tidepool staff the extent to which Sharkmobile could be used at Little Corona without interfering with the planned Sharkmobile uses or overstressing the marine life that will be on display in Sharkmobile.

Audit of the NBNF books: The Board discussed an audit and due to the cost suggested a financial management review. The Board thought this review would help make recommendations related to finances and staff issues. Further discussions will take place as information is developed.

One O.C. web site: The Board was briefed on the web site <http://www.oneoc.org/> and its use as a model for an upgraded NBNF website discussed. The DCR Committee will pursue this further.

Board Governance Issues: The Board President suggested that the Board support an oversight letter to advise the Board on matters of responsibilities, policies, procedures and financial planning. The Board consensus without a motion was that the idea was a good one that would help the Board in its governance.

9. Other Business

Request to replace current Secretary: President Anderson advised the Board of the existing Secretary's request to elect a new secretary to the Board. The issue was not resolved and will be discussed at a later Board meeting.

Proposed dues for Naturalist: Proposed dues for Naturalist: It had been brought to the attention of both Jack and Lawrence at various events that the Board should reevaluate the organization's present dues structure. After some discussion Board members Lawrence and Cathy proposed that an AdHoc Sub-Committee of the DCR/Membership Committee be formed to review memberships, class fees, and events/activities ticket costs. The committee would then report back to the Board. The Board agreed.

The President adjourned the meeting.

10. Next Board Meeting

Next Board meeting scheduled for October 21, 2010 @ 5:00 p.m.

Minutes approved at October 21, 2010 Board Meeting