

NEWPORT BAY CONSERVANCY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 16, 2013 Back Bay Science Center
OPEN SESSION

Call to Order/Roll Call

Present: Pres Howard Cork, VP Peter Fuhrer, Treas Donna Flower, Sec Holly Fuhrer, Cathy Bertot, Rob Ellis, Virginia Hayter, Rita McCoy, Angie Vazirian, Past Pres Debbie Moore

Absent with Apologies: Rita McCoy

Absent at the time of Roll Call: Peter Bryant

Attendees: Betsy Flynn, Jack Keating, Peter Ridley

Pres Cork commenced the meeting at 6:05 pm and called attention to the expanded agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the December 5, 2012 Board Meeting Open Session were presented by Sec Fuhrer. No corrections or amendments were offered. Mmbr Hayter made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mmbr Ellis. Approved unanimously.

Peter Bryant arrived at 6:08 pm.

President's Report/Matters Rising

Pres Cork announced the recent death of Jay Robinson, the son of Frank and Fran Robinson who led the original movement to preserve the Upper Newport Bay. Pres Cork has sent a sympathy note to the family on behalf of the NBC. Mr. Keating reported that there will be a Memorial Service on February 2, 2013. Mr. Robinson shared his parents' devotion to the UNB and was an unswerving supporter throughout his life.

The Watershed Coordinator Grant has now been amended by the California Department of Conservation to allow us to employ Krista Sloniowski as a contractor. It was suggested that Ms. Sloniowski make a presentation to the membership and the Board at the General Meeting planned for February.

Robin Madrid of DFG has asked if NBC would be willing to hold its monthly Board Meetings on the first Wednesday of the month rather than the third to coincide with the monthly lecture series. Staffing issues are involved in this request. Mmber Kelly moved that the Board meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm. Second by VP Fuhrer. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Financial report was presented by Treas Flower. She is still waiting for the 2012 Treasurer to bring our accounts up to date as of December when new officers were installed. As soon as this is completed, Treas Flower will draw up the 2013 Budget. Past Pres Moore suggested she review the 2012 budget compiled by Treas Patterson.

Update of Planning Process – Research, Education, Restoration, Watershed

Pres Cork distributed a chart in which he condensed the findings of committees in each of the above core areas regarding their planned programs and goals for the coming year. This represents the "NBC 2013

Operational Plan” which he would like the Board to refine and adopt and which will then be presented to the membership at a General Meeting in February.

Mmbr Bryant reported for the Research Committee, Sec Fuhrer for the Education Committee, and Pres Cork for the Restoration Committee. Krista Sloniowski will be asked to fill in the Watershed portion of the plan. Sec Fuhrer referenced the report of the Education Sub-committee which was sent to Board members prior to the meeting for their review.

There was discussion of the programs proposed for each area with questions raised about volunteer and staff requirements, funding, efficacy, and liability. Particular attention was paid to the Outrigger/High School Ecology Program. The dilemma with this program is that it attracts funding support and is clearly well-regarded by the participating schools, but consumes a large chunk of Patrick’s time and energy, and is difficult to secure sufficient volunteer support due to the demands it places on those leading the program and its timing during the working week. It was agreed that there should be further evaluation of the program with Patrick. This led to discussion of how we are using Patrick’s time, how we want him to be prioritizing his tasks, and how we can fulfill the functions of his position that he does not realistically have time to do.

The Board agreed that most of our programs are functioning adequately at this time though there is a shortage of volunteers and additional training is needed in certain areas. Both deficiencies need to be addressed urgently. It is evident that we need more rigorous volunteer recruitment and training and more effective ways to keep volunteers involved and motivated. It is also clear that we need to get critical committees such as Fund Raising and Membership up and running to facilitate these programs. Mmbr Bertot agreed to evaluate our insurance policy with respect to our liability in running our programs, particularly the water tours.

How and when to package the Board’s proposed Operational Plan and present it to the membership was discussed. Pres Cork requested volunteers to help him organize the meeting and presentation. VP Fuhrer agreed to help. A General Meeting of the membership will be scheduled for February for the purpose of discussing the Board’s proposed Operational Plan for the year and seeking commitment from volunteers to support it. A report of NBC’s financial status will also be presented.

Mmbr Moore left the meeting at 6:45 pm. Mmber Vazirian left at 7:00 pm.

Bylaws Committee Report

In the interest of time, the report was rescheduled for the next Board Meeting on February 6, 2013.

Other Business

VP Fuhrer requested discussion of signage around the Bay. This topic was also tabled.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at 6:00 pm at BBSC.

Pres Cork closed the meeting at 7:50 pm. There were no objections.

Holly Fuhrer
Secretary, Newport Bay Conservancy