

NEWPORT BAY CONSERVANCY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 2, 2013 Back Bay Science Center
OPEN SESSION

Call to Order/Roll Call

Present: Pres Howard Cork, VP Peter Fuhrer, Sec Holly Fuhrer, Treas Donna Flower, Cathey Bertot, Peter Bryant, Virginia Hayter, Dennis Kelly, Rob Ellis, Angie Vazirian

Absent at the time of Roll Call: Debbie Moore

Absent with Apologies: Rita McCoy

Attendee: Jack Keating

The meeting was called to order by Pres Cork at 5:04 pm.

Secretary's Report

Sec Fuhrer presented the Minutes of the September 4, 2013 Board Meeting. Mbr Hayter made a motion to approve, seconded by Mbr Ellis. An amendment was requested by VP Fuhrer that Dennis Kelly be included in the list of those who had submitted suggestions for the Pacific Life Grant application. All were in favor of acceptance.

Treasurer's Report

Treas Flower presented the financial report as follows:

1. Clean-Up Day, made income of \$1,200.00, set aside \$500.00 for next year.
2. Ray Williams Memorial, received \$760.00 in donations, spent \$300.00 for refreshments.
3. Current Budget, \$34,700 Unrestricted Funds, state owes NBC \$20,000.00 for Watershed Coordinator reimbursable grant. We will need to raise money from memberships and donations to sustain our current budget next year.
4. Budget for Next Year, we have enough to keep us going next year at the current level. We need to start determining our particular needs for 2014.

Motion made by Mbr Hayter to accept the financial report. Seconded by VP Fuhrer. All were in favor.

Update on Big Canyon Project and Memorandum of Understanding with OC Parks

Pres Cork reported that a meeting was held at the Civic Center to discuss the Big Canyon contract awarded to IRC by the City. Pres Cork, Jack Keating, Mbr Bertot, and Matt Yurko attended. The contract covers a limited amount of restoration and trail improvement at the Jamboree end of Big Canyon. There was also mention of further projects on the City-owned portion of the Canyon if funding becomes available. Matt and Pres Cork stated our interest and willingness to help organize volunteers, which IRC said they would welcome. The City and IRC were urged to contact CDFW to discuss the plans. All agreed that it is very important for NBC to remain cognizant of what is going on so that we know what plans they have in mind for the future and can ensure we have the opportunity to influence as needed.

Separately, NBC currently has a Memorandum of Understanding with OC Parks that has been in

effect since 2008. Jack agreed to send Board members the 17 page document which he urged the new Board to review and revitalize urgently. The MOU has no termination date, but we are supposed to update the list of projects in which we are involved annually and this has not been done since the original list of projects was defined in 2008. Pres Cork has flagged this to Sue Stoffel and committed us to producing an updated list of IC projects.

It has just been announced that OC Parks signed a contract with IRC in June to handover responsibility for managing the OC Parks volunteer administration program. Pres Cork has spoken with Bill Reiter and Stacy Blackwood, the new director for OC Parks, who have apologized for the inadequate way this has been communicated and have undertaken to meet with NBC and Laguna Canyon Foundation. Pres Cork has emphasized the need for us to be brought into the picture asap so that we can discuss the implications for NBC.

Fund Raising Committee Report/Membership Renewal Drive

Mbr Hayter reported as chair of the Fundraising Committee that they will be separating the various aspects of fund raising into four areas: 1. membership renewal drives, 2. events, 3. corporate donors, and 4. grants. She has called the first meeting this week to deal with the upcoming membership renewal drive.

Pres Cork confirmed the commitment to produce an issue of Tracks by November with the intention of sending it out with the membership drive solicitation letter. He has requested articles from Mbr Bryant and Matt Yurko about research and restoration. He is working with Jim Cokas and Debra Brown who have done PR work for NBC previously. We are investigating the relative costs of printing in B&W or color. Pres Cork will be calling for a decision to be made about this at the next meeting. It would be helpful if NBC could find a sponsor for this publication.

VP Fuhrer reported on the Ad Hoc IT Committee. Several participants are working to produce a mailing list for the membership renewal drive. Our new Operations Director, Heather Cieslak has had experience developing and maintaining data bases and promises to be helpful in managing NBC's IT needs.

Other Business/Matters Rising

Mbr Hayter suggested we create an award for "Outstanding Volunteer". No decision was made.

Mbr Bryant requested \$1,000.00 for his research barcoding zooplankton. A motion was made to this effect by Treas Flower, seconded by Mmbr Kelly, and passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Mbr Hayter moved to close the Open Session and go into Executive Session, seconded by VP Fuhrer, passed unanimously. The Open Session was closed at 6:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Fuhrer
Board Secretary, Newport Bay Conservancy