

NEWPORT BAY CONSERVANCY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
December 4, 2013, 6:00-8:00 pm Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center
OPEN SESSION

Call to Order/Roll Call

Directors Present: Interim Pres Howard Cork, Interim VP Peter Fuhrer, Interim Sec Holly Fuhrer, Interim Treas Donna Flower, Peter Bryant, Frances Cork, Virginia Hayter, Sarah Kimbal, Jean Whitaker, Danielle Zacherl, Dick Zembal

Directors Absent with Apologies: Michelle Clemente

Staff: Heather Ceislak, Operations Director

Attendees: Judy Booth, Jack Keating

The meeting was called to order by Int Pres Cork at 6:04 pm.

Secretary's Report

Int Sec Fuhrer presented the Minutes of the October 4, 2013 Board Meeting. Mbr Hayter made a motion to approve, seconded by Int VP Fuhrer. Minutes were approved unanimously without amendment.

Election of Board Officers for 2013-2014

Int Pres Cork requested that those present introduce themselves to each other since there are several new members on the Board.

Int Pres Cork then opened the floor for election of Board Officers. Mbr Bryant made a motion that the officers from the previous Board be retained for another year, seconded by Mbr Zacherl. There were no objections or other nominations. The motion was passed unanimously. Board officers for 2014 are as follows: Howard Cork, President, Peter Fuhrer, Vice President, Donna Flower, Treasurer, and Holly Fuhrer, Secretary.

Discussion of Committee Structure and Committee Assignments

A recently up-dated and revised organizational chart was distributed to the Board and discussed. The chart shows NBC's standing committees of Board Development, Bylaws, Finance, and Fundraising and three other committees dealing with the core areas of Education, Research, and Restoration. While our Research and Restoration functions remain strong, there was general agreement that we need a more effective Educational Committee to oversee both internal training of Naturalists and Associates and programs for the public, and to evaluate, update, and strengthen old programs and create new ones. Pres Cork made the point that failure to find leaders for this and other committees stymied us last year and that it will be very important for Board members to step up to the task. Mbr Hayter suggested that we need more non-Board members to participate, especially on the Fundraising Committee which she chairs. She would like to see the Board publicize a statement to the volunteers to this effect.

There was discussion about the need for other committees such as Publications, Marketing, Public Relations, Communications, External Relations, and Advocacy and how to best organize and facilitate these functions, some of which overlap. There are particular volunteers whose special skills cut

across the functions of several committees. The point was made that most of these functions should be part and parcel of every committee. It was agreed that Advocacy was an important aspect of our mission, but rather than have a standing advocacy committee Pres Cork will appoint advocacy teams to manage issues as they arise and require response. Consensus was also reached that we need a Marketing and Communications Committee. Some of these functions will be managed by our staff members as well.

The importance of working effectively with our partners was reiterated. Pres Cork has been trying to re-establish a Coalition between DFW, OCParks, and the City with NBC fulfilling a facilitating role. There are many areas in which an overall strategy agreed between the landowners would be of value, such as the Lands Pass issue, NBC's proposed signage project and action to deal with invasive species. It was agreed that this initiative should be pursued.

Discussion of Board Members' Ideas and Hopes for the New Year

Mbr Zembal: Collaborations around the Bay are important but land ownership is a big issue and affects what is possible. We need to assess what NBC has already done, decide where we can "kick it up a notch, and toot our own horn". This will be very helpful for fundraising as well as setting goals and planning. What symposia and workshops have we sponsored? Do we have a map of all of our restoration sites? Is this information publicized?

Mbr Bryant: Agrees with above. Feels we need to embrace a larger overview of the Bay and how we relate to it, what specific things we want to accomplish, more of a grand plan and how we can raise money to support our goals.

Mbr Zacherl: Has a particular interest in the shellfish of the Bay and would like to see some collaborative projects focusing on these resources.

Pres Cork: Talked about the symposium in December led by our Watershed Coordinator, Krista Sloniowski, and how we can continue to support this promising work.

Mbr Kimball: Her work focuses on terrestrial plants. Would like to explore what restoration needs we have in the Bay.

Mbr Zembal: Interested in invasive species control, an issue confronting mankind globally. Also concerned about the relationship between the Watershed and the Bay and how different factors are interacting within it, for example how food chains can collapse if corridors get cut off, where wildlife populations will migrate as the sea rises, what will happen to habitats, the importance of monitoring, surveying, and planning, and why the big view is important.

Pres Cork encouraged Board members to think about where they want to put their energies in the next year to help provide leadership, pursue our goals, and further our mission.

Dates for 2014 Board Meetings and Board Retreat

It was determined that our Board meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Back Bay Science Center. Robin Madrid will be contacted about availability.

A Doodle poll will be circulated to decide the best day for the Board Retreat sometime in January or early February.

Other Business/Matters Rising

Judy Booth submitted an itemized request on behalf of OTrackers (Dick Newell and Don Millar) for the purchase of 2 cameras, 2 security boxes, and 2 memory cards to record and monitor wildlife in parts of the Bay. The funds were awarded to NBC by Google for this purpose. Mbr Hayter made a

motion to authorize the request and release the money to OCTrackers. Seconded by Mbr Zacherl and passed unanimously.

OD Ceislak reported on preparations for the Holiday Party. VC Stein plans a power point presentation and is requesting photos of volunteers and events.

Pres Cork reported on the progress of the new edition of Tracks which he anticipates will go out in January. The final figure for 2000 color copies is \$1,500.00 plus mailing costs.

VP Fuhrer reported on the status of the Bayview project which is still pending approval by the Coastal Commission. Historical materials have been requested by the CCC.

Pres Cork requested that all Board members submit a thumbnail sketch and photo for the website.

Adjourn

Mbr Bryant made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. Seconded by VP Fuhrer. All were in favor.

Holly Fuhrer
Board Secretary, Newport Bay Conservancy