

NEWPORT BAY CONSERVANCY
Board of Directors Meeting, September 19, 2012, Minutes

Place: Back Bay Science Center

Time: 6:30 PM

Present: Peter Fuhrer, Holly Fuhrer, Rita McCoy, Cecelia Patterson, Rob Ellis

Absent: Debbie Moore, Steve Bender, Catherine Hollinger, Peter Bryant

Attendee: Donna Flower-Carroll

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Peter Fuhrer in absence of the President. A quorum was present.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the August Board meeting were presented for approval by Secretary, Rita McCoy. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Dennis Kelly and seconded by Peter Fuhrer. There was no discussion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

There is no financial report this month. Cecelia reported that she has been working on bringing our accounts up to date. She announced that Patrick brought in \$10,000.00 in donations for Clean-Up Day on September 15, \$5,000.00 cash and \$5,000.00 in-kind contributions (T-shirts).

Peter Fuhrer asked how much is set aside in the treasury for the Bayview Project. None to Cecelia's knowledge. Peter will contact the sources of funding to explore this question.

Dennis reported that the Shark Mobile project which has been taken over by the City is now being called the Mobile Tide Pool. NBC initially had a grant from So Cal Edison for \$50,000.00 for that project. Donna thinks that \$7,000 of that total was spent on design. There is \$43,000.00 left in restricted funds. Questions were raised about where that money should now go, back to So Cal Edison or to the City which is now paying all of the expenses. Dennis will look into this and find out if we need a new agreement with the City.

Cecelia reported that NBC is currently operating in the black. There is \$42,000.00 in checking, \$17,000.00 of which is restricted. There is \$200,000.00 in restricted funds in savings.

Education Committee:

Dennis Kelly had to excuse himself at 6:50 PM because of a health crisis in his family. At this point in the meeting there was no longer a quorum present.

Rob Ellis reported that he is offering a restoration program for students at Fullerton starting in October. He will be working with Matt Yurko, Howard Cork, and Don Millar.

Fund Raising:

Donna Flower-Carroll reported that the Whole Foods opening up in Fashion Island in October is offering a program in which local non-profit agencies can receive 5% of grocery sales for a day and also some publicity. An application for this must be made to the local marketing director. Donna offered to initiate the application. Rita volunteered to follow it up.

Debbie Moore entered the meeting at 7:15 PM. A quorum was again present.

Rita McCoy reported that the organizers of the SoCalPAPA fundraising event had contacted her and requested the opportunity to hold the event every year instead of every two years. They want Rita and Donna to meet with them about this. Reportedly the event is good for their painters as well as for NBC which received \$10,000.00 of the profits this year. A motion was made by Rita to authorize her to arrange for this for 2013, seconded by Debbie and passed unanimously.

The following message was sent by Patrick via Holly Fuhrer about another fundraising opportunity:

“Just wanted to let you know that we’ve struck a relationship with Quicksilver in that they will be donating a percentage of profits on selected items to NBC and will include a hang tag for each clothing item with our logo on it! Also at the grand opening in October I will be conducting outreach at the Fashion Island Store where they are going to hold a raffle with all or some(yet to be determined) of the proceeds going to NBC! This could be the start of a very beneficial relationship given that Quicksilver is the largest action sport retailer in the world.”

Membership Committee:

Holly Fuhrer reported that the committee is preparing to hold a second membership renewal drive in October/November. Cecelia confirmed that the first drive in May had brought in \$9,000.00. The committee will also manage the Holiday Party scheduled for December 13, 2012, even though the new Board will have commenced by that date. The party will be catered this year by the husband of NBC volunteer Jessica Wigger who is a chef.

Research Committee:

Peter Bryant sent a reminder via Rita that the committee would like to hold an Annual Symposium for next spring on the subject of Insects in the Bay. They are looking for a leader to organize it.

Peter Fuhrer reported that the committee is trying to organize a workshop on Water Quality sometime in November. A reminder came from Robin Madrid to get all events scheduled in advance at the BBSC for the quarter in which they will be held.

Rob Ellis discussed another Fullerton class that he and a colleague are organizing on Plankton using former students in the Bi-Valve class as Teaching Assistants. He has 12 students signed up. He and the research and education committees are attempting to build a full terrestrial and marine based program involving his students.

Naturalist Training:

The Naturalist Training classes are due to begin this week. As agreed by the Board, Dennis Kelly helped with the scheduling of the classes in June, July, and August while Patrick took time off to have his baby. Patrick will now resume management of the schedule. Rita is organizing Board members to be present at the classes.

Bayview Project:

Peter Fuhrer reported on the Bayview Project. He has spoken with the project manager at the Department of Fish and Wildlife. They agreed that it is logical to contract the job out. Peter has spoken with Matt Yurko about whether he would like to take it on. Matt is thinking about combining it with his program somehow and using it as a part of his plan to train environmental group leaders. The California Conservation Corps will also be utilized. It is a reimbursable grant. NBC must pay it out first. The endangered Pacific Pocket Mouse is no longer a deterrent. Whoever takes it on will have to work with the community first to engage their cooperation. Then the area will be fenced off and the work will begin.

Interpretive Center Project:

Debbie Moore reported that she has not been able to access the BBSC computer to pursue progress on this project.

Watershed Coordinator:

Peter Fuhrer reported that the Search Committee has selected three applicants to interview for the position – Krista Sloniowski, Douglas Kent, and Ute Smith. The interviews will be held this week. The CA Department of Conservation has granted a delay of the starting date of September 1, 2012. The Committee's recommendation will be brought to the Board in October for further action.

Board Development Committee:

Holly Fuhrer reported for the Board Development Committee. The committee is currently attempting to create a slate of candidates to run for the Board of Directors at the Annual Members Meeting on November 1, 2012. The committee is searching within and outside of the NBC to find suitable candidates to fill the areas of greatest need on the Board – fundraising, budget and finances, marketing and public relations, watershed, restoration, and administration. The membership will be solicited for suggestions. A list of voting members will be tabulated using the criteria established at a special members meeting last year based on the number of volunteer hours worked during the year (48). Reminders have been sent out to the volunteers to report their hours before October 1, 2012. According to the Bylaws, the announcement of the meeting must go out by mail to all of the established voting members 10 days prior to the meeting, along with the slate of candidates and their biographies. This information will also be sent out to all non-voting members via Joe Naturalist.

The President of the Board is expected to present the Annual Report of the NBC at the meeting. The Treasurer is expected to present a financial statement and the budget from January 1, 2012 to the present date.

An Election Committee will have to be appointed to manage the procedural aspects of the election process with official counters for the voting and a ballot prepared ahead of time should we need it as we did last year when nominations were raised from the floor.

The committee revised the "Application to Join the Board of Directors" and the "Board of Directors Code of Involvement". Holly called for a motion to approve them, made by Peter, seconded by Rita, and accepted unanimously. Board Members who are running again were asked to complete and return them as soon as possible.

Agreements with the City of Newport Beach and the County of Orange:

At the suggestion of Jack Keating, Peter Fuhrer will pursue the details of these arrangements and report back to the Board.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Peter, seconded by Cecelia, and approved by all.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Rita McCoy Minutes approved Nov 14th 2012