

**Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends  
Final Draft Minutes  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Back Bay Science Center  
April 16, 2009**

**1. Call to Order**

President Dennis Baker called the meeting to order at 6:35

Board members present: Dennis Baker, Blake Anderson, Don Krotee, Peter Bryant, Krista Sloniowski Jack Keating and Cathy Lam

Board members absent: Larry McKenney

Staff present: Roger Mallett

Others present: None

**2. Minutes**

The final draft minutes of March 19, 2009 were approved as submitted by Anderson.

**3. Executive Director's Report**

Mallett's written report to the Board is incorporated into these minutes by reference.

Mallett reported that NBNF is experiencing its annual cash flow shortfall caused by insufficient unrestricted cash funds and limited available progress payments on the data cataloging project in accordance with the terms of the contract. For this reason, he has volunteered to delay drawing salary until the income from this cataloging progress pay is received and deposited.

Mallett reported on the disappointing outcome of the Newport Bay Executive Committee meeting chaired by Supervisor Moorlach on 4/8/09 and the joint SAWPA OWOW Steering/Newport Bay Executive Committee meeting that occurred today. Mallett, on behalf of NBNF, had expressed concern at the 4/8/09 meeting about the OWOW governance structure envisioned by SAWPA for the single Santa Ana Region OWOW IRWMP. Other members of the committee from Orange County expressed concerns about the proposal for the Newport Bay watershed to be part of OWOW instead of going it alone, but when it was taken to a vote only Irvine's City Councilman Choi voted against it. As a result, the joint meeting today mainly involved fine-tuning of the OWOW governance structure. It was adopted without the proposed management committee concept that would have added a wider and deeper range of voices to the analysis and decision-making process of these two distinctly different watersheds that just happen to share geographic and political boundaries.

Mallett and the NBNF discussed the potential problems with the unbalanced representation and focus that are implied by this new institutional arrangement. The one possible bright side to this is that NBNF may have the opportunity to take on a stronger role in planning and implementing specific projects within our watershed. The NBNF Board discussed the need to build a reputation as an effective mediator and a rational and effective implementer of programs and initiatives within the Newport Bay watershed. Keating made the point that given that, it is essential that NBNF demonstrate its ability to plan and implement specific projects, such as the CRMP. Successful projects will do more for our reputation than anything else.

The Teaching Lab was briefly discussed. This is a joint project of DFG and the City of Newport Beach right now and is moving slowly because of staff and budget limits. Mallett suggested that NBNF delay any action to help expedite matters for the next 6 months as we wait for DFG and the City to sort things out. Mallett reported that the Shark Mobile grant is still pending and we are working with DFG to jointly fund and install an AV system.

Mallett reported that NBNF's focus right now is the CRMP and the data cataloging project.

#### **4. Account's Report**

Donna Carroll's written report is incorporated by reference. No oral report was provided.

#### **5. Bylaws**

Keating reported that the board is obligated to conduct an annual review of the bylaws and to submit changes to the general membership at its annual meeting in November. Keating said that he will email all members of the Board of Directors a copy of the current bylaws and asked that everyone look them over. Keating asked that review of the bylaws be agendaized for next month's board meeting and asked that everyone provide him their suggested revisions by May 15

#### **6. Board Development Committee**

Keating reported that he is following up on the list of 16 prospective board or board committee members that was presented at the March Board meeting. Initial discussions with 2 prospective candidates were held this month. Keating reported that his strategy is to get the candidates vetted in time for the November Annual Meeting with an eye toward having them joining the Board or Committees effective January 1, 2010

## **7. Donor and Community Relations Committee**

Keating reported that his meeting with Leslie Daigle went well and she is pleased with the support expressed by NBNF for the concept of a bay-wide conservancy.

Mallett provided copies of the new promotional materials that NBNF will employ when approaching donors and prospective board members and when providing information to community groups. The new presentation folder includes a map of Newport Bay on the back cover is nicely done and provides an excellent first impression. Fact sheets and descriptive materials can be added as appropriate. This new tool will help to promote the mission of NBNF.

Mallett reported that the NBNF 10-year plan is now available on the website.

Keating and Lam have talked about how to work with homeowner's associations and civil groups to get interest, support and funding from these community stakeholders. A speakers bureau with a clearing house of subjects that are relevant and interesting to these groups would be a good entrée for beginning and building long-term relations.

Keating reported that he talked to Jerry Kappel, former development director for Opera Pacific about volunteer organizations. He suggests a data base of volunteers with their talents and interests listed. Their passion needs to be tapped and directed toward others so that they can be enlisted to spread the passion.

## **8. Mini Grants**

Bryant reported that he has not yet received any grant applications.

## **9. Montrose Settlement Program**

Bryant reported that a \$10,000 grant with an April 24 deadline is available. It is funded by the large Montrose Settlement. The Montrose Corporation and over 50 other parties (both corporate and public) participated in a single joint settlement won by the Department of Justice on behalf of the federal government. The comprehensive workout included money to improve our understanding of pollutants. The grant is for research on the transport, fate and effects of contaminants on the environment and the food chain.

## **10. Bay Back Science Center Exhibits**

Bryant suggested the BBSC ought to be developed to contain the kind of exhibits and public spaces that are evident at the Cabrillo Natural Science Museum in San Pedro. That example serves the community well and, among other things, could reduce the pressure on nearby coastal tide pools by providing touch tanks that are accessible to the public.

The Board discussed the idea. Lack of staffing, funding, etc. to provide for open-gate access to the exhibit makes this impractical. It was the consensus of the group that our planned science outreach to school grades 7-12 is a more efficient and higher priority initiative.

### **11. West Bay Project**

Baker discussed the West Bay Project. The idea is to bring the public in to view the success of the project. The neighbors, in particular ought to see how well the improvements have taken hold. This 6 acre restoration project has been a major initiative of NBNF for several years. Bill Reiter, OCP Senior Park Ranger has been asked to arrange the public meeting.

### **12. Interpretive Center Entrance**

There has been no progress on this project. The Board discussed the next SoCal PAPA event and that it is desirable to complete substantial progress by then. Keating was asked to determine status of project from OCP Director.

### **13. Announcements: Bay Movies**

An RFP is out for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of three movies on Newport Bay. The budget for the movie is just under \$100,000. Funded by the County, this film will be on mammals and birds in the Bay. A third movie is slated for marine life.

### **14. Announcements: Earth Day Activities**

On Sunday, April 26, Earth Day will be celebrated at the Interpretive Center. There will be displays and tables at the event.

### **15. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM at which time the Board joined Mallett at his desk where he demonstrated some of the major features of the online data catalogue on which he and others have been working for the last 12 months.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for May 21 at 6:30 PM at the BBSC.