

Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends Board of Directors Meeting

Date: June 15, 2006

Location: Newport Beach Marriott, Bayview

Members Present: Regina Fodor, President; Tom Mooers, Treasurer; Paul Kuhn, Secretary; Carol Starcevic, and Dennis Baker

Staff: None

Guests: Lori Kiesser, Naturalist

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 P.M. by Regina Fodor.

Minutes of the May meeting were approved.

The Executive Director's Report was read and discussed in the absence of the executive director. It was felt that in the future, discussion of his report would be facilitated by his presence at the board meetings.

A Motion was passed to send Roger's letter to the Newport Beach city manager suggesting some changes in the Master Cooperative Agreement between the city and the Orange County Harbors, Beaches and Parks. The five points in the draft provided by Roger are the following:

1-The MCA needs to state specifically that the Number One priority with respect to UNB shall be preservation and enhancement of habitat and wildlife.

2-The County should continue in its current role at the Nature Preserve and the Interpretive Center.

3-Volunteer opportunities should be expanded to include input in the development and implementation of the Resource Management Plan.

4-The MCA must be written to ensure that tidelands revenues not be lost from the Nature Preserve and Interpretive Center.

5-The MCA should clarify that no new or different development will be allowed in or adjacent to UNB that is detrimental to the preservation and enhancement of habitat and wildlife.

Regina reported on a meeting held earlier in the day among the "stakeholders" in UNB. She felt that there appears to be some directing of efforts toward mutual cooperation in management rather than more data collecting. She wants us all to be encouraged by this attitude.

The Accountant's Report was reviewed and accepted.

Tom Mooers reported for the **Financial Committee** that our revenues are down and that our reserves are dwindling. He reported on needs for oversight of financial opportunities and procedures, communication with other committees and review of the budget. They also plan to review the overall value of NBNF and to relate appropriateness of salaries to value of the organization.

A discussion was held regarding more aggressive grant seeking.

Regina reported for the **Fundraising Committee** that Duffy boat cruises will be arranged in July for certain donors and prospective donors.

Rita and Roger evidently dropped the opportunity for a NBNF volunteer to participate in Orange County Fair ice cream sales as not being of enough value for the required effort.

The Advocacy Committee (Dennis Baker) asked the group to support the efforts of the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy. **A Motion** was passed to send a letter of support to the State Coastal Conservancy since the Huntington Beach group frequently helps us with the care of injured animals.

A Motion was passed that NBNF support Measure M, which will be on the November ballot. Last month's report from Dr. Michael White was reviewed and it was felt that the environmental benefits of this measure deserved our support.

Lori Kiesser reported that a Sierra Club Task Force has been formed to help efforts to preserve UNB.

Board Development was discussed. It was felt that the membership needs to be aware of the fact that new board members may be added any time of year and not only at the annual meeting. A description of the qualifications and expectations of board membership will be sent to the naturalists by Roger in an effort to help Jack expand the board.

Key Board Initiatives included the following:

A Motion was passed appointing Carol our director of media relations and coordinator and editor of a regular Daily Pilot column featuring news of NBNF and UNB. She outlined several points regarding quotes, credits, bylines, use of our logo and other issues that might be sensitive. The board enthusiastically accepted her points and is looking forward to this opportunity for favorable publicity.

Regina reported on a meeting with DFG regarding the BBSC and the educational activities planned for it. David Moore of DFG wants to review all educational plans to see if the curriculum is consistent with that of the public schools. Dennis suggested letting DFG complete its present plans for the BBSC. If adequate staffing is not funded by DFG then the role of the City of NB and NBNF will be reviewed. He suggested that the board should receive some input from our volunteers who have participated in the Science Center's educational programs so we can be better informed on needs and programs.

A Motion was passed to send a letter to Homer Bludau, Dave Kiff and Bob Burnham indicating that we have received no reply to a previous letter regarding the proposed role of NBNF in the new BBSC.

Under **New Business**, Tom discussed a marketing information project that is currently being developed. The **Finance and Fundraising** committees will be reviewing our programs of restoration and education, donor development and recognition, membership, volunteer recruitment and satisfaction and advocacy. At this point they are collecting data and will report back to the board at the next meeting.

Sylvia Marson's concerns about unhappy volunteers were discussed and will be addressed by Tom's committee.

Naturalist Connie Bean sent a letter to the city and county officials concerning possible loss of tidelands revenue to the county general fund under the proposed agreement between the city and the county. Connie sent this letter representing the Upper Newport Bay/San Diego Creek Watershed Task Force of the Sierra Club. The board took no action.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M. The next meeting will be July 20, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul R. Kuhn, M.D., Secretary