

## **Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends Board of Directors Meeting**

**Date:** March 16, 2006

**Location:** Newport Beach Marriott Bayview

**Members Present:** Regina Fodor, president, Jack Keating, Dennis Baker, Pam Ryan, and Paul Kuhn

**Staff:** Roger Mallett, executive director and Donna Carroll, accountant

**Guests:** None

1. The meeting was **called to order at 6:05 P.M.**
2. **The minutes** of the February meeting were approved as amended. Distribution of approved Board minutes was discussed and it was decided to post these minutes on our website. Management Coalition members will be asked if they would also like to receive a copy of the minutes.
3. Roger Mallett presented the **Executive Director's Report**. The Newport Aquatic Center is helping provide water access for our activities during construction on Shellmaker Island. Roger also presented a report from the Bay Planning Committee indicating that this committee will continue its current activities and report back to the membership at the May meeting of the Naturalists. We will expand the NBNF website to maintain transparency of the board and other committees.

The board expressed appreciation to Roger for his skillful management of the Bay Committee and general membership meetings, so that apparent problems and misunderstandings have been mitigated.

4. Donna Carroll presented the **Accountant's Report** and she noted that sales of items at the Interpretive Center seem to be steady and are maintaining a profit margin of approximately 50%.
5. Donna reported for **the Financial Committee** that a letter was sent to the county to accept the donor wall and statue "Marsh Birds Rising," valued at an unknown amount. This action was based on a board decision made several years ago. We are awaiting the county's response to transfer this asset.
6. Pam Ryan reported for **the Fundraising Committee** that she is researching the possibility of reducing our expenses on the donor walls. She will consult with Marriott engineers and other sources on reworking donor recognition.

Regina reported that "Tracks" was mailed to a smaller list than was previously planned because of excessive expense. Pam and Jack will refine our search for

corporate donors. More and better quality boat trips were suggested for the purpose of getting donors more interested in the bay.

7. Dennis Baker reported for the **Advocacy Committee** that Dave Kiff, assistant city manager of Newport Beach, has hired consultants to perform initial environmental studies for the proposed Santa Ana Heights horse arena.

Dennis also reported that the California Coastal Coalition meeting was attended by Don Webb, Nancy Skinner and himself and there appears to be some progress on the management of the new Science Center. There was some discussion regarding inviting Larry McKenney from Orange County to appear at a NBNF board meeting to explain how the watershed of Newport Bay is being managed.

8. Jack Keating's **Board Development** report included discussion of board expansion and creation of more effective committees, which will include non-board members.
9. Jack reported on the **Key Board Initiatives**. The Back Bay Science Center construction has begun. There was a meeting of the Fish and Game volunteers, called by Sue Lau. John Scholl will continue to work at Shellmaker 2 days per week until June 30, 2006. Larry Eng, Kevin Thomas, and Dave Kiff have agreed to have a meeting of the Management Coalition, which has not met since May, 2005.

A motion was passed that the NBNF encourage all parties involved to have a meeting of the Management Coalition in April, 2006. It is hoped that several Naturalists can attend this meeting as observers.

10. The **Bay Planning Committee** was discussed under New Business. Eventually this committee should be structured so that it reports to the board, but for the time being it will continue to fact-find and make recommendations directly to the membership as well as the board.

Dennis reported that he is exploring the possibility of a grant from the Metropolitan Water District.

Regina distributed a questionnaire to board members regarding effectiveness of our fund-raising efforts. The completed homework assignment is to be turned in at our next meeting.

11. The meeting was **adjourned at 8:55 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Paul R. Kuhn, M.D., Secretary