

NEWPORT BAY CONSERVANCY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 5, 2013 Back Bay Science Center
OPEN SESSION

Call to Order/Roll Call

Present: Pres Howard Cork, VP Peter Fuhrer, Sec Holly Fuhrer, Cathey Bertot, Peter Bryant, Virginia Hayter, Dennis Kelly, Rob Ellis

Absent at the time of Roll Call: Debbie Moore, Donna Flower

Absent with Apologies: Angie Vazirian, Rita McCoy

Attendees: Peter Ridley, Mary Bishop, Connie Bean, Betsy Flynn, Jack Keating

Guest Speaker: Krista Sloniowski, Watershed Coordinator

The meeting was called to order by Pres Cork at 5:34 pm. He introduced the speaker, Krista Sloniowski, who was scheduled to give a report on the Watershed Project.

Treas Carroll arrived at 5:38 pm.

Report from Krista Sloniowski, Watershed Coordinator

Ms. Sloniowski presented a history of the work done on this three year project by Roger Mallet and what she plans to accomplish in the remaining year and a half of the grant. She reported that Mr. Mallet wrote a white paper concluding, as an engineer, that the real solution to the issues involved in the Watershed required changes to the Clean Water Act. Ms. Sloniowski plans a different, “de-engineered” approach to the situation as it exists today. There are multiple municipalities and fields of expertise involved in trying to regulate the amount of pollutants in the watershed – engineers, physicists, chemists, hydrologists, city planners and designers, and flood control experts. One of the primary pollutants is Selenium which comes from ground water and can, in excess, have toxic effects. So far, suggested solutions for removing it have been prohibitively expensive. Another major concern is the abatement of sediment discharge into the Bay which causes silting, increases turbidity, and has required extensive and costly dredging projects. Ms. Sloniowski sees her role as Watershed Coordinator as an attempt to broker an “integrated approach” between all of the parties involved. She believes that nature is already “integrated” and there is no need to “create” integration. She approaches the issue from the point of view of a biological system which, if studied and understood, could then be used to achieve the desired results. Dennis Kelly made the point that the concept of an integrated approach to the Watershed has been around since the 1980’s but has not been possible to achieve because of the multiplicity of parties involved and layers of theoretical approaches. Ms Slonowski’s goal is to try to get all of them to sign off on her approach and then to act as a resource to encourage them to incorporate these ideas into their planning and to help them implement their plans and meet required regulations. Future grant funding will be necessary to fully carry out this plan including a Watershed Coordinator and a Monitoring Coordinator. To date she has met with a number of the regulatory and specialist agencies involved in the watershed and has had positive reactions to her role and approach. She plans to start by meeting with individual entities and then to broaden her scope. She will conduct internal workshops and then organize a symposium to introduce the concept to the larger community. The National Watershed Research Institute has already offered to help sponsor a symposium. Ms Sloniowski admits that her goals are ambitious but believes that this planning methodology, if accepted, could serve as a state-wide model for watershed management. The Board intends to utilize this report in its planning

deliberations at the Board Retreat to determine NBC's commitment to watershed management as one of its core priorities.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the May 1, 2013 Board Meeting Open Session were presented by Sec Fuhrer. No corrections or amendments were offered. Mmbr Hayter made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mmbr Kelly. Approved unanimously.

Mmbr Kelly left the meeting at 6:45 pm.

A request was made to move up the agenda item involving the Education Committee so that attendees could participate in the discussion. Request granted by Pres Cork.

Education Committee/Volunteer Development Committee

Pres Cork, as the temporary Chair of the Education Committee, reported that the committee has met twice to discuss its primary issues. A charter for the committee was determined as follows: to oversee NBC's education programs, to define staffing needs, to assure that standards are maintained, and to regularly reassess our programs with regard to their efficacy and relevance to our mission. Members of the committee were designated to take on the specific tasks of evaluating in depth the Outrigger and High School Ecology Program (Evalie Dumars, Rita Phillips, and Rob Ellis), the Kayak Tours (Cathey Bertot), and the Friends Tour and other land tours (Phil Hughes, Gale and Jean Whitaker). Included in their considerations are curricula, volunteer recruitment, volunteer training, and manuals and scripts to standardize teaching.

Treasurer's Report

Treas Flower reported that we are having a very good year financially. Funds are continuing to come in, \$530.00 from Google and \$500.00 from Newport Beach City Council Woman Leslie Dagle most recently, and we are in a position to do some things as soon as the Board decides what its priorities are. Presumably some direction will emerge from the Retreat and from our discussion of staffing needs.

Retreat Planning

Pres Cork reiterated his strong commitment to the need for a Retreat in which the Board will address fundamental issues regarding the future of NBC. At the request of the Board, Pres Cork sent out a suggested agenda of three specific and achievable goals for the Retreat as follows:

1. Specific fundraising goals for the balance of 2013 and 2014.
2. Assignment of specific responsibilities for each Board member, and leadership of key activities/committees.
3. A forward look at the Board composition needed for 2013/14. Agree the priorities for the Board Development Committee to work against between now and the November election.

It was agreed by the Board that a Retreat will be organized and scheduled before the end of June.

Matters Arising/Updates

1. Information Technology

VP Fuhrer will copy the data from the BBSC computer and give it to Paul Scionti for evaluation. He will then arrange to have Mr Scionti meet with Treas Flower and Jean and Gale Whitaker.

2. Membership Criteria

This policy needs to be established to accompany the Bylaws revisions. It was suggested that the task be referred to the Volunteer Development Committee (Frances Cork, Peter Ridley).

3. Plein Air Event

Treas Flower reported for the committee. They are working on the invitation and the guest list for the Gala on Friday night. They need volunteers for merchandizing and the membership table.

4. Marisla Grant

VP Fuhrer reported that the grant was written to fund a Volunteer Coordinator position. NBC will be notified by July 15, 2013.

5. Bayview Project

VP Fuhrer reported that the project is on hold until the end of the breeding season in August, will resume in September, and is scheduled to be completed by mid-winter.

6. Party for Rita McCoy

Sec Fuhrer announced that a party to celebrate the long and dedicated service to NBC of Rita McCoy, Naturalist, Volunteer, ex-Volunteer Coordinator, and current member of the Board of Directors will be held on June 12, 2013 at her home in Dana Point. It will be an Open House in the afternoon. An invitation will be sent out via Joe Naturalist. The event will be sponsored by the NBC Board with Mmbr McCoy's corroboration.

7. High School Ecology Program

President Cork announced that students from the program run by Patrick McCaffrey will be presenting their projects at the IC on Saturday, June 8 from 2:00 to 5:00. Judges are needed. Although Mr. McCaffrey is currently on Family Leave for the month of June, he will return to attend this event.

President's Report

Pres Cork raised the issue of the notices posted recently by DFW announcing the imposition of a Land Pass required to enter the UNB Ecological Reserve. Apparently this has been in effect for several years but was never implemented due to its questionable rationale and the difficult logistics of enforcing it. The fees required are \$4.32 per day and \$22.68 per year. The Board agreed that this is a matter for NBC advocacy. Pres Cork will contact Carla Navarro and pursue options to make a formal objection to this action, possibly including the City and other interested community groups.

Mmbr Hayter made a motion that the Board move into Executive (Closed) Session. Seconded by Mmbr Bryant. All were in favor. The Open Session was concluded.

The Closed Session was called to order at 8:03 pm by Pres Cork.

Motion was made by Mmbr Hayter to move out of the Closed Session at its conclusion. Seconded by Rob Ellis. All approved.

Motion by Mmbr Hayter to adjourn the Open meeting. Seconded by Rob Ellis. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Fuhrer
Secretary, Newport Bay Conservancy