

NEWPORT BAY CONSERVANCY  
MINUTES, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Wednesday August 18, 2021, 5:30-7:00 PM, ZOOM

**Board attendees:** Derrick Ankerstar, Kim Bick, Randall English, Julie Ferguson, Ramraghi Fuller, Susan Jarratt, Sherry Marger, Cassandra Radcliff, Taylor Sais, and David Waller

**Staff and volunteer attendees:** Heather Cieslak, Peter Bryant

**Excused absences:** Josie Bennett, Tim Brown, Angie Vazirian

1. Kim called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm
2. Minutes of the previous meeting will be reviewed later. Josie is out of town.
3. Operations (Heather) - Highlights include two celebrations of life at the center: Dick Newell and Jack Keating. Two new employees have been hired: Tori Limón (Education) and Jacob Donaldson (Restoration). Gourmet by the Bay is on track. We netted \$2,500 from SOCALPAPA. The Hyatt has invited NBC to be a sponsor for the jazz festival. We have a new partnership with Sage Hill School to help with ASL—possible donor opportunities there.
4. Treasurer (Ramraghi) – The budget report is a month behind. Ramraghi and Heather are in the process of digitalizing financial transactions through Quick Books.
5. Restoration (Heather) – Brightview signed on as permanent contractor and began in Big Canyon on Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>. Surveys for Phase 3 continue. Monitoring continues in Bayview Heights. Volutaria wrapped up on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. ASL continues with an added Friday event. Approval from Dick Zembal to move forward with mapping invasive sea lavender around the Bay.
6. Research (Julie) – Ask-a-Naturalist articles are posted once a month. Volunteers will be asked for more in the fall. Sea and Sage has agreed to partner with NBC in World Wetlands Day 2022, set for the weekend of Jan. 29-30, 2022. With Gail Richards, director of Sea and Sage, in attendance, the committee decided on a mix of online and in person events. Talks will be virtual; activities such as tours of San Joaquin marsh and the Back Bay will be scheduled over the weekend. A volunteer will help set up a databased for the *Tracks* article archive.
7. Education and Board Development – no reports
8. Marketing, Outreach, and Advocacy (Cassandra) – Look for Media Relations Policy next month. NBC received press coverage for eight items last month. Social media is reaching more than 10,500 subscribers/followers. Keep submitting posts. Ramsar designation is awaiting expert feedback and letters of recommendation. The new completion goal is the end of the year. After Ramsar, the committee will focus more out outreach and advocacy.
9. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Susan) – A final diversity speaker series event happened in late July – a presentation by leaders of the Orange County Environmental Justice group. A future meeting will be devoted to reviewing all four events to see how NBC might borrow from or build on their ideas and practices. A series of diversity webpages is now ready to go online. The diversity reading group continues on the first Wed. of the month.

Old business:

a. Kim requested that the board not conduct business through individual emails.

b. There was an extensive discussion of a sign in Big Canyon that fails to mention NBC and other participants in the restoration project. Points raised and positions taken: we should demand removal; that would be counterproductive given the stature of a major donor; it's inappropriate for NB city council members to be named who didn't do anything related to the restoration; but maybe now they will support future work; we need to create our own, accurate sign, perhaps at the end of the process; it's only about politics—a photo op; are they planning another sign elsewhere?; issues involved are signage, communication, aesthetics, and sustainability.

Action: The Restoration Committee and the Executive Committee will meet to discuss consistency of signs and who will be the decision makers.

c. Kim responded to the Native Plant Council on the issue of the Buck Johns property. The aim is to correct the impression that NBC has taken a position on the sale of the property. Derrick suggests that we write to [his boss, Scott?] to correct the error. [please revise as needed]

Action: Property boundary issues are postponed.

New Business:

Randall has offered two \$500 awards to the Orange County Environmental Justice group to support diversity participants in the upcoming NBC naturalist course. He will be asked to fill in details at the next meeting of the DEI committee, which will then discuss the advisability of individual vs. committee-vetted initiatives for the future.

Motion to adjourn by Dave; seconded by Julie. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.