

NEWPORT BAY CONSERVANCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES
Wednesday, April 27, 2022 5:30 PM, [ZOOM](#)

Attending:

Past President – Randall English

Board members - Mario Cuevas, Julie Ferguson, Ramraghi Fuller, Sherry Marger, Taylor Sais, Angie Vazirian, Dave Waller

OC Parks - Derrick Ankerstar

Staff and guests - Peter Bryant, Heather Cieslak,

Excused absences: Kim Bick, Susie Onate, Cassandra Radcliff-Mendoza

5:37 Call to order/roll call – by Randall English

Approval of Minutes: Julie moved; Ramraghi seconded; passed by consensus

President’s Report: Kim Bick - no report

Treasurer’s Report: Ramraghi Fuller

There is nothing new to report. We are aligned with the first of the year budget planning. The budget isn’t showing expenses for signage. It does show \$5,000, ½ the Cork’s donation. We are seeing increases in several categories over 2021.

Operations (and some points on Marketing): Heather Cieslak

Earth Day was very successful. Lisa Bartlett, new District 5 supervisor kicked it off. The state released the roadmap for 30X30 including great data on communities without access. Our tax return has been postponed. Heather is filling in on marketing in Cassandra’s absence. *Daily Pilot* had a nice spread on Earth Day.

We returned to the question of paying for space on the Santa Ana River Watershed sign. Should we pay \$1,860 to be listed for 23 months on the sign which appears in over 70 locations?

Sherry moved approval; Mario seconded; the vote was unanimous in favor.

Heather reviewed the new MOU with SOCALPAPA. A new feature is the Artists’ Quick Draw Challenge. Face painting at Earth Day was well received. Nothing else changed except spreading it out over two weekends with more focus on children’s classes. The advertising budget is lower this year: \$4,000 (instead of \$7,000). We’ve sold approximately 55 paintings.

Motion to approve MOU: Julie moved; Derrick seconded; the vote was unanimous in favor.

We are urged to vote in the Target giving drive. The John Wayne Airport Fly Friendly Partnership is waiting for county approval. In this arrangement, private air operators can donate to NBC and receive concessions in exchange.

Research Committee: Peter Bryant

The committee urges support for AB 2146, a ban on non-agricultural neonicotinoids. Julie observed that the bill is not controversial or politicized; there are lots of carve outs. We should support it. Alys confirmed that we don't use such pesticides in the Back Bay. Randall noted that the carve outs are reasonable. Dave finds that support of the bill is aligned with our mission. Someone on the Research Committee should notify the Executive Committee about the timing and addressee.

Restoration Committee: Randall English

Josie Bennett is no longer part of the committee, which changes the committee's plans. They will start working on an NBC collection permit through CFWL. The permit assures that the organization will not be in violation of collecting regulations. Randall will start working on grant writing to fund a program like the one with Sage Hill for Title I/less privileged schools.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee: Susan Jarratt

Please see our report for DEI activity this month. We could announce our support for bills, including AB 2346, Equitable Outdoor Access for All, in social media and in Hilary's volunteer newsletter, adding a link to the bill or to a sample letter. We could contact other organizations to encourage their support.

Board Development Committee: Taylor Sais

The BD committee is still working on policies. They are planning a meet-and-greet with Advisory Committee. There are two spots open at the end of this year. We have one candidate and need more—3 or 4 total. Send names to Taylor. Specific skills sets include fund-raising, marketing and outreach, finance, and restoration. Heather will send a needs assessment report to the committee. Peter proposed someone with connections to the city. The NB Parks and Rec leader just retired; it's a time of transition. But we cannot seat city employees.

Education Committee: Julie Ferguson

Panels are going up near the Back Bay Science Center. Please consult the new Muth exhibit plan. Hillary is working on extending naturalist course, following up on ideas. There has been more interest in school tours. We're looking forward to the new movie.

Community Outreach, Website, *Tracks*: Heather Cieslak (see above)

The mannequins are back on Tern Island. Perhaps we should have a social media post about them. Thanks to police for messages about leashing dogs.

Other Business:

Randall English -- Should we meet in person again? Maybe not every month? Maybe once a quarter.

Peter – Advocacy could be a separate committee. Who would take charge?

7:00: Adjourn

Sherry moved; Derrick seconded; passed by consensus

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Jarratt, Secretary