

Newport Bay Conservancy
July 19, 2017 Board Meeting
Muth Interpretive Center

Board Attendees: Peter Bryant, Frances Cork, Donna Flower, Molly Stallcup, Ian Swift, Pam Winkler, Dick Zembal, Randall English, Liz Flint, Josie Bennett, Justin Hensen

Staff Members: Heather Cieslak,

Excused Absence: Tim Brown, Chris Epting

Visitors: Howard Cork, Dale Finke, Kevin Davey

5:30: Call to order/roll call: Peter Bryant. A quorum was present.

5:35: Approval of minutes from the June 21 meeting: Frances Cork. Hard copies of amended minutes were distributed for approval. Molly moved, Liz second, carried unanimously.

5:40: Treasurer's Report: Donna Carroll.

Although available funds are currently low with 30k recently paid to vendors the position is stable. There is a 60K grant from OC PARKS pending.

Plein Air was a rousing success grossing almost 1,000 above last year.

In reviewing variance report Frances noted the mid-year appeal for membership not being held so that 3k variance is set.

5:45: Board Development: Introduction of new Board Members

New members Justin Hensen and Josie Bennett were introduced to board.

Peter distributed a matrix to for board member to review and update. Purpose of matrix is identifying talents and interests to help align with project and subcommittee staffing needs.

6:00: Operations Report: Heather Cieslak

Reviewed Think Experience. Over the two weeks NBC with the help of 27 volunteers working five education stations NBC successfully hosted 240 students a day.

On September 12, a 30k grant for new signage is on the agenda for the Newport Beach Supervisors meeting.

Submitted a RFP to Newport Beach, Camp Services Spring Camp for 5th graders

Registration has opened for the First Annual NBC Classic golf tournament.

6:10: Anniversary Book: Frances Cork

As noted in last board meeting the originally contracted author had to withdraw due to health issues. Annie Quinn and Frances Cork met with Chris Epting, an author of several local history books. Chris agreed to take on the book.

6:15: Big Canyon Restoration: Peter Bryant

Devin Poll of City of Newport beach had originally submitted grant request to USFWS. Phase I of project including Selenium mitigation is close to be complete. City has passed on Phase II to NBC to administer, 640k is allocated for phase II which encompasses design and permitting and feasibility study for selenium ponds.

6:45: Limonium Project: Howard Cork

Solarization working better than any other method. Will be able to get more aggressive with removing Limonium once nesting season ends in September.

6:50: Bayview Project: Frances Cork

Now two and a half years into what is anticipated to be a five year project. Grants from Southern California Wetlands Restoration Project and United States Fish and Wildlife are running out. Some small grants remain in budget providing enough cash to continue maintenance. Not much activity on Upper Bayview, invasives have been pretty well knocked down and no planting going on. Ian offered 8 pounds of native grass seeds for use on Bayview.

7:00: Water Quality and Trash: Howard Cork

Gave a recap of Trash Wheel history to date. Presently Newport Beach city is working with the trash wheel vendor on reengineering to work directly in San Diego Creek. Dale Finke gave a presentation he is working on comparing San Diego Creek to Jones Falls River Baltimore (empties into Baltimore Harbor). Jones Falls continuous low flow river deep enough for barge to float. San Diego Creek flow comes during storms; majority of trash comes in first three flow events of rainy season. Two environments and their challenges are not at all similar. Although NBC board is buoyed by attempt to reengineer still have concern on feasibility of the proposed water wheel solution and what may happen if water wheel cannot be engineered to work in channel. Board resolved to remain engaged and plan for possible future action

7:20: Other business/matters arising

Heather asked for guidance on volunteer appreciation. Currently there are two events; one at Christmastime in winter held in conjunction with Naturalist class graduation and the other is held in the summer in conjunction with DF&W. Summer event has become larger and more difficult event to plan that is falling solely on NBC staff. Will ask Matt Yurko to assist.

Molly announced she received a promotion and will relocate to Clark Park. Unfortunately, will no longer be filling OC Parks role on NBC Board.

Some discussion on board member's current terms, who may be planning to stay, need to prepare for November's elections. Secondary discussion on term limits and logic for, should they remain.

7:30: Adjournment

Move to adjourn by Molly, seconded by Ian, carried unanimously.