

## Newport Bay Conservancy

June 21, 2017 Board Meeting  
Muth Interpretive Center

**Board Attendees:** Peter Bryant, Frances Cork, Donna Flower, Molly Stallcup, Ian Swift, Pam Winkler, Dick Zembal

**Staff Members:** Heather Cieslak, Adelle Bennett

**Excused absence:** Tim Brown, Randall English, Liz Flint

**Visitors:** Howard Cork, Ginger Hayter

### **5:38 Call to Order**

A quorum was present.

### **5:40 Approval of May Meeting Minutes**

Minutes had been distributed by email and amended minutes with corrections were distributed at the meeting for approval.

Pam moved to approve. Molly seconded. No discussion, unanimous approval.

### **5:42 Finance Committee**

The Committee had not met since the last meeting but would do so soon. The Treasurers Report was submitted. Membership was boosted in June with a large donation from a new volunteer and \$10,000 had been received from the estate of Bob Shelton who had been a member of NBC's Advisory Board.

Water programs had been very busy and brought in \$3415 after watercraft rental costs. Staff were thanked for their work in organizing so many revenue earning programs. The SCC grant will enable NBC to begin hiring contractors soon for the Big Canyon Restoration Project.

Some bills are waiting to be paid for the signage project around the Bay. Heather to follow up release of the funds with Scott Fegley. Meanwhile, motion made to use the Interpretive Center Capital Campaign Fund to pay bills for the signage that will ultimately be paid by OC Parks.

Donna moved to approve, Molly seconded. Unanimous.

Dick asked about the ASL (Algerian Sea Lavender) Project budget. Heather will resend the budget to Board members. Only \$350 had been spent so far. Dick mentioned he has not yet billed for the Belding Savannah Sparrow monitoring performed to date.

### **5:55 Board Development Committee**

In Tim's absence, Howard Cork reported on the Committee's recommendations for two new members following interviews by the Committee. Chris Epting is a local author and recently gave a presentation at one of NBC's Naturalist nights. He is keen to promote the Bay and has just agreed to take on the writing of NBC's book about the Saving of the Bay. Josie Bennett is Restoration Coordinator at Laguna Canyon Foundation and would bring more restoration management experience to the Board.

The motion was made by Frances to approve the Board Development Committee recommendation to appoint Chris Epting pro-tem to the Board. Seconded by Dick. Unanimous.

The motion to approve the Board Development Committee recommendation to appoint Josie Bennett to the Board pro-tem was made by Frances and seconded by Dick. Unanimous.

### **6:10 Operations Report**

Heather presented the Operations Report.

Grants: Heather reported on the SEED OC grant protocol project and presentation on May 23. A link is available to the new grant writing documents. Randall and Pam will be working with Heather on possible grant applications.

Events: the next big event is the SOCALPAPA Plein Air Art Show and Sale. Board members asked to attend the Friday night reception on July 14 and let Heather know of special guests they would like to have invited. Board members asked to help with publicizing the event.

### **6:15 Volunteer Coordinator Report**

Adelle presented the Volunteer Coordinator Report.

She had worked with the Education Committee to increase volunteer engagement and networking.

The twilight kayak tour for volunteers filled up within a week. There are now 227 volunteers on the database compared with 150 eighteen months ago.

A Facebook page for volunteers to connect with each other has been launched following idea of Kate Newman, one of the 2016 Naturalists. SignUp.com has been successful in saving time, especially with big events and helping with reports. Adelle has started planning the Fall Naturalist training.

The next Associate training will be August 5. Adelle thanked Molly for her help with the program and suggesting improvements.

(Ian Swift left the meeting at 6:30)

### **6:35 NBC Anniversary Book**

Frances reported the author originally hired to write the book had to withdraw because of ill health. She has agreed to repay the initial payment of \$2000 she had received. We are fortunate that Chris Epting has agreed to take on the writing of the book. He is a published author and keen supporter of the Bay.

The motion was made by Frances to hire Chris Epting as replacement author for the book.

Seconded by Donna. Unanimous.

### **6:40 Big Canyon Restoration Project**

Peter reported that the Coastal Conservancy had made a second site visit to look at the work done by the City on the selenium mitigation. He presented a draft Resolution approving the Grant of Funds from the State Coastal Conservancy. A copy was provided to all Board members. The motion was made by Molly to accept the Resolution for the grant agreement execution. Seconded by Dick. All in favor.

The Restoration Committee proposed to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for carrying out feasibility studies for the project. A consultant has drawn up an RFP pro-bono. There was discussion about costs to NBC, whether separate amounts would be delineated in the RFP and whether the budget is still realistic given that permitting is getting more expensive. A motion was made: 'To agree to give the Restoration Committee approval to complete the RFP, develop a mailing list and sent it out.'

Proposed: Peter. Seconded: Donna. Unanimous.

### **7:00 Limonium removal project**

Howard gave an update. This is a huge project with the large extent of the invasive limonium around the bay at around the mean high tide level. It is a very aggressive plant that creates a thick carpet of

vegetation and is crowding out Belding Savannah Sparrow habitat. The most effective means of removal appears to be solarization. Spraying and hand pulling have been more problematic and less effective. Work is being done by volunteers almost every week. Matt Yurko has also offered help and has allocated some Stewards Day sessions to the project.

#### **7:05 Bayview restoration project**

Frances reported the invasive plants on the Mesa site have mostly been removed for this year. Plans are being made for seeding and planting later in the year in the area affected by flooding in February. The USFWS funding ends on July 31. The final bills will be submitted by the middle of the month. Further funding is available in the budget for the remaining work to be done over the next two years.

#### **7:10 Water Quality and Trash**

Howard reported that it was still uncertain what is going to happen with the trash wheel proposal following recent publicity in the local press. Both CDFW and NBC are opposed to the trash wheel being installed within the ecological reserve. The preference would be to locate it in San Diego Creek. Dale Finke, an NBC naturalist, is very interested in the issue and will be attending the Watershed Executive Committee meeting (June 21).

#### **7:20 Other business/matters arising**

Heather reported that the City of Newport Beach had put out a Request for Proposal for a camp program coordination service for 5<sup>th</sup> graders at the Dunes Resort. The purpose of the program would be to foster an interest in nature.

The job would be to coordinate the curriculum and run the program over 12 weeks (February to May, Tuesday to Friday, overnight camping) for 10 years starting 2018. It could possibly be split into 3 years renewable or similar. NBC had been invited to submit a proposal by June 30.

There was discussion about the feasibility and resources needed. It was generally agreed that it sounded like a good opportunity for NBC provided our bid truly covers all costs likely to be incurred.

#### **7:35 Adjournment.**

Molly moved to adjourn, Donna seconded, carried unanimously.