

NEWPORT BAY CONSERVANCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES

Wednesday, June 22, 2022, 5:30 PM, **ZOOM**

Attending:

President – Kim Bick

Board members - Julie Ferguson, Ramraghi Fuller, Sherry Marger, Susie Onate, Cassandra Radcliff-Mendoza, Taylor Sais, Dave Waller

Past President – Randall English

Staff and guests -- Heather Cieslak, Peter Bryant, Zachery Flores

OC Parks - Derrick Ankerstar

Absent: Susan Jarratt, Mario Cuevas, and Angie Vazirian

5:32 Call to order/roll call: Kim

Approval of Minutes: Kim

Minutes, as modified, are approved.

Board Development Committee: Taylor

The Conflict of Interest Statement was presented for Board review. Examples of potential conflicts of interest were discussed. There is a statement in the Bylaws that states when a potential conflict arises, the Board Member is required to disclose it, and the Conflict of Interest Statement is the way to disclose it. Taylor motioned to pass the Conflict of Interest Statement. Randall seconded. All members are in favor. No members opposed. Motion passed by consensus, as written.

NBC Board of Directors Code of Involvement is required to be signed by all new Board Members. There is no requirement for existing Board Members to sign it. The existing Board Members will review and determine if they are willing to sign it in November. Motion to pass the Code of Involvement for new Member in November. Ramraghi seconded. Motion passed by consensus, as written.

Advisory Committee – Was there anything formal sent out to the Advisory Committee? There's a flyer in. If we have any prospective members to interview in September to fill the 3 open seats.

Treasurer's Report: Ramraghi

Jan-May P&L was presented. We have caught up a lot but still have work to do with the CPA. Statement of Financial Position almost \$300k in bank. \$128k received earlier this month. All major grants and billable receivables received. We have received a \$10k from the Corks to have their name included in the Muth Center to go to further restoration efforts in the Bayview Area. Received \$15k from State for COVID relief. High school and outrigger tours have increased. Big Canyon has a lot of activity and heading into Phase 3 work. Gift shop revenue is up due to increased traffic to the Muth Center and the Bay. We received an anonymous donation of \$1k for DEI Scholarship.

Operations: Heather

Come out to the movie release on Sunday of the underwater film which will run throughout the day at the Muth Center. A formal thank reception will be held at 10am. The filmmaker will be there all day. OC Coastkeeper is hosting a booth. The event will coincide with Crafty Kids so there will be extra craft on Sunday. We also have brochures for the Plein Air Art Festival in the Muth Center for everyone to grab and give out.

Education Committee: Julie

The underwater film premier is Sunday, 6/26. Remaining interpretive panels in Big Canyon will be installed end of July. Hilary is working on a draft of the announcement for DEI/Naturalist Training Scholarship, and will be posted by end of this week.

Tory is going a fantastic job in programs. School programs are continuing but slower in the summer. Planning in progress for FINN which will be in September this year. Tori is working on a Yoga program

Backbay Science Center will reopen with restrictions on how many people can be in the lab. Per Nathan Taxel, 60 people are showing up for Wild Tales and they're in need of extra volunteer help on Fridays.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee: Susan

Susan is absent so the DEI committee report was not discussed.

Community Outreach, Website, Tracks: Cassandra

She requested Board Members send photos of the film premier to Tori and Cassandra. They're working on the Plein Air Art Festival press release. Outreach keeps growing every month. Social media post will get out and tracks newsletter is in the works. Compiling a photo library to use freely on social media. Tracks Subcommittee - she has everything for the next issue which will go out before Gourmet by the Bay. Website Subcommittee – they should have met with all committees to get their opinion on the website revamp. Mentioned 3-5 year plan.

Research Committee: Peter

Banning neonicotinoids - Assembly Bill is limited in its scope and bans the nonagricultural uses. Kim sent comments in support of the Bill which did pass in the Senate. It is now with the Committee on Appropriations. We don't know when that committee meets.

Saving America's Pollinators Act - We contacted Katie Porter and agreed to co-sponsor it. It's a good connection to have with legislation. She was not familiar with the Bill but when she got the information agreed to co-sponsor it. Now has a lot of co-sponsors. There are a lot of important parameters in that Bill other than the ban of neonicotinoids, it's a step in the right direction to ban these. They are very powerful insecticides, once they get in the environment it's there forever - water soluble. Talked with Vic Leipzig they are ahead on tracking environmental bills and will keep Board informed on the progress of bills relevant to the Bay. There is redistricting going on; we don't know if Katie Porter will be the contact in the future. We need to know where in the bill passing process in the State we can have input.

Randall wants this committee to be called Research and Advocacy Committee. Kim can sit on the committee. Julie is attending the committee also. The Board Members have no objections to changing the name of the committee to Research and Advocacy Committee.

Restoration Committee: Randall

Continuing with the Phase 3 planning for Big Canyon. Nothing new or big to announce. National Coastal Wetland suggested we split up into 2 grants because there's a limit on what they can give on one grant. After presenting to the Advisory Committee for comments, we had one of the members ask us to submit and ask for this grant. We haven't figured out the operations, staffing or managing of the Project Grow Nursery. We haven't worked on the 5 year plan this month but working on a lot of general work.

Other/New Updates

The OC grand jury released their findings on the attempted land transfer. NBC wasn't mentioned. No takeaway or actions against people, but it was discussed. The CEO of Real Estate Office have answers. It was critical of former supervisor. Take away was the Grand Jury felt the advertising of the sale was not public enough. The newspaper they used was a small publication for public notices.

6:31: Adjournment: Kim moved; Julie seconded; passed

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Onate
/for Susan Jarratt
Secretary