

Newport Bay Conservancy
March 15 2017 Board Meeting

Board Attendees: Peter Bryant, Dick Zembal, Randall English, Heather Cieslak, Liz Flint, Pam Winkler*, Donna Flower*

Excused Absence: Tim Brown, Frances Cork, Molly Stallcup, Ian Swift,

Esteemed Visitors: Ginger Hayter,

Meeting called to Order at 2:15. At that time a quorum was not present.

*Pam and Donna not in attendance at beginning of meeting, were conferenced in later to achieve quorum and allow voting, primarily on financial issues.

2:15 - Fundraising Report

In Frances's absence Peter Bryant delivered fundraising report.

Peter will recruit to get more UCI Scientists to attend and perhaps present at NBC Earth Day.

Ginger offered to help distribute Nektar flyers.

50th Anniversary Book Project, Final draft due at end of July 2017, publication April 2018

Grant Submittal to REI due Mar 17 for replace/upgrade signage in and around bay.

2:30 Operations report

Heather gave Operations report

Plein Air COCALPOPA will be July 16, 17, 18.

Coastal Cleanup Day September 16

Discussion of removed 23 Street bridge. Do we want replaced? Dick noted people we just crossing the stream beside the closed bridge. Bridge on county land was giving access to trails in closed area. A number of residents vocally want bridge replaced.

There will be some new exhibitors for earth day.

Discussed cost/vendor for Muth center projector. Complicated by fact need OC approved vendor. Goal is for more modern and user friendly/flexible system. County will pay up to \$23,000 NBC would pick up remainder.

2:40 - Dick gave restoration report

There was a session on chemical treatment of Limonium held on site Delhi Canyon. Chemical treatment was done in area had started solarization treatment pilot project. Also hand pulled a plot in same area. Will be able to compare efficacy of the three different methods. Noted the native plant frankenia survived under tarp where limonium was not surviving. Observed Beldings starting to nest in the area, may limit further access.

3:05 - Peter gave report on Big Canyon progress provided by Bob Stein

Selenium seep routing into sewer system is almost complete and the water quality reports will be taken in two weeks.

Planting and hydro seeding target is to be completed in May. Bob also provided the plant pallet that will be hydro seeded.

3:12 – Dick discussed Rail Counts

Count around Upper Newport Bay, population 160 breeding pairs plus around 15 advertising males. 30 % drop from last year. This is a manifestation of the loss of Cord Grass due to higher tides. Hummocks on edges of channels have been deteriorating due to higher tides. Not just Cord Grass but also salt marsh productivity on middle marsh/Pickleweed has been hugely diminished as well. Banding and telemetry studies show rails are localized native breeders so loss of habitat is devastating. Rails now nesting on edges or preserve not in center. This as means rails more susceptible to dogs Also noted at Mission Bay Kendal Frost Reserve counted 18 pairs, a 12 pair drop from last year and Forester Tern did not nest in Mission Bay this year.

3:25 – City of Newport Meeting

Dick/Heather attended, public works director gave briefing on what NB doing to prevent water pollution, both chemical and solids/ filtering grids etc. to prevent trash getting into bay. During public comment period Peter stated water wheel basically inappropriate in nature preserve. Also, learned not just Carla but upper level Fish and Wildlife staff members opposed to water wheel.

3:37 – Advocacy Report

Liz briefly reviewed Advocacy report with members in attendance

3:40 – Quorum Achieved

Donna and Pam joined meeting via phone at 3:40 to make a quorum

3:41 – Approval of January Meeting Minutes

Liz moved to Approve, Dick Seconded, no discussion, carried unanimous

3:42 Budget

Donna asked if any questions or discussion. There had been much discussion during February's Retreat and no changes were made to the budget since. Thus, no new questions were raised.

Dick moved to approve Liz seconded, carried unanimous.

3:45 – Projector

Heather covered topic again for the benefit of those attending on phone. Short discussion on how exactly phrase the motion to accept. "Authorize use of up to \$11,000 from Interpretive Center Capital Campaign Funds to assist county with their purchase of new projector for the Muth center."

Randall Moved to approve the motion as stated and Liz seconded, carried unanimous.

3:52 – Adjourned

Liz moved to adjourn, Randall second, carried unanimous