

NEWPORT BAY CONSERVANCY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES  
Wednesday, 25 May 2022, 5:30 PM, **ZOOM**

Attending:

President – Kim Bick

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

Past President – Randall English

Staff and guests -- Heather Cieslak; Peter Bryant

Absent: OC Parks - Derrick Ankerstar

5:30 Call to order/roll call: Kim

Approval of Minutes: Susan.

Randall moved; Julie seconded; passed

Board Development Committee: Taylor

Drafts of conflict of interest statement and code of involvement are available. PIMCO application is complete; they're hoping to get some applications and perhaps donations from PIMCO. Dave will be stepping down at the end of the year, so we have needs in fund-raising. Angie will be stepping down as well. Anyone else who is stepping down should inform Taylor. Three spots are now going to be open. Peter Bryant has expressed interest in rejoining the board. He would need to fill out a new application.

Treasurer's Report: Ramraghi

Ramraghi and Heather will be working on April. The balance is now \$281,377. Checks are incoming. We are gearing up for the City of Newport.

Operations: Heather

There was lots of outreach in the last month, including Earth Day. Many other events are planned in conjunction with marketing. Newer cryptocurrencies are working on becoming more environmentally conscious (Bitcoin is the worst). She is working on a Gift Acceptance Policy in order to accept crypto currency.

Meghan started as scientific aid for CDFW (BBSC). We're looking forward to getting programing back at BBSC, especially Community Days on Sundays.

Education Committee: Julie

The underwater film premier is Sun., 6/26. She discussed the expansion of Naturalist Training to add a spring component: bridging the gap between the learning and actually leading tours. Discussion ensued. The second part is good for retention, for getting people to lead. The second part will be open to all naturalists (continuing education is good). There was general support for the new plan. The committee will keep working on it.

Julie raised the question of tiered funding for the naturalist course – a higher rate for people who aren't NBC naturalists, or who want to take the course, but don't plan on volunteering with NBC. We will take up this idea later. Heather reported that we've trained 300 naturalists, and fewer than 67 are active.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee: Susan

We discussed the invitation to apply for a Naturalist Diversity Scholarship. We agreed that there should be a word limit for statements. Should we offer larger scholarships? We need to ask, What are the barriers to your signing up for this course? What kind of financial support would you need to sign up for it? We agreed to invite applicants to submit financial need statements. More funding for these scholarships is possible. We agreed that the scholarships will be offered at \$250 with the possibility of more support based on need.

Community Outreach, Website, Tracks: Cassandra

The committee report details Earth Day coverage links. The next issue of *Tracks* is in the works.

Research Committee: Peter

The bill to curtail the sale of neonicotinoids for non-agricultural uses, AB-2146, has passed the Assembly and is headed to the Senate. Male mountain lion "M317" was tranquilized and taken to the Santa Ana Mountains. Learning to Coexist with Wildcats (including coyotes) – should we hold this event at NBC? We should circulate more information about coyotes, given the attack in Huntington Beach. *Next Door* is not the best avenue for getting our message out.

Restoration Committee: Randall

Alys and Randall are working on a 5-year plan. They are working with Heather to get grants for Title I school children to do restoration work. The Green New Deal grant means that the state is cutting green tape. There is now no need to submit a CEQA. This is a very big deal, especially in SoCal. There was a TAC meeting on Phase 3. Matt Yurko is leaving, and NBC is taking over the Project Grow nursery. There is no staff funding to cover work there. In Big Canyon, invasive plants are not coming in as strong as last year.

7:05: Adjournment: Sherry moved; Randall seconded; passed

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Jarratt  
Secretary