

NEWPORT BAY CONSERVANCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
MINUTES

Wednesday, July 22nd, 2026, 5:30 PM, In Person and **ZOOM**

Attending:

President – Bryan Tsu (virtual)

Board Members – Yugina Yun, McKenna Wegner, Bettina Eastman, Diane Daruty, Maureen Flanagan, Julia Powers, David Banuelas

Staff and guests - Heather Cieslak, Elodie Katz

OC Parks – Molly Waldram

Excused Absence: Peter Bryant, Lori Metherate, Mario Cuevas

5:32 Call to order/roll call: Bryan

Approval of Minutes: June 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Bettina moved; Molly seconded; Unanimously approved

1. Operations Report: Heather

The Operations Report was provided ([see attached](#)). The Board officially introduced Elodie Katz (Administrative Assistant) and David Banuelas (new incoming Board Member). The staff did a great job of making SOCALPAPA a success last week. Pavilions of Newport Coast plans to donate \$2,500 to support the Bay during their Grand Reopening on Friday, August 7th at 9:00 a.m. A reminder to the board for the upcoming Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 19th. Additionally, a walkthrough with the OCCF's Special Events Manager is tentatively scheduled for Friday, September 25th; for an Environmental Donors Meet-up touring the Randall Preserve and Upper Newport Bay.

2. Restoration Committee: Yugina

The Restorations Report was provided ([see attached](#)). Big Canyon Phase III continues to move forward in progress, with Superb planning to wrap up their contract by the end of July. It was brought to the board's attention that the saltmarsh might not be at the right elevation and may need to be graded down. The committee is working with the vendor to provide potential cost updates. The invasive limonium removal is in its final reporting period. The committee will be watching out for new grants to apply for the next year to keep the pipeline healthy.

3. Treasurer's Report: Julie

The Finance Report was provided ([see attached](#)). Work is underway to complete the detailed 2025 year-end financial statements in preparation for the upcoming audit. In addition, a preliminary draft of a MOU with CDFW is currently being reviewed.

4. Spirit Run Committee: Diane

Diane briefed the Board on the planning timeline for the upcoming Spirit Run and proposed scheduling an upcoming session to address event execution, including water station setup. In an effort to manage costs, the Board discussed options for the economical acquisition, storage, and deployment of water stations, including the use and water sourcing for potentially two water buffalos.

5. Fundraising Committee: Bryan

Bryan reported on progress for the upcoming Gourmet by the Bay event, thanking members for securing donation outreach. Ticket sales are now live on Humantix, with approximately 40 seats accounted for to date. Board members were asked to help drive further promotion. The Board also reviewed potential involvement from attending City Council members, focusing on a potential proclamation presentation and the development of a draft proclamation.

6. Education Committee: Mario

The Education Committee update will be provided at the next meeting.

7. Community Outreach Committee: Bettina

The Community Outreach Committee update will be provided at the next meeting.

6:38 Adjournment: Bettina moved; Molly seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
McKenna Wegner, Secretary and Bryan Tsu, President