



NBC Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 5:30-7:00 pm
(meeting held via Zoom)

Attending:

President – Cassandra Radcliff

Vice President – Julie Ferguson

Board members - Mario Cuevas, Taylor Sais, Peter Bryan, Saam Shams, Cesar Gallo, Derrick Ankerstar, Kimberly Leue-Bick, Susan Jarratt, Stacey Tutt

OC Parks - Derrick Ankerstar

Staff and guests: Alys Arenas, Heather Cieslak, Bettina Eastman

Excused absences: Susie Onate, Ramraghi Fuller

5:35 Call to order/roll call

Approval of the February 23, 2023 Minutes was postponed due to the Secretary being out of town.

Treasurer's Report – Heather gave a quick overview of budget/balance updates. She also mentioned that a week remains for people to sign up for Target Circle and have it affiliated with NBC. The program is expected to pay \$6,000.

Operations - Heather reported that two osprey eggs have been laid in the osprey nest. Currently, the Wi-Fi is not set up and requires someone with networking expertise to set it up and link it to a willing neighbor's Wi-Fi. Saam volunteered to help out in mid-April, which should still be before the babies hatch. It was also mentioned that Leonard Campos from OC Parks is retiring; he has volunteered for around 20 years at the Muth Center, and he will be around for just one more week ([see attached](#)).

Research Committee – Peter reported that he wants to bring up the issue of groundwater depletion at the next World Wetlands Day. He wants to invite people to present on this issue and says he could help us. Peter also discussed installing a Motus bird monitoring system; he wants to organize a talk for Motus to present to NBC. Peter also brought up the recent landslide, and Heather mentioned that the structure had already been removed. The landslide was part of a "State of Emergency" declared by the state, and it was proposed that Heather, Saam, Peter, and Stacey talk with the City of Newport Beach to investigate any damage that may have been caused to the bay.

Board Development Committee – Taylor reported that he wants to involve more naturalists and volunteers in the bay and give them the opportunity to serve on the board. He mentioned that everyone should actively look for new prospective board members.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee - The DEI committee conversation focused primarily on developing surveys and how to administer them to park visitors. These new surveys follow up on those done 3 years ago and are intended to help the committee strategize and set goals. Cesar suggested using Earth Day as an opportunity to distribute surveys to visitors and achieve a higher participation rate than previous surveys. Much of the discussion focused on the appropriateness of the survey questions. It was determined that board members could access the surveys on Google Drive individually and leave their comments there. The first request for the board was to endorse doing a survey on Earth Day, and the second was to set a deadline for feedback. Cesar mentioned that he was not aware there was already another survey in addition to the Earth Day survey, and as a result, he said it is not a good idea to have two surveys. Julie Ferguson also suggested presenting the survey to visitors when they arrive, not when they leave, as they would be more likely to fill it out. The Earth Day survey is much shorter than the general DEI survey, so there may not be enough time for people to review it.

Education Committee – Julie reported that all the details are in the report. She also mentioned that the committee is trying to set up a small group to set up a watershed exhibit and replace the one currently in the Muth Center. Mario and Susan were helpful in engaging with the Santa Ana School District Family and Community Engagement Workers ([see attached](#)).

Community Outreach – Cesar reported that all details are in the report. FACE participants have been reaching out to schedule appearances at science fairs, open house events, career fairs, etc. ([see attached](#))

Restoration Committee – Alys presented highlights of the restoration work in the Restoration Report.

Fundraising Committee – Heather briefly commented on this committee, as it is newly formed and has not yet had significant activity.

Other Business – Saam brought up a recent news article on Stu News Newport that discussed the water recycling system in the Orange County Groundwater Basin. The article claims that 30 years ago, the city of Newport Beach received virtually 100% of its water from foreign sources such as the Colorado River and Northern California, and that currently 85% of its water is locally sourced from recycled groundwater. According to this article, the city of Newport Beach is on track to reach 100% recycled water. Saam thought, it may be a good idea to share this with visitors during World Wetland Day, as Peter had mentioned he wanted to invite people to discuss groundwater aquifers during that event.

An article related to the story can be found here:

<https://www.stunewsnewport.com/index.php/2-uncategorised/14770-council-hears-latest-on-significant-expansion-032123>

7:00 pm Motion to adjourn – Julie moved; Cesar seconded; motion carries

Respectfully submitted,
Saam Shams, Board Member