NEWPORT BAY CONSERVANCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
MINUTES
Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 5:30 PM, In Person and **ZOOM**

Attending:
President – Bryan Tsu
Board Members – Julie Powers, Susie Onate, Peter Bryant, Maureen Flanagan, Yugina Yun, Diane Daruty, Lori Metherate, Bettina Eastman, McKenna Wegner, and Mario Cuevas
Staff and guests - Heather Cieslak
OC Parks – Molly Waldram

Excused Absence: None

5:35 Call to order/roll call: Bryan

Approval of Minutes:
September 2025 Board Minutes
Julie moved; Maurine seconded; Unanimously approved

1. **Operations Report: Heather**

The Operations Report was provided (see attached).

Heather discussed hiring a part-time administrative assistant to support her and perform general administrative work, consumer relations management, project billing, Quickbooks entry and assist with reconciliations at an annual cost of $40,000. Bettina moved to approve hiring a part-time assistant; Molly seconded; Unanimously approved.

2. **Treasurer's Report: Julie**

The Finance Committee Report was provided (see attached).

The Board voted to hire Deanna Descovi as a temporary employee in a financial specialist role to restructure the Bay's accounting systems and processes in preparation for financial audits. Unanimously approved via email.

Motion for a budget modification to update NBC's Quickbooks subscription to Quickbooks Pro for $1,650/year. Bettina moved to approve this budget modification; Molly seconded; Unanimously approved.

3. **Board Development: Diane and Maureen**

The Board Development Committee Report will be provided at the next meeting. Annual Meeting will be held on November 6, 2025 at 6-7:30pm. The Board discussed the Board

members whose terms are expiring in November 2025 and needing to be replaced which will be held to a vote at the annual meeting.

Bryan presented the November 2024 Annual Board Meeting Minutes (see attached). Bettina moved to approve the November 2024 Annual Board Meeting Minutes; Molly seconded; Unanimously approved

4. **Restoration Committee: Yugina**

   The Restoration Committee Report was provided (see attached).

5. **Fundraising Committee: Bryan**

   The Fundraising Committee Report will be provided at the next meeting.

6. **Education/DEI Committee: Mario**

   The Education Committee Report was provided (see attached).

7. **Research and Advocacy Committee: Peter**

   The Research Committee Report will be provided at the next meeting.

8. **Community Outreach Committee: Bettina**

   The Community Outreach Committee Report was provided (see attached).

   The Board discussed the 2026 Spirit Run. Motion to accept Newport Mesa Spirit Run, Inc.'s (NMSRI) invitation for Newport Bay Conservancy (NBC) to be a beneficiary of the 2026 Spirit Run, as proposed by NMSRI at the August and September Board Meetings, and in return for NBC (1) to host the run at the Bay, (2) to assist NMSRI in obtaining the necessary permits required by OC Parks, Fish and Wildlife, and other government agencies aside from the City of Newport Beach, (3) to assist NMSRI in obtaining permission from the Dunes and/or the Hyatt to use their parking lots for the expo and finish line area and event parking; and (4) in good faith, to consult in planning the event in the most environmentally friendly way possible. Approval of this motion is subject to NMSRI's board's reciprocal acceptance of the foregoing clause (3). Mario moved to approve NBC hosting the 2026 Spirit Run as discussed; Molly seconded; Unanimously approved.

7:06: Adjournment: Bettina moved; Molly seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Susie Onate
Secretary