

Approved April 13, 2017

MINUTES

MBCA BOARD MEETING

Thursday March 9, 2017

5:00 – 7:00 PM, Yucca Valley Community Center

Regular Meeting Call to Order: 5:07pm

| | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Bardwell | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruth Rieman |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Fick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claudia Sall |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat Flanagan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seth Shteir |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meg Foley | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laraine Turk |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Kennington | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marina West |

Introduction of Guests, Board Directors, and Advisory Members

Almut Fleck - BOA

Agenda Input and Approval

*Almut Fleck asked to add item on Board of Advisors
PF adds "Hold the Mustard" subject*

Seth Shteir requests that the Board of Directors humbly accept his resignation from the MBCA BOD due to his pending relocation to Seattle, Washington where he has accepted as position with Seattle Audubon. The entire Board thanked Seth for his many contributions during his tenure as an MBCA Director.

Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2017

RR/LT move to approve the February minutes.

Treasurer's Report

SB gave the Treasurer's Report and noted that a large donation from Jerry Mattos which was actually entered into PayPal in error so that credit card transaction will be reversed. Total balance in Treasury is \$50,130.02. SB also reviewed the memberships and donations received since the last report. Expenditures include the software approved last meeting, Green-Info annual membership with an invoice sent to MDLT, liability insurance, PO Box and the MBCA "ad" in the Hi Desert Star magazine.

LT passed out a report summarizing 2016 memberships and donations received which shows 34% of our non-grant revenue came from the Tour Registration.

Regarding membership, CS, questioned whether or not MBCA should consider a “lifetime membership”. It was agreed to add this item to the August strategic planning meeting agenda.

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

1) Finance Committee report: annual budget, etc.

SB reported that we still need to put the budget together.

2) Ruth Denison scholarship: publicity, application, award –SB, LT

LT gave the update noting that the application form is a “fillable” PDF on the website. She retrieved a list of private, public and charter schools and sent an announcement via email. The scholarship has been announced in the Hi Desert Star.

3) Grant status: Rose “Indigenous Place, Space, & Presence” – PF

PF reported that she will have the final report submitted this week.

4) Grants status: DWL / AWAC & Edison grants – MW & committee

MW reported that the DWL AWAC application was submitted and that HDWD will have a committee meeting on March 16, 2017 to consider a 2017 donation/sponsorship for the DWLS. MW has committed to attending.

5) Pilot Project – RR

No new information to report.

6) DWL Landscape Tour: planning – RR, MW, CS

RR reported on the progress of the two day event and the number of sites confirmed. She further reported that almost all data has been received from the site hosts. Regarding sites with wells, water usage will have to be further evaluated and recommendations made for future events. CS noted that Nancy Huntington will host the docent reception on April 2, 2017. PF noted that there are many areas in the City of 29 Palms has areas with native plants and perhaps there ought to be a “self-guided” tour map. PF believes that Vickie Waite could create the map with public gardens in the City or across the MB (JBWD, HDWD, Landers PO, Copper Mtn. College).

CS noted that the event has been published in the February Westway’s “calendar” section. She also received a call from C. Greyshock that Judy Marchyn’s JT home would be featured in the next Sunset Magazine.

7) MBCA BoD policy for e-votes – SK, LT

LT developed a set of parameters to guide the BOD:

The person suggesting the comment should consider these questions before proposing the E-vote:

- 1. Does it have relevance geographically, i.e. for the Morongo Basin (including Johnson Valley/Lucerne Valley area), JTNP, and/or the Mojave Desert?*
- 2. If the letter is generated outside of MBCA, is it a familiar and legitimate organization? If the request is from an informal group of individuals, perhaps it would be better to suggest individual sign-on rather than organizational sign-on.*
- 3. Is there time to get an E-vote? (2-day minimum)*

It was noted that the law requires E-votes and realistically 5-days response time is needed. Then there is the Committee that has agreed to review issues of concern and make a recommendation to the whole BOD regarding either MBCA crafted letters or “sign-on” letters. Perhaps the Committee could be duly authorized to execute such letters on behalf of the BOD and that would eliminate the need for an E-vote. Any director that discovers an issue can forward it to the Committee for consideration.

SB requested that e-mail correspondence of such importance clearly state E-vote, subject and deadline” to assist with response time.

MSC: RR/MW to form a review committee consisting of PF, SK, SB, Dave Lamfrom (interim basis as a member of the BOA) to assist the BOD in reviewing pertinent subject matter (issues of concern to the mission of the MBCA) and prepare comment letters or to recommend sign-on to letters drafted by other partner organizations.

MSC: RR/MW to designate the committee consisting of PF, SK, SB, Dave Lamfrom (BOA) to assist the Board in screening “sign-on” letters generated by other organizations or to develop and submit comment letters between meetings to eliminate the need for a unanimous E-vote. In the event the Committee cannot come to consensus an E-vote could be solicited as well.

8) Director Seth Shteir’s “transition” – SK, SS, DF

SS reported he has accepted a job as Conservation Manager for Seattle Audubon.

9) Almut Fleck asked to speak on the Board of Advisors

Almut addressed the Board regarding the Board of Advisors. She suggested that if she had a BOA Business Card that she could distribute them at events she attends encouraging folks to join MBCA and attend events. The BOD discussed the background and expectations of the BOA.

Outreach & Communication

1) mbconservation.org: report - LT

LT stated that she was mostly preparing for the Landscape Tour with Nora's help.

2) UCR Center for Environmental Research & Technology 's annual Solar Conference: Report– RR, PF, SB

Reports were delayed due to time constraints.

Conservation Issues

1) MBCA signed onto letter to National Governors Assoc. in support for ESA (initiated by CDB and signed by consortium of organizations nationally) - PF

The letter was approved via e-vote.

2) SB Co. solar moratorium requested - SK

Ramos will initiate by stating to BOS (yesterday's regular meeting) that he has received requests from the community for a solar moratorium, to lead into asking for the update on the RECE (per Molly Wiltshire, Ramos Lucerne field rep.)

Report delayed due to time constraints.

3) DHS Council / Mission Creek Rd. developer appealed request for permit (2,200 housing units) – RR

RR reported that the Desert Hot Springs City Council had closed the Public Hearing and continued the matter until March 21, 2017.

4) Reauthorization OHVMR Program, SB 249 – PF

PF gave the report. Reauthorization is necessary to allow appropriate oversight of the issues. She will be constructing a comment letter on behalf of MBCA.

5) Scenic 247: MBCA letter & response - SK

....Clearly, the Scenic Highway 247 Committee has done its homework. ...

Judging from the materials on the web site, I would say it is time for us to meet and discuss the initial submittal to Caltrans for nomination. Terri Rahhal, LUS

Report delayed due to time constraints.

Community Reports & Events

1) Black Rock Lecture, March 17 7PM: *Creating New Park & Land Stewards*

LT will be moderating the event and will bring the materials for the MBCA reach-out table. SB and SK will attend and manage the table.

2) JBWD Water Day, March 26th

SK and LT will attend the event.

3) Yucca Valley Earth Day – April 22nd

RR made the reservations with the Hi Desert Nature Museum

4) DWL Landscape Tour – April 22 & 23, 2017

No further information provided.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:00pm

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, April 13, 2017 5:00 PM / YV Community Center