

APPROVED January 11, 2018

MBCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thurs., December 14, 2017

5:00 – 7:00 PM, Center for Healthy Generations (YVCC closed)

Regular Meeting Call to Order:

Steve Bardwell

David Fick

Pat Flanagan

Meg Foley

Sarah Kennington

Ruth Rieman

Claudia Sall *(prior notice)*

Seth Shteir

Laraine Turk

Marina West

Mike Lipsitz

Meeting called to order at 5:08pm

Introduction of Guests and Board Directors

Melanie Aldridge, Kaitlyn Smith, Gavin Foote, and Jessica Schultz attending from Ms. Zack's Ecology Class.

A moment to remember Donna Charpiel who passed away Nov. 1, 2017 - *David gave a brief summary of Donna's background and conservation efforts and achievements.*

Agenda Input

Pat added "Firearms Ordinance (4117)" under community reports

Approval of Minutes from November 9, 2017

MSC Sarah/Seth to unanimously accept the minutes as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Steve gave the Treasurer's Report noting a total balance of \$52,752.47. He further reported that he was able to contact Nicole Serrano and has completed distribution of her grant. All chamber of commerce annual dues have been renewed as well as the Yucca Mesa Improvement Association. The MBCA holiday news ad has been published.

Treasurer's report accepted.

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

1) Finance Committee report: annual budget, etc. - Steve

Steve reported that a 2017 and 2018 budget have been prepared.

MSC Meg/Ruth unanimous to accept the 2017 and 2018 budgets as presented.

2) Grants status: a. Rose “*Indigenous Place, Space, & Presence*” b. DWL / AWAC & Edison grants

Pat reported that the progress on the formal publication continues.

3) Events committee report: DWL Landscape Tour; Annual meeting—Marina, Claudia, Ruth, Laraine

Marina reported that Steve will submit receipts to AWAC/MWA for reimbursement of expenses associated with the Fall Lecture. Ruth gave an update noting that Jill Giegerich will give a presentation on permaculture. The annual meeting portion will highlight MBCA’s 49 years of the past and looking forward to our 50th year in service to the Morongo Basin and surrounding communities.

4) Nominating Committee report - Board packets; existing directors’ terms (Ruth & Meg begin new 3-year terms in 2018); new director candidate recruitment; slate of 2018-19 officers - Sarah

Sarah gave the update noting that all directors and officers are staying “on board” and officers will remain the same as 2017.

5) Susan Luckie Reilly MBCA-related files - Meg, David, Laraine

David gave a brief report on the status of the records review by Meg, David and Laraine.

6) Caltrans Adopted-highway report – David

Sarah gave the update noting that the paperwork to renew the “Adopt-a-Highway” application for the stretch along Hwy 62 in Joshua Tree. She further noted safety training will be required for the renewal.

7) MBCA Annual Task Calendar:

- **December** – President sends annual membership letter & invite to Jan. Annual Meeting.

Marina and Sarah agreed to review the task calendar and report back at the January meeting.

Outreach & Communication

1) Communications:

- report issue of "JT Chamber add-ins" – Laraine
- YVHS Natl. Honors Soc. student, Mikaela Monical's service project: raise awareness of MBCA to Basin youth

Laraine gave the report on the JT Chamber issue which resulted in the capture of a host of email addresses we did not previously have.

Sarah gave an update on a survey form created by Mikaela for her project. Other parts of the project would include a nature hike or two as well as a blog post.

2) Promotion: Hi-Desert Star spot; lobby card; 3-fold brochure; stickers– Laraine, Marina

The Hi Desert Star "spot" resulted in a holiday ad suggesting MBCA memberships are the gift that "improves our future". Laraine distributed a sample "tri-fold" she created and asked for feedback.

3) Community & Countywide plans & EIR Scoping for Countywide Plan: MBCA comment letters – Sarah, Pat

Pat will submit a brief comment letter on behalf of MBCA by the deadline of 12/15/2017.

4) ACLU Summer Advocacy Institute: supporting a Basin teenager - Pat

Pat gave the report suggesting MBCA might want to nurture this opportunity for a student. Meg suggested that for the same amount of money we might be able to bring speakers here to a workshop and expose a larger audience. No further action was taken.

Conservation Issues

1) RECE: status w/LUS & BOS re. delayed finding re. 4.10; Newberry Springs Community Council considers CEQA challenge - Pat Sarah and Pat gave the update noting the RECE Section 4.10 which was sent back to the Planning Commission and to date it has not gone back to the Planning Commission. Sarah noted outreach from Newberry Springs Community group which is already contemplating CEQA challenges. However, this is premature as the document has not yet been adopted.

2) Desert monuments diminished and Antiquities Act threatened: April Sall's Hi-Desert Star op-ed

Sarah summarized the issue with additional input from Pat noting that the Sand-to-Snow Monument appears to be protected. Castle Mtns. and Mojave Trails National Monuments could still be reduced in size.

3) JTNP entrance fee hike: status - Meg

Meg reported that the comment deadline has been extended to December 22, 2017. The proposal is to increase the entrance fee to \$70. No further information available. It was noted that the annual pass is \$80.

4) Solar Projects

- Palen Solar Project: MBCA comments for Draft Supplemental EIR/Land Use Plan Amendment - Pat
- Ord Mountain Solar Ordinance

Pat and committee submitted a comment letter regarding the renewed/redefined Palen project. Laraine noted the letter has been uploaded to the MBCA website.

Pat noted the Ord Mtn. EIR has not yet been released. Sarah noted this project interferes with the Scenic Hwy 247 designation. This designation requires Board of Supervisor's acknowledgement but such action has not yet been scheduled. Sarah will follow-up with CoSB planning staff regarding status of this action item.

5) Cadiz Water Project and AB1000

Pat reported that there are lands owned by the State of California (public school lands) that the water transmission pipeline would have to cross. Easements will

be required from the State and that approval will have to come from the State Lands Commission.

6) Per Mojave Desert Blog, 11/16/17, *Will the Military Take Over the Desert National Wildlife Refuge?* Proposed DOD expansion Nellis Test & Training Range – currently managed w/FWL – close public access to wildlife refuge lands – Sarah

Sarah gave the report regarding a proposed expansion of Nellis AFB onto Desert National Wildlife Refuge.

Community Reports

- 1) *Pat briefed the BOD on issues related to the illegal discharge of firearms on private property (Pat clarified “shooting on their own lands” not shooting on other people’s private property) in the Wonder Valley community noting this is a violation of the CoSB firearms ordinance (Sec. 4117).*
- 2) *Meg announced that the Joshua Tree National Park Association (JTNP) is accepting applications for the 2017 Minerva Hoyt Award until approximately January 13, 2018.*
- 3) *Meg announced a JTNP Wilderness Workshop which is being planned for January 23, 24 and 25, 2018. MBCA will be invited to attend this event.*
- 4) *Laraine announced that the 29 Palms Marine Base will be re-engaging in the CoSB Night Sky Ordinance and Seth will be assisting with the development of the ordinance language.*

Meeting Adjourned at 7:05pm

<p>Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, January 11, 2017 5:00 PM YV Community Center</p>
