

APPROVED December XX, 2017

MBCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
**Thurs., November 9, 2017** 3:00 – 5:00 PM, YVCC

**Regular Meeting Call to Order: 5:06pm**

<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 (via teleconf)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meg Foley (5:15pm)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laraine Turk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Kennington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marina West

**Introduction of Guests and Board Directors**

*Ms. Mel Aldridge – Ms. Zack’s Ecology Class*

**Agenda Input**

*PF adds – BOD to consider meeting at 3pm during the winter months*

**Approval of Minutes from October 12, 2017**

*Minutes approved as presented.*

**Treasurer’s Report**

*SB reported a total of \$21,869.84 (CD) and \$32,101.83 (checking). He expects the security deposit to be returned shortly from the Nov. 4 event at the Senior Center. He further reported that the Chamber of Commerce membership renewals*

***MSC: DF/CS to renew all Chamber memberships for 2018.***

**Capacity Building & Organizational Issues**

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

*SB and MW commit to meeting and developing the 2018 budget prior to the December meeting.*

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

*PF reported on the progress of the “Commemorative Booklet” publication related to the event.*

### 3) MBCA Letter writing protocol - Laraine

*LT distributed a draft process/practice for drafting and approving comment letters. This process provides guidance to the “Comment Letter Committee”. The Committee is comprised of SS, PF, SB and the President and will utilize this process going forward.*

### 4) Events committee report: – RR, MW, CS

- Fall program 11/4/17: Net Zero Energy
- DWL Landscape Tour
- Annual meeting

*SB reported he sent Thank You emails to all the exhibitors he invited. LT reviewed the comment cards. RR/MW will send Thank You’s to the remaining speakers and volunteers. LT will post information to the website in the near future including the presentation materials.*

*RR reported on planning activities related to the 2018 Landscape Tour including reaching out to “higher” water users. These users are encouraged to lower use in the coming year and we have offered resources to assist in that effort. It was further reported that “The Tower Homestead” is installing a meter on their well. SB asked about non-invasive water meters.*

*MW said she would look into non-invasive flow meters before the next meeting.*

*Regarding the January Annual Meeting LT reviewed the feedback on topics of interest which included permaculture, NetZero 2.0 and the concept of a conservation faire. Permaculture garnered the most “votes”. CS had spoken to Jill Giegerich and she indicated an interest in a permaculture lecture up to 3 hours. January 27<sup>th</sup> was selected at the date. CS will confirm with Jill.*

### 5) Nominating Committee report - + -

- Board packets
- Existing directors’ terms (RR & MF begin new 3-year terms in 2018)
- New director candidate recruitment
- Slate of 2018-19 officers

*SK reported that she spoke to Mike Lipsitz and understands that he has tremendous respect for MBCA but he appears to be very busy as well. CS noted the other candidate option is Chris Clarke.*

**MSC: LT/MF to add Mike Lipsitz to the Board of Directors.**

*SK will contact Mike and inform him of our decision. All officers will retain their positions for another year.*

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

*RR provided a verbal interview with SLR for the archives.*

7) MBCA & Caltrans Adopted-highway report – David

*DF noted the section of highway is clean now.*

8) MBCA Annual Task Calendar:

- **November** - Nominating Com. recommends new Directors + Events Comm. finalizes annual Jan. meeting;
- **December** – President sends annual membership letter & invite to Jan. Annual Meeting.

*SB noted progress on tasks.*

### **Outreach & Communication**

1) Communications: retooling for balance & efficiency:  
mbconservation.org + E-Blasts + News updates - Laraine & Sarah

*LT gave the update and demonstration of several webpages and how the e-blasts connect to the website through “links” which would provide additional information beyond the brief “e-blast” topics. SK reviewed some possible changes such as a quarterly newsletter. Help is needed with the calendar updates and Facebook posts/monitoring as LT is not able to keep up with these aspects of our communication goals.*

*Our guest, Mel Aldridge suggested looking into the app called “remind” which allows you to receive “push notifications”.*

*LT noted she is working with Nora on some other updates to improve access to important resources. A new “Take Action” tab was suggested as well as some additional improvements.*

2) Promotion: lobby card; 3-fold brochure; stickers/decals; table display for use at events – Laraine, Marina

*No additional information available.*

3) Community & Countywide plans: 11/6/17 Town Hall meeting rept.; Environmental Element; MBCA comment letter - Pat

*PF gave the update noting that she is trying to get the CoSB to extend the comment period beyond the holidays. It was noted that CS has drafted a comment letter regarding the Pioneertown area.*

4) Letter to BOS: value of videoconferencing @ JT Govt. Center – LT & DF

*LT will send the letter shortly.*

5) Candidate Forum

*This would be planned for Fall 2018.*

### **Conservation Issues**

1) JTNP entrance fee hike & MBCA comment letter

*MF reported that the fee has been postponed “for the moment” and maybe this letter can be postponed/cancelled. MF will forward additional information once available.*

2) Palen Solar Project - "Notice of Availability for a Draft Supplemental EIR/Land Use Plan Amendment" w/ 2-pages of project detail & map. Public meeting: Nov. 14, 4-6 pm, UCR Palm Desert Center. Comments deadline: 12/11/17

*SK introduced the item. PF will submit a comment letter. Project has now morphed into a solar PV project.*

3) Ord Mountain Solar Ordinance

*PF gave the report noting that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being drafted by the CoSB. This project impacts the proposed Scenic Hwy 247 project. She further noted the GIS mapping work that Brian Hammer, Mojave Water Agency has produced.*

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*There was further information regarding the state lands and BLM "land swaps". CS noted that she met with Sen. Jean Fuller regarding this issue and will be following up with her. She wants to have the state put pressure on the BLM to leave the section along Hwy 247. The swaps are about creating sellable lands for the state and swap with BLM for parcels that might be suitable for renewable energy. There is a section of land in every township for the benefit of state schools. Then came an idea to sell these lands to bail out State Teachers Retirement System (CalSTRS).*

*Lucerne Valley's Eight Minute Energy project application is still in review.*

#### 4) Cadiz Water Project and AB1000

*DF reported that Sen. De Leon who held it back in Committee is running for federal senate seat. MW reported that the Legislature reconvenes in January so no action prior to that.*

#### 5) RECE – Renewable Energy Conservation Element

*PF said it was to be returning to Planning Commission in December.*

### **Community Reports**

*SK reported on the Environmental Element Committee meeting which will influence the Countywide Plan. This process will be folded into a statewide plan or Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS).*

***Meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm***

<p><b>Next Regular Meeting:</b> Thursday, December 14th, 2017 5:00 PM YV Community Center</p>
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