

MBCA APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thurs., January 11, 2018

5:00 – 7:00 PM, YVCC

Regular Meeting Call to Order: 5:05pm

<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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Lipsitz	

Meeting called to order: 5:05pm

Introduction of Guests and Board Directors

Mel Aldridge (YVHS), Chris Clarke (NPCA),

Agenda Input

*PF adds South Coast AQMD Update as part of Palen Update
CS adds Community Plan deadline announcement to community reports
ML adds Campfires on BLM land under Air Quality
SK adds Paradise Valley under conservation issues
SK adds MB Strategic Partners of MB Culture and Arts*

Approval of Minutes from December 14, 2017

LT/RR moved to approve the minutes as presented.

Treasurer's Report

SB gave the Treasurer's Report noting \$21,869.84 and \$31,109.33 for a total of \$52,989.96. All bills and invoices have been paid. SB has also registered RR, PF and SB for the UCR Solar Conference.

Treasurer's report accepted as presented.

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

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

No new information to report.

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

PF updated the Board on the progress of the publication from the “Indigenous Places” event held late 2016.

SB noted that he has prepared a reimbursement request to MWA for the September lecture.

CS stated that she is needing to pass the baton on grant writing for MBCA. PF indicated that she can assist in those efforts. CS to provide PF with her “templates”. MW will assist as necessary as will MF.

3) Events committee report: Annual mtg/prog (Feb. 10, 2018); DWL Landscape Tour (April 2018)

Exhibitors we intend to invite: Joe Fairbanks, Andrew Tuffley (Tao Energy), Nicholas Holmes, Unique Nursery, Cactus Mart, Night Skies, MDLT, M. J. Smith Excavation,

CS asks if we want to underwrite a site evaluation from Jill G. as a door prize. Also, perhaps Cactus Mart or Unique can offer door prizes. MF volunteered to inquire with Cactus Mart.

RR passed out the draft press release and she will get notice out to Z107.7. MW agreed to do the Hi Desert Star Ad utilizing Dave Miller.

RR continued with an update on the Landscape Tour noting 18 sites have been confirmed and visits to the new sites he number of confirmed sites. SK had made contact with photographer Paul Moorehead and another photographer who have agreed to assist.

4) MBCA’s 50th Anniversary / 2019

LT suggested a committee be formed to assist with the event. Past MBCA directors should be contacted. Regular quarterly news releases about the event and possibly some fund raising centered on the event. RR asked if Susan’s home could be utilized in some way in this event but it was noted that the site is

logistically challenging. Perhaps another location could be used? CS suggested an all-day event with exhibitors and lectures held at YVCC.

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

No new information to report on the files but PF will circulate the bequest of SLR to the Copper Mountain College.

6) Caltrans Adopted-highway report – David

No new information to report.

Outreach & Communication

1) Communications:

- mbconservation.org

LT gave a brief update on NationBuilder changes. She further noted the “web team” needs to ramp up work for the Tour.

- YVHS Natl. Honors Soc. student, Mikaela Monical’s service proj.

LT gave the update. Mikaela’s project will be a “parks and preserves” survey or an expansion of that subject as well as some kind of nature hike. LT and SK have been working with Mikaela on her project description.

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

MW has been keeping up with advertising in the Desert Moon Pictorial, a free real-estate publication circulated around the MB and Coachella Valley.

PF asked about reprinting Invasive Plant postcards. It was suggested that we reformat into “rack card” size but if time is important then we should reprint the existing card.

MSC CS/SK to authorize a maximum of \$500 to reproduce the Invasive Plant postcard.

3) Energy Summit report - LT

LT gave a brief report noting Angelina’s presentation.

Conservation Issues

1) RECE: status w/LUS & BOS re. delayed finding re. 4.10; Newberry Springs Community Council considers CEQA challenge – Claudia, Pat

CS reported from CA Desert Coalition meeting that Chuck Bell noted the deadline for Community Plan (Action Plan) is January 15th.

No new information on the Newberry Springs Community Council concerns over this new community planning process. CS noted the dissatisfaction with the manner in which these plans have developed.

It was noted that the RECE updates have not come before the Planning Commission as of yet.

Regarding the Community Action Plans. PF did not submit formal comments on the Action Plans. MBCA attention will be on the General Plan Update EIR and the RECE.

2) JTNP entrance fee hike: status - Meg

No new information to report. SK noted that the Secretary of the Interior is relocating staff out of D.C. Chris Clarke confirmed that they are moving folks to Denver, CO to be nearer to the “west”. He mentioned it was not a bad idea on behalf of the Dept. of the Interior.

3) Solar Projects: a) Palen Solar Project: MBCA comments for Draft Supplemental EIR/Land Use Plan Amendment; b) Ord Mountain Solar Ordinance

PF noted the air quality monitoring is not located anywhere the site. She was able to make contact with a representative of the South Coast AQMD while attending the 1/22/2018 Water+Energy Summit. From this encounter PF was able to obtain contact information for the AQMD’s “CEQA” person. She also discovered that AQMD is working to deploy “remote rooftop” monitoring stations that could be placed on private properties (a statewide effort). Her intend is to bring this issue to an upcoming MAC meeting to spread the word.

PF further mentioned that the revised West Mojave Plan (WEMO) is due to be released for public comment soon. Again, there is no air quality monitoring data available to determine “impacts” from activities such as Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) usage on public lands.

No new information regarding the Ord Mountain Solar EIR which is expected in 2018.

4) Cadiz Water Project and AB1000

DF noted that Kevin DeLeon took a payout from Cadiz, Inc.

Chris Clarke said they are stepping back from the project now. He said some new hydrology studies will be out soon and NPCA is trying to strengthen relationship with Metropolitan Water District. AB 1000 was amended to remove local water agencies but went to suspense file at the end of 2017. DF questioned the validity of the SB County permit which he thought would only be valid for 3 years.

5) Paradise Valley Campaign – Chris Clarke

Chris Clarke explained that Paradise Valley is a new town development on the boundary of the JTNP (Coachella Valley side). Features are 8,500 homes, light industrial, etc. The EIR was released recently. National Park Conservation Association (NPCA) has concerns regarding the impact to the JTNP including dark skies, wildlife corridors (Pronghorn to be introduced to the area), invasive plants, etc. He asked that we “sign on” to a letter requesting an extension to the comment period. Chris will forward the relevant information to PF and SS for evaluation and action by the “comment” committee. All Board members agreed that MBCA should “sign on” to the extension request letter. CS asked about the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and its role in this process. Water supply has been secured through exchange with Coachella Valley Water District.

6) Campfires at Giant Rock – Mike Lipsitz

ML noted that there were a number of campers in the Giant Rock area over the holidays and lots of campfires. He noted that campfires are allowed with a permit. He said he went to the area and noted large fire scars, trash and tires.

7) Night Skies Update - SS

SS noted the CA Energy Commission is updating the Building Energy and Efficiency Standards. These include default lighting zones for outdoor lighting and could be the basis for the creation of a County Ordinance.

Community Reports

- 1) Memorial for Donna Charpiet, Thurs., April 19, 2018, Eagle Mountain, LaRonna Jojoba Farm

SK gave the report noting that the event is open to the public and LT has updated the MBCA calendar.

2) MB Strategic Partners of MB Culture and Arts – SK

PF noted that she is assigned to this committee and that citizen input is needed.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:45pm

<p>Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, February 8, 2018 5:00 PM YV Community Center / Mesquite Room</p>
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