MBCA Board Meeting APPROVED Minutes
Thursday, July 11, 2019 / 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Regular Meeting Call to Order: 5:10 PM.

_x_ Steve Bardwell  _x_ Meg Foley  __ Ruth Rieman (notice)
_x_ David Fick  _x_ Sarah Kennington  _x_ Laraine Turk
_x_ Pat Flanagan  _x_ Mike Lipsitz  _x_ Marina West

Sentences in blue indicate tasks to be completed.

Introduction of Guests and Board Directors
No guests

Agenda approval
Approved by consensus.

Minutes from June 13, 2019 BOD meeting
Laraine moved to approve June minutes, Marina seconded, all were in favor (8-0).

Treasurer's Report
- Marina provided copies of a balance sheet as of June 30, showing $22,117.94 in our CD account and $35,447.11 in our Checking account. With an additional $10.79 income from PayPal, our total assets are $57,575.84.
- Our recent income was $8100 in tour income including checks from sponsors.
- We’ve paid the annual fee for website host Nationbuilder.
- Pat will submit a requisition for reimbursement of printer cartridge costs.
- Marina is working on the renewal application for directors’ liability insurance.

We accepted the Treasurer’s report.
Marina mentioned that MDLT hasn’t yet paid the $300 for their half of maintenance on the Conservation Priorities Map website to be paid to the Rose Foundation. Laraine volunteered to call someone at MDLT to encourage payment.

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues
1) Grant status: DWL - Edison & AWAC – SB
After Steve’s discussion with SCE representative Jennifer Cusack in which she expressed uncertainty about SCE’s grant program and also her concerns that SCE did not play a larger role in our Energy Summit Annual Meeting in January, we decided not to request a grant from them for 2019-20. Steve and Sarah plan to write a letter to Jennifer asking for SCE’s expertise in relation to future meetings.

We have the $5000 purchase order from AWAC for our 2018-2019 Desert-Wise Living Series and have been awarded another $5000 grant for 2019-2020.

2) Purple Air monitors: AQMD support & installation/location additional units –PF
- Pat told CMC’s Business officer Meredith Plummer that she’d be glad to talk with the incoming Superintendent/President Darren Otten about installing monitors.
- Marina sent an email to Mary Helen Tuttle about placing one at Copper Mountain Mesa Community Center. There’s been no response so far but Pat will follow up.
- Other possibilities mentioned were Joshua Basin Water District, JT Sportsman’s Club, or the hospital. Pat said the fire station in Morongo Valley will have one. Steve will talk with Curtis Yakimow about placing one in Yucca Valley. There’s one at the
JT Community Center (possibly placed by AQMD) but it has been offline lately. Pat will check with AQMD about its status.

3) Events Committee reports:
   • DWL Committee - Landscape Tour report, 2020?
   Laraine and Marina are working on final report numbers. Steve noted it was good see the number of memberships added through the Tour: 21 singles and 16 couples. Laraine noted that some of them were renewals though quite a few were first-time memberships seemingly added because of the Tour. Marina will be planning the thank-you tours to donors, mostly water districts. Marina’s staff member Seth is working on a video of the Tour with photos and some drone footage. Steve volunteered to participate in the thank-you tour.

Next year is the Tour’s 10th year. Sarah mentioned an event she came across labeled “Ten for Ten.” Using that model she suggested we could do the “ten best sites” for our tenth-year Tour. At prior meetings we have been enthusiastic about Miriam Seger’s suggestion to include demonstrations/workshops at some sites. The Tour Committee will review and plan.

   • Fall event coordinate with CDPA 25 celebration.
   Having the event early in the day would be useful since there are many other events locally. Since we can have access to YVCC at 8:45 AM, we can start at 9 with 15 minutes of informal gathering then start the program at 9:15. We’ll include the graphic of the 25th anniversary CDPA logo on the program and on our website. We will at least mention and maybe have an MDLT person to talk about their events that day. Tom McCarthy will be scheduled at 9:30, a 1-hour slot including Q&A. We’ll suggest a topic concerning water and planning, the future of water in our region. Possible issues include the status of MWA water to our area, groundwater issues, recharge by state water project. The Committee will meet soon to decide details.

4) 50th book: - ML
Mike reported that the Committee has met twice. Melissa has the latest text copy and is working on a revised quote. Mike suggests mailing the current draft to Greg Gilbert for another technical edit. We will try to keep it within the 56 pages but will check with Melissa about increments. We will put some content on the website and reference such in the book.

We discussed the cost, currently 1000 copies estimated at between $5000-6000, and with the addition of Melissa’s graphic design fees, around $8000. After discussion about whether to list sponsors, we decided that the current display of sponsor logos in the section about the Landscape Tour is sufficient. We also discussed whether it is appropriate to use DWL grant money for this project, and determined that that if that is a concern we can specify that the cost is covered by the Ruth Denison and/or Beulah Smith bequests. (Smith bequest is from many years ago and is the base of the CD; Denison money is only partially used for the scholarship as a 5-year commitment only and we’ve awarded 3.) The Committee will meet with Melissa soon and decide whether to keep September 28th as the deadline for completion.

5) mbconservation.org / E-blasts SB & LT
There was discussion about whether Chuck Bell’s recent membership and donation was personal or for the Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association; Pat was sure it was
meant for LVEDA with Chuck as representative. (Did I get that right, Pat?) Laraine will email him.

Laraine would like to review some website issues, especially a reconfiguration of the Issues & Resources page. She’ll bring the projector to the Retreat for that discussion. Meg wasn’t sure about availability/strength of internet at the BMCP Education Center but Marina said we could use her “hot spot.”

6) Letter writing committee: SB
Mike will replace Seth on this committee (for reviewing and signing on to letters with a deadline before our next regular meeting), so the Committee is now Pat, Steve, and Mike.

7) Board retreat: – August 4, 2019 at Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, time to be determined.

**Conservation Issues**
1) Paradise Valley EIR: Riverside Planning Commission 8-21-19 in Palm Desert SB, PF
Steve and Sarah are planning to attend.

2) Solar projects
   - Daggett - Ord Mtn. Solar & Energy Project - Calcite - PF
No updates but keeping an eye out for movement towards possible future Supervisors actions.

3) Countywide Plan & Community Action Plans
   - Draft Policy plan, Land Use Plan, Community Action Guides released for public review. MBCA response Comments due 8-15-19:– All
Reference was made to a recent letter from Joan Taylor suggesting different groups focus on certain sections. Steve, Pat, and Mike will meet to brainstorm (Pat offered her house) and will ask for additional input from Janet Johnston if she’s available. Two focus areas should be on what’s missing and what they did with the old community plans. Pat will check with Chuck Bell about what they’re doing in Lucerne Valley. There’s also the issue from the Jerry Blum letter sequence about what data they’re using as reference points for measurable items. Pat added that it’s important to tell them what is incorrect and/or inappropriate in the Plan.

4) Cadiz water harvesting proposal – SB307 Richard Roth Riverside – SB
SB 307 was sent to the Governor today. The bill would require new reviews for the Cadiz project.

5) Dark Sky ordinance –MBCA to participate in night sky tour. SB, LT
The 3rd District Dark Sky Committee (includes Steve, Laraine, and Pat) is preparing an August 1st Dark Sky Tour for county and local decision-makers as part of creating a new dark sky ordinance. Supervisor Rowe plans to attend, as well as Terri Rahhal, Andy Wingert, several 29 Palms folks, hopefully some YV representation, maybe Shannon Groves’ field rep, and Park and Base people. Program will include a demonstration of the Light Pollution app.

6) Scenic 247 - SK
There was a phone conference with Karen Watkins and Suzanne Peterson (County) to get started on a corridor protection plan. It was mentioned at the HVCC meeting that there are
a lot of huge trucks traveling 24/7, especially a lot of produce trucks, seemingly to avoid state weight stations. Supervisor Rowe heard this and perhaps there will be subsequent action.

7) Eagle Mountain pumped storage – SB772 fails -DF
In litigation again.

**Outreach & Communications**
1) CDPA 25-year celebration MDLT is coordinating area wide celebrations – SB, PF, MF
*See 3) Events Committee Reports under Capacity Building above.*

2) CMC SLR – SB, LT
Both Riemans plus Steve and Laraine met with Dr. Alfredo Martinez-Morales at UCR and he is interested in the renewable energy project at CMC funded by Susan Luckie Reilly’s bequest. The first step is to get usage data from CMC to review; CMC has signed the approval and Alfredo has the data to begin the review. The emphasis will be less on the original goal of Net Zero Energy and instead focus on developing a microgrid. Pat suggests making lighting part of the agenda.

3) MAC - SB, PF
There was a presentation about HUD grants at the last meeting. Unincorporated communities don’t get money such funding due to the structure. The MAC wants to get Supervisors to give some HUD money directly to unincorporated communities. Pat was impressed with the presentation and believes the speaker was open to the comments expressed. Steve noted there are no non-profit groups directly related to creating low income housing in our area.

4) Chambers of Commerce – SB, PF
No attendance was possible at any recent Chamber installations despite good intentions.

5) YV aquatic and recreation center: – SB
Steve attended the public forum about the proposed facility that would house a lap pool and indoor running track. It’s a $22 million grant and $15 million has to be spent fairly soon. There are 2 sites under consideration, one at the community center, the other at Brehm Park. Traffic flow could be a problem at YVCC but less so at the Brehm site. Steve publicly mentioned sustainability as an issue of concern and the audience responded well to the idea (solar, landscaping, lighting).

6) Climate change – D of A scientists, bugs: - SB
Steve read an article from the NY Times Magazine about reduction in the number of bugs in the world. Birds are starving, and there are many other consequences.

**Adjourned at 7:04 PM.**

**Letters signed onto:**

**Next Regular Meeting:** Thursday, September 12, 2019 5:00 – 7:00 PM
YV Community Center / YV Community Center / Mesquite Room