

MBCA Board Meeting APPROVED Minutes

RESCHEDULED: WEDNESDAY, November 13, 2019 / 5:00 – 7:00 PM
Ocotillo Room, Yucca Valley Community Center

Regular Meeting Call to Order at 5:04 PM, noting change of day.

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|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Bardwell | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Kennington |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Fick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Lipsitz |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pat Flanagan – advance notice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruth Rieman |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meg Foley | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laraine Turk |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marina West |

Introduction of Guests and Board Directors

Donna Thomas, Morongo Valley
Adrian Tung, Joshua Tree
Miriam Seger, Joshua Tree
Janet Johnston, Joshua Tree

Agenda approval

The agenda was approved by consensus.

Minutes from October 10, 2019 BOD meeting

Some minor edits were suggested. Marina moved to approve the minutes with the edits, Ruth seconded, and all were in favor. (8-0)

Treasurer’s Report

Marina sent reports to Board members with financial detail. There is \$22,336.18 in the CD which is due for roll-over. The checking account holds \$33,454.91, for a 55791.09 total on hand.

We are waiting for an invoice from CDC for their event. Expenses for our Fall DWL event was mostly in advertising (\$1100) with catering about \$285, for a total expenditure of about \$1390. We received 2 membership renewals/donations of \$50. Marina has filed the Secretary of State’s SI-100 form, now waiting for confirmation. Marina is working to better categorize expenses via the “trial” budget document that she shares with us monthly.

The Treasurer’s report was accepted by consensus.

Steve told us he learned that only David, Ruth, and Laraine are authorized to sign on the CD. Steve ran through alternatives for reinvesting the CD:

- 9 months @ 1.85%
- 17 months @ 1.75%
- 37 months @ 1.85%
- 59 months @ 2.00%

After discussion, Ruth moved that we roll it for 9 months at 1.85%. Marina seconded, and all were in favor. (8-0)

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

1) Grant status: DWL - Edison & AWAC – SB, MW
No changes.

2) Air Quality Monitoring: AQMD support & installation/location Purple Air units –SB, PF. Response from MDAQMD re: CARB letter – SB, PF
We signed onto a letter with LVEDA and Newberry Springs to ask the AQMD to add some stations in Newberry Springs and the Barstow area, in response to the proposed RE projects, since current stations are all to the west so don't measure the results of ground scraping. *Steve will send the letter to Laraine to put online if it's not already.*

The response from Mojave Desert AQMD was that they have plenty of stations, and the Purple Air monitor data can't be used because the devices are not approved. So Pat and others are in the process of writing a response that the official stations are not in appropriate places. Their letter was filled with inaccuracies and Pat has detail. Plus, baseline data is needed before the industrial scale projects go in. We are asking for them to install certified monitors. Newberry CSD filed an appeal to the approval of the Daggett project on environmental justice issues. The EIR did not take into account economic and social effects on a low income community downwind from the project. California's Attorney General has made a ruling requiring consideration of such but there was nothing in the EIR. The appeal will be heard by the Board of Supervisors at a not-yet-known date. *Steve will send an EBlast when it's on the agenda at Board of Supervisors.*

3) Events Committee reports:
DWL Committee – The Spring 2020 landscape tour will be a bit different, with a "10 for 10" theme, so fewer sites but likely with some educational/demonstration events added. *Marina will call a committee meeting soon.* Miriam has some suggestions from this last weekend's solar home tour that she'll pass along. She was asked to join the committee.

Annual meeting topic – Steve reached out to a friend from JPL requesting recommendations for a good speaker on Climate Change, especially a younger generation type. His friend has some possibilities and will pursue. Need to focus on practical solutions that we can do individually and as a community. Janet mentioned carbon sequestration as an especially critical issue in the desert and what's been successful. Ideally we could present an external expert plus local experts. Miriam suggested

the topic of how to purchase wisely with the environment in mind. We decided the date will be Saturday, January 25, 2020. *Steve will try to get the date at YVCC.*

4) 50th book: - ML

The Committee has met, and Mike and Laraine have met several times with Melissa. The budgeted amount is probably OK, even with 4 extra pages expected relative to the estimate on the original budget. *Steve suggested putting Climate Change on the issue timeline and Mike will see to it.*

5) mbconservation.org / E-blasts / Social Media - All

Aimee Buyea couldn't make it today but will come next month to give a presentation on ideas about social media. She has a "job description" that Laraine created to help frame what we need.

6) Nominations Committee to report in December.

Ruth reported that the slate of officers for the January annual vote will remain the same as now. There are some candidates for becoming Board members and we want to "youngerize" the Board!

Conservation Issues

1) Paradise Valley EIR: SB, SK, PF

Laraine mentioned that there was a LTE in the *Desert Sun* supporting reconsideration of Paradise Valley, citing the need for housing but ignoring all the critical issues that caused the cancellation. Sarah noted that in Riverside County's master plan there is language suggesting Shavers Valley as a development area possibility. It was probably before the habitat conservation plan, though, so in conflict and should be deleted. It was a great feeling to have a success among many conservation organization plus individuals.

2) Solar projects

Daggett - Appeal filed by Newberry Springs CSD -PF

See #2 above under Capacity Building.

3) Countywide Plan & Community Action Plans - SB

Janet read the Attorney General's comment on the County plan. The "community action guides" are not in concert with SB 1. There was a response to the comments on the EIR for the Countywide Plan. *Steve will send info to Laraine to put on the website.*

4) Cadiz water harvesting proposal - SB

SB 307 will help stop it. Cadiz will have their first hemp harvest this September. Marina said that Barstow College is looking into working with

Cadiz to market and sell hemp products. There could be a move toward replacing alfalfa farming with hemp, which would use less water.

5) Dark Sky ordinance – JT street light replacements, ordinance update SB

Steve reported that at the last meeting Edison talked about the new street lights. Rainer Spencer is investigated IDA requirements for approved lights. They need to be no more than 3000 Kelvin and have to be horizontal or down-facing. The new fixtures do comply but there could be shielding on a few. Mike noted that Dawn Rowe has spoken out strongly about night sky issues.

6) Scenic 247 - SK

Sarah reported that the Committee has submitted a visual description of the entire highway to Karen Watkins and is waiting for a response. It may not be possible to qualify the entire 76 miles of the highway.

7) Eagle Mountain pumped storage – DF

Nothing new; in litigation.

Outreach & Communications

1) CMC SLR – RR, SB, LT

Steve, Ruth, and Laraine met with President/Superintendent Darren Otten, Chief Business Officer Meredith Plummer, Director of Facilities and Operations Kevin Cole, and Foundation Director Sandy Smith. We pitched using the \$495,000 from the SLR bequest towards a micro grid, emphasizing the possibilities of turning ½ million into \$2.5 million. The reaction from the President was disappointing but we're not done yet. He was agreeable to meeting with Professor Martinez-Morales from UCR. Sandy Smith offered to work on setting up this meeting.

2) MAC - SB, PF

In January Tom McCarthy from MWA will make a presentation at the MAC.

3) Chambers of Commerce – SB, PF

Meg noted that Morongo Valley is trying to revive their Chamber.

4) Short Term Rental Ordinance Supervisors hearing how this impacts local housing - SB

Miriam said the document was based on the Mountain Region so there are still some odd discrepancies even though there has been a long effort to adapt it. For instance, parking doesn't need to be regulated as much since

there's so much more parking space in the desert than in the mountains. The County is eager to get it going and amend it later. They struck out open fires. Mike added there were density changes, more renters acceptable on 2 acres or more, and sign-posting requirements. Small changes are still underway. Applications for permits begin on December 5 and there will be no enforcement until March. Renting an accessory dwelling is only permitted if the owner is on the main property. The camping aspect is to be addressed later. It's still a work in progress.

5) CDC CEQA workshop report – LT

CDC has posted the PowerPoints from their event on their website. It was a well-attended and informative event.

6) Candidates forum

Laraine commented on our past online candidates' forums as time-consuming and perhaps not as helpful as we'd hoped, but agreed we should consider doing one for fall 2020.

7) MBCA as a vehicle financial help for JTNP – SB, PF

We haven't been able to talk with David Smith and haven't been contacted by Rand.

Ruth spoke about Desert Cleanse, a family group/volunteers getting donations for cleaning trash in the desert. She was asked about us becoming the fiduciary umbrella for them. Ruth thinks MDLT would be a better match. Sarah added that Supervisor Rowe has talked about paying for new code enforcement positions for short term rental fees. She thinks Dawn and staff are hearing enough complaints about code enforcement that things will change.

8) Sustainable tourism – SK

Chris Clarke has initiated discussion about such a program. Sarah sent him an email saying we're interested but hasn't heard back. Miriam communicated with Chris about AutoCamp, intending to communicate with them about sustainable tourism to improve their project. Meg heard from Chris about a brainstorming session as a first step but it hasn't happened yet.

9) Climate change: Extinction rebellion XRLA

<https://www.extinctionrebellionjt.org/> - SB

Presentation by Donna Thomas and Adrian Tung:

Donna first became aware of this group via a London news story. It is connected with ethical values and mindfulness. They provided 2 handouts. The emphasis is on climate change as a climate crisis. The effort is on mitigating impacts and suffering, not dealing with population. They talked through the handouts and noted the upcoming November 21

informational event, and will be holding more events and talks throughout the winter.

Letters signed onto:

CARB request for additional Air Monitoring station

Adjourned at 7:16 PM

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