

Approved MBCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, Oct. 11, 2018

5:00 – 7:00 PM

Regular Meeting Call to Order:

<u> </u> X_ Steve Bardwell	<u> </u> X_ Ruth Rieman
<u> </u> X_ David Fick	<u> </u> X_ Claudia Sall
<u> </u> X_ Pat Flanagan (left @6pm)	<u> </u> X_ Seth Shteir
<u> </u> X_ Meg Foley	<u> </u> X_ Laraine Turk
<u> </u> X_ Sarah Kennington	<u> </u> X_ Marina West
<u> </u> X_ Mike Lipsitz (@5:20pm)	

Meeting called to order at 5:05pm

Introduction of Guests and Board Directors

Jack Fuller, Joshua Tree

Minutes from Sept. 13, 2018 BOD meeting

Motion LT/SB to approve minutes with minor changes.

Treasurer's Report

SB gave the report noting the total amount on deposit is \$53,916.52 and all expenses are paid. SB further reported that SCE deposited \$2,000 into our account for the 2018/19 program grant. He further reported on other small donations that have been received.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

1) Finance Committee report

No additional financial information to report.

2) Grant status:

- Rose Foundation grants in 2019 - AQ (Purple Air units) + signage (Co. shooting ord.) + 50th

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- DWL- Edison & AWAC

SB reported that MBCA has received \$2,000 from SCE and \$3,000 from the AWAC Strategic Partners (MWA).

3) Events Committee reports:

- MBCA's 50th Anniversary kick-off program w/Annual Mtg.
1/26/19 – 50th Committee

LT gave the update noting the publications committee has met several times to conceptualize the publication. The committee also met with Melissa Sabol who has been consulted regarding layout/design. Costs estimates have also been reviewed. MW reviewed the current list of "campaigns" thru time and took additional suggestions from the Board. LT noted our discussion about how to make the book have "value" to folks. RR suggested that Ester Herbert be tapped for some historical perspective. SK noted the goal is to have the book ready for distribution at the January 26, 2019 meeting. ML asked the Board how many copies we should print. PF argued that the publication should be free, others have different opinions on this. DF asked if the publication would be in a .PDF version for website posting. It was agreed that this is the goal.

- DWL Landscape Tour – 2019 dates / April 27 & 28 – DWL Committee

MW reported that the final "thank you" visit was October 10, 2018 at Hi-Desert Water District. She is confident that their sponsorship will be renewed for 2019. RR reported on recent visit to new potential sites. Committee will meet late October to continue planning efforts.

4) Susan Luckie Reilly MBCA-related files: MF, DF, LT

LT gave the report noting some sorting has been completed and she has found some reference material for the 50th publication. SK reported that she was invited to an opening of the Susan Luckie Reilly Homestead – Joshua Tree National Park Dr. Luckie Study Center (Saturday, October 20, 2018).

5) mbconservation.org / E-blasts – SK & LT

LT gave the report which included updates on the website layout, Candidates Virtual Forum, and e-blast statistics.

6) Nominations Committee – SK

SK asked for volunteers and also stated that she really would like to “step aside” as President. At this time there is not a member of the Board who desires to be nominated President. SS said he will consider it and report back. RR said she could assist as a co-President/Mentor. SK reported she spends the most time preparing the e-blasts which are published about 10 times per year.

7) Building “intentional” community partnerships – LT

LT presented a matrix outlining entities that we do have partnerships or we could partner with. The Board added content to the matrix.

Conservation Issues

1) Mission Creek development: 1900 homes adjacent to Sand to Snow Monument - CS

CS submitted a written summary of the meeting noting a total of 9,000 units (home and condo). In the end, the vote was 4-1 (Councilmember Betts voting “no”).

2) Countywide Plan & Community Action Plans – MBCA comments?

DF reported that the next step is release of the Draft EIR for the Countywide Plan. It is understood that the Community Action Plans will be part of the whole document.

3) RECE 4.10 - follow up with Chris Carrillo on strategy to lobby Sups to support original language; Lovingood’s position

SK gave the report. She mentioned some sort of hang-up in getting RECE to Board of Supervisors due to land use issues in Daggett and Newberry Springs.

4) Solar Projects: Palen; Ord Mt.; Daggett; JT Airport

PF reported on the Ord Mt. EIR which was recently released and she will be reviewing it in preparation for a comment letter. LT will post the documents on the website. David reported that the JT Airport solar project legal situation is in a "stay" status until at least July 2019.

5) Eagle Crest / HR 5817 (Cook); PPA - DF

DF gave an update of activities of the Desert Protective Society in fighting this issue.

6) Proposed revisions to State Mining & Reclamation Act / LUS Agency Comments – PF

PF gave a brief update and noted MBCA signed a letter drafted by The Wilderness Society. Marina sent a copy to Laraine for posting on the website.

7) Letter to YV re. rodeo grounds and/or contact with YV Town Manager – RR

RR will follow-up with a phone call to the city manager.

8) Night Sky Ordinance – LT

SS and the Dark Sky Committee met with Chris Carrillo, Supervisor Ramos' office, regarding status of this issue. Chris assisted by making contact with Code Enforcement officials to keep the conversation going. LT commented that, according to Mark Lundquist, the Code Enforcement is focused on short term rental compliance and this may push the priority of the ordinance down unless a partnership of some sort can be developed. A partnership could be an assessment of lighting during code violation investigations related to housing. They further discussed efforts to identify existing "egregious" lighting installations already in existence in the downtown Joshua Tree area.

9) Changing Climate Assessment California 2018 Conference (4th Annual)

PF will attend the meeting this conference on October 12, 2018. CS noted there is a climate assessment report specific to the inland desert area and suggested it be posted on mbconservation.org.

10) Native American Issues

PF will be attending an event on October 19, 2018 in the Parker area for Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) with Chris Clarke, a representative from Native American Land Conservancy and others. The agenda is to discuss projects that are happening that will influence them. PF was asked to seek out a “young leader” from one of the active Native American groups that could speak at our January 26th Annual Meeting event alongside our confirmed “young leaders list” Jack Thompson, Colin Barrows, Frazier Haney. MF suggested Sean Milanovich, Member Agua Caliente, Board Member Native American Land Conservancy; Board Member Agua Caliente Cultural Museum.

Outreach & Communication

1) Fire Tax

PF and SK reported on a constitutional challenge on the Fire Tax. PF reported on a new website that highlights this. MF questions how they could justify this under the assessment model of needing to receive actual benefit for the cost.

2) DWL: thank you to HDWD, 10/10/18 - MW

MW gave the report noting this was the final “in person” Thank You meeting and she is certain that Hi-Desert Water District will a participating sponsor in 2019.

3) Split Rock Landscape / Health Care District: MBCA participation – LT & ML

LT said another meeting will be scheduled soon.

4) Yucca Valley, State of the Town 2018, Thursday, Oct. 25, 11:30-1:00PM, RSVP

LT said she will attend the event.

5) Amazon Smile

SB reported that MBCA is now a participant in the Amazon Smile program

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018 5:00 – 7:00 PM

YV Community Center / Mesquite Room