Minutes convened at 3:05 pm

Introduction of Guests and Board Directors

Mr. Jerry Broyles, Pipes Canyon Resident

Agenda Input

CS – BOD guidelines
MW/PF – Draft Community Plans and pending plans (MV, JT, HV, LV, PT)
DF – CalTRANS called about “Adopt-a-Highway” Program renewal

Guest presentation
1) Pipes Canyon “campground” project – Jerry Broyles, resident

Mr. Jerry Broyles, Pipes Canyon Resident, reported that a project for a campground (approx. 3 miles west of Hwy 247) has been proposed for the Pipes Canyon area. SB further reported that he visited CoSB LUS in Hesperia in August. The application states a 35-site campground in an RC zone subject to a minor use permit. Since then, there has been significant public interest so LUS decided a CUP is needed. PF noted that all should fill out the survey form. SB further noted that the planner, John Oquendo, has relayed verbally the comments from the public. The application has not yet been accepted by the CoSB at this time. For instance, the project lacks an accurate description of the use (he’s hearing they will be “tiny houses” with water, sewer and electric but hasn’t seen that “in writing”). Water would be provided from one well and there would be two separate septic tanks.
The status of the project is that it is in the “project definition” stage and an application has not yet been accepted by the CoSB.

PF suggested that Jerry B. demand a public scoping meeting prior to drafting the Initial Study.

Treasurer's Report

SB gave the report noting $30,785.47 and $21,869.84 for a total of $52,655.31. SB further reported we will be moving insurance companies and contracting with Maury, Donnelly, and Parr, Inc. Baltimore, MD. Our coverage includes general liability and Directors/Officers Insurance coverage.

SB further reported that we have not disbursed the $500 scholarship to Nicole Serrano. He has not been able to reach her and will continue trying.

SB reported that MDLT has not paid the $300 for the GreenInfo mapping tool. However, the annual fee has been paid so there is no disruption in the availability of the mapping tool to the public through our website. JBWD made their contribution for the current DWL Series. Finance Committee has not had an opportunity to meet so no further progress on current year budget.

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues
1) Finance Committee report: annual budget, D&O insur., etc. - Steve

No further information provided.

2) Directors Retreat 2017 - Sarah
   • Goals 1 & 2 – revise “how to's” (see below)
   • Board of Advisors – Board not opposed to allowing it to quietly sunset.

SK introduced the subject of refining goals 1 and 2 and agreed to revise the goals and recirculate for comments.

3) Grants status:
   a. Rose “Indigenous Place, Space, & Presence” – Pat

   PF reported that she will be meeting with Mr. Trafzer

   b. DWL / AWAC & Edison grants – Claudia/Marina
CS reports that SCE has granted $2,000 to MBCA for the next DWL-s (twice as much as last cycle). CS noted that she is still trying to complete the “Thank You” Tour to JBWD and MWA. Both agencies keep cancelling.

4) Events committee report:

a. Fall program: Net Zero Energy; DWLs Committee

MW gave the update. RR noted that we should get the press out about 10 days prior to event. LT notes we need a title to put up the “save the date” web and other announcement.

b. DWL Landscape Tour; c. Annual meeting – RR, MW, CS

RR has reached out to the well owners to challenge them to meter wells to demonstrate actual water use. She will be reaching out to the 2nd and 3rd tier water users to challenge them to reduce use for the next tour.

Regarding the annual meeting LT noted the idea of a conservation resource faire unless some other important topic arises.

5) Board development: request from Seth Shteir – Claudia

CS gave the report. While Seth is still in Washington he would like to re-engage with MBCA as a director. He can participate via teleconference.

CS passed out the draft Board of Director’s Orientation Packet and asked all directors to review noting that SK will be cleaning-up the goals to align with what was discussed at the 2017 retreat.

MSC PF/LT (unanimous): That Mr. Seth Shteir be re-instated to the Board of Directors.

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

DF gave an update. LT, DF, MF met and looked at the files that were left for us to review. The job at hand is to determine what information is useful to MBCA. Those documents would need to be copied/scanned and then the originals returned for safekeeping at the 29 Palms Historical Society. DF has access to 1
or 2 volunteers that can assist with scanning documents. MW has portable scanners she can loan or the BDVWA Office copier has a scanner that can be used as well.

**Outreach & Communication**
1) mbconservation.org report - Laraine

*LT reviewed the new News/Events subscription list which has 43 sign-ups as of 09/14/2017.*

2) Professional MBCA display - Laraine

*LT suggests that MBCA pursue a pop-up display. PF agreed to follow-up on this item.*

3) Promotion: lobby card; 3-fold brochure; stickers/decals; etc.

*LT reported that she is continuing work on this brochure and will seek input from others in the near future.*

4) Adopt-a-Highway Renewal

*DF reported that CalTRANS called stating the expiration is approaching. The commitment is to get it cleaned quarterly for a 5-year period. SK noted that training is required and a point-person is necessary. DF volunteered to be the point-person and coordinator of events.*

**MSC: DF/SB – (unanimous) To renew the 2-mile MBCA Adopt-a-Highway application with CalTRANS.**

**Conservation Issues**
1) Ord Mountain Solar Project

*SB attended the EIR Scoping Meeting. No EIR has been released as of today. This project includes the Calcite Substation.*

2) Sienna/8 Minute Energy (99MT 8ME LLC)

*No report was given.*
3) Cadiz Water Project and AB1000

MW reported that the bill went to the “suspense’ file and it is either dead or will be a two-year bill.

4) AB 249 OHMVR Modernization & Reform: passed Ca. Senate to go on to Assembly for reauthorization – PF

PF gave the report. The bill passed but without the visible license plates and sunset clause that the Citizens Off-Road Watch Group (COW) folks wanted. This is a CA State Parks Law but grants are obtained to restore federal and other lands. The Senate vote on the bill will be September 15, 2017. PF reported there are 5.1M individual riders on BLM land.

5) Community Plans – PF/MW

PF has looked at the JT Community Plan and noted a number of concerns. MW provided copies of the existing plans. The revised plans are rolling out individually. She believes that the revised community plans will become useless from a legal argument perspective.

PF noted public meetings will be held September 28th and October 11th, 2017.

Community Reports & Events

Adjourned at 5:05pm

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, October 12th, 2017 5:00 PM
YV Community Center
From 2017 RETREAT

**MBCA Goals for 2016-2017**

**Goal 1: Highlight the value of the natural environment for the arts, tourism & other segments of the local economy.** What: Tie local economy to environmental concerns and discover common goals through outreach to business. **How:**

- Host a meeting focused on the local economy including MCAGCC, NPCA, JTNPA, Basin Wide Foundation, Joshua Tree Gateway Communities Group, Chambers, and local solar installers.
- Create a subcommittee to look into reaching out to the business community then distribute the workload to the Directors, Advisors and Members.
- Join community associations and Chambers of Commerce to seek out new memberships, communicate events, seek volunteers and share information.
- Maintain Conservation Priority Mapping Tool and emphasize use in land use decision-making, comment letters and correspondence.
- Expand research & web information about economic issues: capture data, use graphics & disseminate information.
- Create a list of solar installers in the Morongo Basin.
- Continue relationships and collaboration with conservation organizations.
- Maintain MBCA invasive plant education.
- Monitor development of policies & projects that impact our mission.

**Goal 2: Engage in issues impacting natural resources, quality of life & human health.**

*What:* Renewable energy, residential and commercial development, protections for public lands, native plants and animals, water, air, etc. **How:**

- Research issues and send comment letters to decision makers.
- Emphasize use of Conservation Priority Maps in land use decisions.
- Remain active in Basin, County, State and Federal policy forums such as SPARC, DRECP; RETI, County RE & Conservation Planning Element (REC).