

APPROVED June 8, 2017

MINUTES

MBCA BOARD MEETING

Thursday May 11, 2017

5:00 – 7:00 PM, Yucca Valley Community Center

Regular Meeting Call to Order: 5:20pm due to YV Staff occupying the room

<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Bardwell (prior notice)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Kennington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laraine Turk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Fick	(prior notice)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marina West
<input type="checkbox"/> Pat Flanagan (prior notice)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruth Rieman	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meg Foley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claudia Sall	

Introduction of Guests and Board of Directors

Almut Fleck - BOA

Agenda Input and Approval

*MF adds outreach/communication – Monument Campaign
RR adds Request from MBHS membership under Finance*

MSC: LT/MF unanimous

Approval of Minutes from April 13, 2017

*Minutes approved as presented
MSC:*

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report differed due to SB absence

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

1) Finance Committee report: annual budget, etc. (Agreed in April to table this until June meeting.)

RR reports that our Certificate of Deposit is maturing and what should we do for re-investment.

MSC: RR/ MF Finance Committee members to make a decision regarding rolling the CD over or cashing it out to hold as cash in a regular account keeping this amount "itemized" separate from other finances.

Morongo Basin Historical Society membership request was received by MBCA. Should MBCA join? Group decided to not take action on MBHS.

2) Ruth Denison scholarship—SB, LT

LT gave the report. The recipient is Ms. Nichol Serrano, Yucca Valley High School. MF mentioned that the high school awards program is May 17th. LT confirmed that MBCA is on the agenda to announce the award. A member of the MBCA Board will be presenting the award.

3) Grant status: Rose “Indigenous Place, Space, & Presence” – PF

Tabled due to PF being absent from the meeting. MF reported on the new event, sharing “Blessing and Song”, planned for May 22, 2017 at the 29 Palms Inn.

4) Grants status: DWL / AWAC & Edison grants – MW & committee

CS gave the report. No word yet from Mojave Water Agency on the Partners grant for FY2017/18 (July 1, 2017 award date). SCE awarded \$1,000 that was applied to the 2017 tour. CS to follow-up with the reporting requirements to SCE. Commitments were received from Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency, 29Palms Water and Joshua Basin Water District.

5) YV Earth Day Report – Saturday, April 22, LT

LT gave the report. Several volunteers participated and there was a fair amount of activity at the booth. CS and LT thought the event was better than in past years.

6) DWL Landscape Tour: Committee Report – RR, MW, CS

Report is tabled until the Committee can hold its’ “wrap-up” meeting. LT reported that she is still complying the total number registered which is approximately 350.

Outreach & Communication

1) mbconservation.org: report – LT

LT gave the report noting that PF’s editorial on the Monuments was published in The Sun newspaper, has been posted on the website. There is also a copy of the powerpoint recently presented at the Black Rock Symposium by Ruth Rieman. LT further reported that she is posting other relevant articles on the website. LT met with Stacy Doolittle regarding assistance on FaceBook and advertising that could be placed on FaceBook regarding DWLs Tour. She will also send out a last reminder on the DWLs Essay Contest. Almut Fleck noted that she is very pleased with the updated website.

2) Monument Campaign

MF reported that the comment period opened today on the Monuments and that by next week draft support letters will be ready for us to “sign-on”. There is a website for outreach: www.threemonuments.org. It was stated that Cong. Cook was not going to weigh-in either way. It is thought that written comments are critical. RR summarized the way she understood the federal review would go: review all monuments designated by Antiquities Act since 1991 and she asked who would know how the review selection is planned to proceed since it is obvious there are far too many monuments to review by the deadline. MF thought Frazier Haney would know but it might be a predetermined outcome possibly partisan based. MF pledged to pass along any new information that she comes across. RR mentioned that she believes the state governor will have clout in this and that any letter mailed should be forwarded to his office.

With respect to this effort, LT mentioned there is a new version of the book, “Don’t Think of An Elephant, Know Your Values and Frame the Debate” by George Lakoff and she encourages all directors to read this book.

Conservation Issues

1) Assault on National Monuments, sign-on to NPCA letter

No action taken.

2) Cadiz Update

MW to reach out to David Lamfrom for the final letter.

2) Altamira Update

Proponents asked for a “stay” (6 months) and the project is for sale with a tract map.

3) JT Airport Solar

Proponents (NextEra) asked for a “stay” and they are not going forward.

3) Scenic 247: Any report from meeting w/ SB Co. LUS, Terri Rahhal & Karen Watkins? (Lucerne Valley CC, April 20)

No new information to report.

4) OHV issues: Any report from BLM public meeting to review temp “street legal vehicle only” status for route system using CSA roads? (YVCC, Wed. April 19th, 5:30-6:30PM)

Tabled due to SK absence.

5) RE Element released by CoSB... should mbca review and comment?

MW reported that she talked to Chuck Bell and discovered that the push for moratorium has been placed on hold. He forwarded his comments on the Element. RR noted some of the language is subjective, words like "encourage", and wonders how it will be folded into a Development Code. MF mentioned another section that says "CALgreencode" is encouraged but it appears to be entirely optional anyhow.

MF, RR and MW pledged to take time to review the Element and report back to board in June with a draft letter.

6) Solar Issues: Claudia said SanBAG (In January 2017, SANBAG split into the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) and San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG).) **declined to proceed with countywide/riverside Community Choice Aggregation program (CCA), 29palms status unknown, apple valley positive on concept, also/and, SCE encouraged by a different program called "community solar" concept.**

Apple Valley is operational as of April 1, 2017. San Jacinto is also moving ahead with CCA.

7) Eagle Crest Project and Desert Protection Society assistance. Discussion of financial donation from MBCA.

DF discussed the formation of the DPS, a 501c3 non-profit, some many years ago. DPS had gone dormant but is now re-organizing since the Fed. Energy Reg Commission (FERC) decision to proceed. DPS didn't appeal this decision. Most recently the transmission line environmental report was approved and they would like to consider litigation. However, DPS funds are very low and they are asking for donations. DF noted that comments are due by May 22, 2017.

This was originated as a verbal request but MBCA would like the request in writing before submitting the grant.

MSC: CS/RR to grant \$600 to the DPS in support of their mission. Vote 5/0/1(abstain Fick)

Community Reports & Events

1) Celebration of Victoria Fuller's Life – May 17th, 4:30-6PM @ Joshua Basin Water District (We agreed to donate \$200 at April meeting)

Several members of the Board will attend the meeting.

2) Black Rock Lecture, May 21st, 7PM: *Joshua Tree National Park's Valued Partnerships*

Past lectures can be viewed on YouTube.

Adjournment at 7:10pm

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, June 8, 2017, 5:00 PM / YV Community Center