



The voice of our community

Board Meeting
November 12, 2024 – 4:00 PM
MINUTES

In-Person at the Montecito Community Hall/Library
And Virtually Via Zoom

I. Call to Order 4:00 PM by Chair Black- Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Present: Babbitt, Black, Bollay, Denson, Duran, Gerlach, Kemp, Lundgren, Macfadyen, A. Miller, M. Miller, Newquist, Pennino, Serrani, Trosky, Wittman

Approval of October 8, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

Kemp/Denson
Motion Approved

II. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda-None

III. Community Reports

Montecito Union School- Anthony Ranii Construction is almost done on the \$14M renovation of the oldest building, remodeled and opened new buildings. Continuing to work on literacy and all teachers are taking literacy classes and scores are up. They are working on environmental sustainability and 100% electrical on equipment. Working on safety with County-wide school safety specialist and held third safety symposium. Several weeks earlier, they had an unhoused person sleep in a classroom overnight. They looked at what they could have done differently and updated their safety checks. The sheriff was not able to arrive for 45 minutes. Ranii asked the individual to leave, he was not violent and left. The school hired an outside security company to assess. Question raised about what the MA can do, and the answer was that it is up to the school board to recommend. The sheriff reported that there was traffic from Carpinteria, and it took thirty minutes to arrive. The deputies are based in Carpinteria and could ask for other resources in other areas to help in certain situations. Staffing goes to County Supervisors to add staffing. The Miramar is planning on building an office for the sheriff. The MA Board to discuss actions to help with response times.

Sheriff Report-Recap of the month included: Birnam Wood stolen mail, burglary and damage of windows with unknown suspects, Butterfly Beach indecent exposure and arrested, deputies responded to residential burglary that they interrupted and fled, Birnam Wood security responded with K9 search but did not locate a suspect. Teenagers having relations in Lower Manning Park released to parents. A subject going through recycling bins under a controlled substance, a break-in at Westmont dorm.

Cold Spring School-Amy Alzina Has been advocating a long time for a sheriff to be in the community 24/7. They held a fall festival and breast cancer awareness event, partnered with regional schools on AI. Holding on December 14 a holiday showcase and merchandise.

Montecito Fire Department-Chief Neels-Recapped the Mountain Fire in Ventura County and reminded that winds in a short time can cause damage. They have two engines and ten people on road rapidly, fifteen engines to Ventura County. Local winds are currently disturbing. They hold a board election on December 15. On December 10, Season of Hope campaign for food and asks community for support with donations. The 1/9 event will be held on January 9 at 6:00pm at MUS and will have a bell ringing.

Montecito Sanitary District-John Weingold-Hosted Representative Carbajal and thanked him for \$18M for repairs. They toured the plant and gave a press release. Wrapped up all FEMA projects along the creek beds with all four rebuilt. A new board member took office two months ago and one director resigned last month and will be replaced.

IV. Conference Agenda

i. Hot Springs Stakeholder's Group Update – Pat McElroy & Joe Cole reported on the Hot Springs Trail Stakeholders meeting with Congressman Salud Carbajal and State Senator Monique Limon that took place after concerns regarding jurisdiction of different parts of the trail. Over thirty people were in attendance with representatives of the Hot Springs area. SB Sheriffs, CHPs, SB Fire Safe Council, Montecito Fire, Montecito Creek Water Co, Montecito Water District, the Forest Service, SBC Parks, SBC Public Works, SBC Planning & Development, California Fish and Wildlife, California Water Quality Control, National Marine Fisheries, 1st SBC District Supervisor Das Williams and incoming Roy Lee. The different jurisdictions make it complex. They want to review and look at the different jurisdictions before scheduling the next meeting. Representative Carbajal noted the gaps in enforcement and the need to fill the gaps. There was discussion of whom to call when something needs to be reported. Complaints have been reported to the wrong entity. Representatives Carbajal and Limon are leading the conversation and will schedule the next meeting.

ii. Montecito Community Foundation – Ruth Green-President of the MCF, gave overview presentation about the foundation that was established in 1966, with the mission statement. They have a new website; all donations are tax deductible as they are a 501c3. Their boundaries are the fire protection area and just added Coast Village Road. They provide scholarships for summer camps, community funding for 4th of July and Beautification Day. Recent grants given for the triangle restoration project, the trails waterfall, friends of Montecito Library to replace the book drop, Montecito Walking Trail, Casa Del Herrero, Bucket Brigade, street signs, and replaced benches in the park. In the future they may fund Coast Village Road medians. They have an annual appeal, no meetings and an all-volunteer staff.

V. President's Report- Doug Black reported that the nominating committee put forth good candidates for the board election, and the ballot is going out soon. Chair Black nominated three new directors for the nominating committee for the executive committee for next year: Inken Gerlach, Patrice Serrani, and Jillian Whitman. All voted in favor.

VI. Executive Director Report – Houghton Hyatt reported on a successful Beautification Day that raised \$12,200 and \$2,200 of it was received as a grant from Montecito Community Foundation. The Stakeholders Meeting was well attended and encouraging to see the group gathered in one room for the issue. There will be more meetings in the future. Trick or Treaters on Coast Village Road was great event, and pastries were a big hit. Holiday Magic on December 14 and many more holiday events. We have a new website with all the membership in the website. Members will be able to access their accounts and information themselves through the website. Ballots are coming soon. HANDS outreach walk November 20th at 8:30 am with the sheriff.

VII. Treasurer's Report-Running a deficit but with the database cleanup and Houghton working with the bookkeeper to clean up some accounting, it should be stronger.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Land Use / Transportation-Land Use meeting hosted the YMCA that showed their new master plan. Discussion with the Hedgerow path and Abe Powell of Bucket Brigade gave an update on progress of the paths. The committee looked at writing a letter to the County asking who is responsible and liable for trails to get clarification.
- b. Events- Thanked everyone making Beautification Day a success. Hathaway Tree event will be December 4th from 3-4, Hospice is decorating a tree on December 5th, Sip 'n Shop will be from 3-5 on December 14. Menorah lighting will be December 26th from 4-5:30 and the Fire Department will be there. Private security will be at the lighting and there will be activities for the kids. Contact Cindy Feinberg for more information.
- c. History-The office is working with Mount Carmel Church that is doing a remodel, and the History Office has the only information on original colors of the church.
- d. Outreach-No update
- e. Groundwater Sustainability-No update
- f. Hands Across Montecito-Update in Executive Director report.

IX. Old Business-None

X. New Business-Land Use Committee discussed pathways. There is support but concern about liability, maintenance and landscaping and who oversees the design of the paths. The MA will write a letter to the County and Bucket Brigade. Motion made by Macfadyen: To request information from all relevant entities for design of pathways and who has liability, and responsibility for maintenance. Seconded by Serrani. Motion approved.

General agreement that the MA should have FAQs about the paths for the community to refer. Tom Bollay is to make a report at the next meeting.

There was discussion regarding the response time of the sheriff including the sentiment that with more tax revenue and people, there is a demand for sheriff presence. Volunteers for a committee to look at response time include Denson, Wittman, Duran, Newquist, Gerlach, Serrani, Ranni, Trosky

Adjourned 5:47 pm