



The voice of our community

Board Meeting
April 8, 2025 – 4:00 PM
MINUTES

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

I Call to Order at 4:02 PM by Chair Black. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Present: Babbitt, Black, Bollay, Denson, Duran, Herting, Lundgren, Macfadyen, Miller, Newquist, Rockenbach, White, Wittman

Absent: Pennino, Prince, Serrani, Trosky

II. Approval of March 11, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Abstained: Bollay, Denson, Duran

Herting/Miller Motion Approved

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

IV. Community Reports

Montecito Fire Department- Engaged in annual hazmat training and will have annual wildfire training next in preparation for wildfire season. The training session will include a review of exit routes, particularly roundabouts, so that cars move quickly and traffic flows. Regional Dispatch Center is established to regionalize fire departments so that during evacuations, all fire departments will be able to see the resources in the area. The neighborhood chipping program continues until the week of June 23.

Montecito Water District-Nick Turner-Update on rainfall: rainfall-the area is at fifty percent of rainfall. The US Drought Monitor says the area is in drought, and the three-year water supply is good. Water use budgets have been rolled out and are property-specific, indoor and outdoor, i.e., pool, number of residents. Customers will be able to see how to be more water efficient. The 2025 garden recognition contest recognizes water-wise gardens. There will be one winner within each agency, and a county-wide winner. Only the front yard of the property is eligible.

MUS-Anthony Ranii-Ensuring that students are working on executive functions with Habits of Mind program. MUS has been selected as first school of distinction. Montecito Community Foundation contacted the school to offer a grant if they qualified, and they received a \$15k grant to repair and make a wall more permanent. They are adopting a new screening tool to assess if a student is in danger of falling behind in reading. Teachers are using an AI tool. Reported a safety concern of an individual in a parked car in front of the school. The sheriff responded and investigated. There was nothing inappropriate, but the individual will not be parking there in the future.

Sheriff Dept.-Lt. Rich Brittingham trail sign to enforce the trail closure is in place. They are working with the safety committee to find a solution for a sheriff's substation. The Cold Spring bridge will be open within the next two days. Highlights of incidents include: a break-in and theft of \$2k worth of shoes, a paraglider rescue, DUI, intoxication in a vehicle, a break-in with theft of designer jewelry and cash, a vehicle burglary where the suspect was found and arrested and a possession of stolen property where the subject was detained and arrested, stolen construction tools, Hot Springs Trail incident where hikers were being harassed. An individual was impersonating a DoorDash worker to see if homes were occupied.

V. Conference Agenda

i. Motorola Presentation-Day Wireless, License plate reader (LPL) technology

Motorola was established in 1958. A video presentation given with law enforcement representatives discussing the use of license plate reader unique technology. Their technology is not a one-size-fits-all; they design to fit the owner's needs. With vigilance, there can be a public/private partnership. Malls use the system for organized crimes, private property can be used as well. Real-time data is captured. Installation can be on light poles, telephone poles, or bridges, and anywhere with permission. The sheriff department has multiple screens up, monitoring on an LPL screen. License plate can be put in the system to see where the car is located. They do not work in Montecito yet. They would not give a cost idea but would do so with specific details about a system designed for Montecito. The data is saved in the cloud for however long as needed and can be run on a tablet. With a service agreement, updates are available. The system is solar powered with two batteries built in.

VI. President's The new website is up, and memberships are up. The Hands team is working tirelessly and gearing up for an epic 4th of July.

VII. Executive Director Report- Houghton Hyatt- Planning a safety event to be held on April 22, this month is Earth Month, movies Kiss the Ground and Common Ground from a local production company in Ojai are streaming on Earth Day. Ideas were given for commemorating Earth Day: join a clean-up, shop sustainably. There were 62 membership renewals in March, and a new letter campaign was launched to reach community members going to MBAR.

VIII. Treasurer's Report- Financials show a small deficit, but are doing well in general.

IX. Committee Reports

a. Land Use / Transportation-Land Use-Laura Bridley, trustee of Lotus Land, presented about neighbors and trustees working together to come to common solutions. Aaron Briner, Fire Marshall, spoke about Zone Zero, the new zone within 5 feet of a house, the most important to be ember resistant. The MFD will do a defensible space assessment if scheduled.

b. History- Trish Davis, Working on putting maps and pictures in the community hall in the next month.

c. Events- Working on 4th of July vision, to include the band Out of the Blue and Oak and Fire BBQ. Next meetings are set for 4/7 and 5/21.

d. Safety Response Subcommittee-Safety Town Hall at 5 pm on April 22 at All Saints. It will be a question-and-answer format with three panelists: Cal Coast Glass, Post Security, and the head of security from Burnam Wood. The focus will be on practical solutions. Jacqueline Duran spoke with the Montecito Community Foundation regarding a grant for start-up costs for a substation. There are some pledges of support. Looking at three different spaces.

e. Hands Across Montecito- Ongoing monitoring of Butterfly Lane and the cemetery where there is a large encampment on Union Pacific Railroad (UPR) property. The outreach team and City Net are making progress. There is an individual who goes to the Farrow Center and then back to the encampment at night. They are working with several individuals with services, however, there are no beds for people to go to. Considering contracting with Path to fund a \$60 per night per person for a few individuals, which includes the bed, case management, and food. An update is to be given to the Board in May. A meet and greet of the HANDS team will take place soon. Issues after recent rain include individuals sleeping in the tunnel, which is within the Santa Barbara Police jurisdiction. Houghton Hyatt would like to be called first so that CityNet can do outreach and take them to the Farrow Center.

X Old Business- None

XI New Business- None

Adjourned 5:49 pm