



The voice of our community

Board Meeting
February 13, 2024 – 4:00 PM
MINUTES

I. Call to Order 4:08 PM by Chair Black- Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

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

Absent: Kemp, A. Miller, Roden

II. Approval of January 16, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes

Denson/Serrani

Motion Approved

Abstained: Duran, M. Miller, Monteil, Trosky

III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

Cliff Ghersen commented about the slow rise of urbanization and the Rosewood Miramar's plan for an addition. He said that the neighborhood feels the building has too much impact for the community and he doesn't want encroachment into the neighborhood.

IV. Community Reports

- 1.) SBSO Sheriff Lt. Arnoldi reported on several burglaries with forced entry and windows broken forced entry: on Sea Meadows, Romero Canyon, Las Tunas, Crest View Lane and the YMCA parking lot. Made aware of a flier for touring Hot Springs and contacted the Forest Service. A cease-and-desist letter was sent via certified mail. Working with the Forest Service on renewing an order for no fires in the forest or the Santa Barbara front country.
- 2.) MFD-Chief David Neels reported that another storm is coming and could receive 7 inches. During the last two storms, much work was put in in preparation for the storm. They added extra staff and Caltrans preparations with sandbags helped slow the flow of water. He does not recommend sheltering in place in an evacuation area as it puts first responders at risk with lessening ability to get to them.
- 3.) MSD-John Weigold-reported that there was no damage during the last storm and formerly damaged creek sites are good with no damage. The MSD has a courtesy program to inspect commercial operations for local businesses. They are continuing to update the wastewater plant.
- 4.) MUS-Anthony Ranii gave an update that included 100th Day of School parade, celebration of Lunar New Year, foundational literacy focus with huge results in test scores. Next year's focus will be on upper level of literacy. Their nature lab is collaborating with community organizations, the United Way, AHA and the Housing Authority. Their construction project is on time and on budget. The MUS Foundation funds are used for the library. Ranii thanked Chief Neels and Sheriff Arnoldi for the best communication to a school about a storm than ever before.
- 5.) CSS-Amy Alzina-Thanked first responders for excellent communication. Cold Spring School provided professional development for area music teachers. They are also doing professional development on AI, Magic School AI, and Khan Academy. Dads are making pancakes for Valentine's Day. A new STEAM building is being built for \$2.1M. Personalized pavers are available for purchase to support building. Summer school will be offered from 9-3 with classes in STEAM, engineering and cooking with funding from grants. Ranii and Alzina answered a question about their collaboration, and they said that they collaborate well with ideas and resources.

- 6.) SBCS-Supervisor Williams presented about personnel responding to storm issues. There was \$5M worth of expenses for cleaning out Cold Spring and San Ysidro debris basins. There were two incidents avoided by people reporting on potential hazards of the storm and encouraged everyone to report flood issues. All permits are done for the swim platform at the Miramar and kick off is in May. Regarding the Hot Springs Trail issues, the strategy is to act when the natural processes revert the area back to its natural state and not rebuild and have the Forest Service bring back the rangers.
- 7.) MWD-Nick Turner reported that the latest storm brought all watersheds to 100-year capacity. Rainfall is above average, and we have months to go in the season. The Smart Meter program is available to register for leak alerts and they have positive feedback. The pipeline at Channel Drive and Monte Cristo is complete. The district started a water rate study through June and plans to have a workshop to discuss rates from the end of February to the beginning of March. Turner reported that the seawater is making its way into the groundwater, and they encourage three neighbors to join the groundwater monitoring. Groundwater levels are average. There is a proposed well administration program that would include all wells in the area that can be contacted when needed.

V. President's Report

MA President Doug Black said that the MA is working on meetings in person with a hybrid schedule. During a meeting a few months ago, community members said that they were not notified by Miramar. A recent meeting was held. The History Committee is getting updated with a new computer system. The MA is working on a new website. The slate of committee chairs was approved with unanimous votes. Land Use Committee Chair- Bill Babbitt, Events Chair- Mindy Denson, History Chair-Trish Davis, Outreach Chair- Megan Orloff, Ground Water Sustainability Chair-Cheryl Trosky, Hands Across Montecito (HAM) Chair- Andrea Hein

VI. Conference Agenda:

- i. **Montecito Trails Update** – Ashlee Mayfield, President of the Trails Association gave update. The Cold Spring trails did well in the latest storm and donations have supported trail restoration. They used an excavator for restoration. Many trees had fallen. Two plans were submitted for restoration where a landslide was on Rancho Cielo, biologists turned down the plans and asked them to propose a plan that they would approve. It is challenging to maintain trails on fence lines. A community member is against the trail easement, and they are working with him to make the best trail possible.
- ii. **Hot Springs Tours**-Joe Cole reported on issues with the Hot Springs Trail since the pandemic. With social media, attention was brought to the Hot Springs, and it became popular and brought issues with parking, fire and drinking. There are 11 mini pools and fire pits built illegally by trail goers. An environmental biologist surveyed after the storm in January 2023. Permits are required to restore the trail and remove the mini pools and firepits.

VII. Executive Director's Report: ED Houghton Hyatt welcomed the new board members Melissa Miller, Carol Monteil, Joe Pennino, Jillian Wittman, Jacqueline Duran, and re-elected Bill Babbitt and Bill Macfadyen. The MA is working on a new website, cleaning up the database and working with Land Use on all the big topics. Participated in the Point In Time Count doing a count of the unhoused. The next outreach walk is February 29.

VIII. Treasurer's Report- The Executive Committee approved the 2024 budget. Vote for approval of the 2024 budget by the Board of Directors.

Motion to approve: Serrani/Newquist

Motion approved

IX. Committee Reports

- a. **Land Use / Transportation** YMCA renovation. Richard Wax and creek issue. The committee supports his issue.
- b. **Events** Will meet mid-March to plan July 4th parade event.
- c. **History** Chair Trish Davis extended invitation to the History office on Tuesdays. Mount Carmel Church is restoring the altar and using photos from the History Office. Working on a new computer system.
- d. **Outreach** Chair Orloff held an outreach meeting. Set a benchmark to increase the MA by 300 members in the next three years. Planning membership drives, on-site meet and greets, forums, socials and merchandise for revenue generating and branding. Editorials in Noozhawk.
- e. **Groundwater Sustainability** None
- f. **Hands Across Montecito** None

X. Old Business- None

XI. New Business- None

XII. Adjourned 6:02 p.m.