



The voice of our community

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

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

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

Absent: Gerlach, A. Miller, Roden

II. Approval of February 13, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes

Babbitt/Pennino

Motion Approved

Abstained: Kemp

III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

Comment regarding East Mountain broken culvert backing up water and destroying private lane. Requested assistance of MA. Chair Black suggested Executive Director Hyatt would assist in solution.

IV. Community Reports

- 1.) SBSO Sheriff Lt. Arnoldi reported on incidents and crime in the area that included a caretaker having a mental health crisis, a Craigslist scam, a battery referred to the DA's office, incident at the cemetery.
- 2.) MFD-Chief David Neels reported that the debris basins were cleared out and did well after the storms. They issued 14,000 sandbags. Montecito Fire District hired four firefighters and will establish a joint academy with Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Departments.
- 3.) MSD-John Weigold-reported that there was a 3,000-gallon spill during the latest storm where a manhole overflowed. They are re-piping or re-lining in that area. They are conducting a study with the county to connect Summerland sewage line to Montecito's where there would be a positive effect on recycling in the future. The Board issued a new policy last year, restricting building into the easements. Montecito residents have built driveways and walls. They are working on agreements with homeowners for access.
- 4.) MWD-Nick Turner reported that the latest storm did not bring any damage. They will replace pipes on Coast Village Road and at the east end of Fernald Point Lane. On Buena Vista Drive will replace a water main. The MWD is doing a rate study through June and will hold a meeting on March 20 regarding rates and impact. A consultant is hired to research rates and recommendations. Public hearings will be held. There was no update on Groundwater Sustainability Agency.
- 5.) MUS-Anthony Ranii gave an update, their ongoing building construction is on time and budget and are safe with no incidents. The project will end in August and the portables will go away. Future projects will renovate the library and innovation lab. They are establishing a ten-year roofing plan and will repair a walkway this summer. Tax dollars are being used for the renovations and repairs. They are working on multi-tier learning for many learning issues, giving a broad variety of enrichment activities and making service part of learning. Held a safety check with law enforcement with recommendations given. Planting of many trees will take place this summer.
- 6.) SBCS-Darcel Elliott with Supervisor Williams' office reported that they received reports of slope failures during the last storm and the county is applying for federal resources for repairs. Residents with damage can report damage to the county website. Chris Sneddon will be the new Public Works Director. The board (SBCBS) voted to take legal action regarding the Moody Cottage issue.

V. President's Report

MA President Doug Black reported that the board retreat went well and worked on how to continue to do better for the community. Bucket Brigade will be invited to the next meeting.

VI. Conference Agenda:

Montecito Fire Department–

i. Fuel Reduction Programs – Maeve Juarez and Nic Elmquist, Wildland Specialists-Presentation given on history of fire in the area from 1960 to the present and how they prioritize fire mitigation such as chipping program and dead tree removal. They utilized goat grazing for 45 days, 232 crew days spent on vegetation management with 349 tons of vegetation removed from very high fire hazard severity areas. Total cost of \$455k to implement with \$120k funded by California Climate Grant. The Firesafe Council Grant will pay for the next two years of chipping and grazing.

ii. Hands Across Montecito – Al Ortiz, Brad Fieldhouse & Tom Sasser, CityNet – Presentation given. CityNet was started by Brad Fieldhouse and started partnership with the MA in 2020. Explained how it works with other agencies and current needs. They conduct weekly street outreach and case management and documentation, disbursements of emergency supplies and quick response to community concerns as well as consistent shelter offers. Reviewed their financials and the annual budget is \$264k. Their contract with Santa Barbara County is through the end of April.

VII. Executive Director's Report: ED Houghton Hyatt reported that the MA has an updated brochure, and the office is now finished being furnished. Database cleanup is taking place and will be complete with the new website.

VIII. Treasurer's Report- There has been a deficit so far this year.

IX. Committee Reports

a. Land Use / Transportation-Recap given on paths.

b. Events-Reinstating meet and greet before meetings. The first planning meeting is to take place on April 3 in front of Pierre Lafond for the 4th of July parade. Would like HAM team to be at Beautification Day. The Holiday Magic Parade is planned and working on a gathering table in the fall.

c. History Chair Trish Davis gave background on History office and prominent instrumental community members.

d. Outreach-Hosted greetings in the park

e. Groundwater Sustainability None

f. Hands Across Montecito None

X. Old Business- None

XI. New Business- None

XII. Adjourned 5:37 p.m.