



The voice of our community

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**Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 11, 2011
4:00 pm ~ 1469 East Valley Road**

APPROVED MINUTES

Present: Atwill, Bollay, Feinberg, Kern, Nordlund, Petersen, Schleck, Short, Sinser, van Duinwyk, von Wittenburg

Absent: Aptaker, Colin, Cook, Denson, Kent, Weider

I. Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum

President Nordlund called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

II. Public Comment for Items Not on Agenda

Frank Randall, MERRAG, invited community members to ongoing regular volunteer training on the second Thursday of every month at 10am at the San Ysidro firehouse.

Carol Lieff, Montecito resident, commented on multiple community issues which concern her, including the lack of public participation in regards to the San Ysidro Road Pathway project. Bill Palladini advised during his tenure on the Association board that there was always an open process with lots of community participation.

Jeff Bridgeman, pastor at El Montecito Presbyterian Church, described the the work being done by M4, an association of the four Montecito churches. In addition to the recent backpack distribution for school children, they will host a Thanksgiving service November 16th to benefit the Rescue Mission, Transition House, and other non-profit groups.

Member of the audience inquired about the pending highway improvement projects. Greene described the Caltrans process and timelines for public input.

III. Approval of Minutes ~ September 13, 2011

MSC von Wittenburg/Atwill, unanimous. Abstained: Kern, Bollay, Sinser, and Schleck.

IV. Community Reports

Kevin Wallace, MFPD, advised weather changes are being monitored. The Montecito firefighters will be participating in “Movember” again this year, growing moustaches to raise awareness for men’s health.

David Brookshire, Sheriff, reported on criminal activity in the area, including the ongoing issue of car break-ins at the trailheads and a recent burglary from a Montecito Union School classroom.

Rob Stuva, CHP, reported on speeding, cell phone, and stop sign citations issued, as well as collisions which occurred in September. Reminded the community of new laws in effect, which include “wipers on/lights on” during times of rain and “slow down/move over” when roadway workers

are present. CHP is aware of the road signs vandalism and are monitoring the situation.

Tammy Murphy, Montecito Union School District, advised the architecture firm Roesling Nakamura Terada Architects has been selected to work on the school's facility planning. The school is welcoming input and participation from the community and the Association with this project. MUS revisited their strategic plan with an emphasis on service and leadership and having the community as a classroom. The school is interested in having community forums to promote leadership.

V. President's Docket

Nordlund advised the Association will be hosting a meeting with the community's homeowners associations at the San Ysidro Ranch on November 7th.

VI. Conference Agenda

Consider Comments to the MBAR Regarding the Proposed Residence at 1496 E. Mountain Drive – Greene described the project which includes the construction of a 1,100 foot long driveway through oak woodland and across a small creek with tall retaining walls. The Land Use Committee recommends sending a letter to MBAR addressing issues under MBAR's purview. Bollay commented the letter speaks for itself, stating there is concern with roads being built through oak woodlands, and that more efforts need to be made to offer solutions. Frederick Clough, attorney for neighbor Diane Baskin, supported the letter as drafted and encouraged the board's support. Ali Sekban is concerned with drainage and flood plain issues, believes the proposed road will affect soil erosion and increase risk of flooding. The board discussed MBAR policies, Greene advised the draft focuses on MBAR issues. This letter does not address Montecito Community Plan policy consistency issues as those are within the purview of county staff who acts as the decision maker unless an appeal is filed. It was noted that a separate letter should be addressed to County staff to address policy consistency. MSC Short/Sinser, unanimous.

Present the Report of the Directors Nominating Committee for Nominees to Stand for Election to the 2012 Board of Directors – van Duinwyk reported the Nominating Committee's recommendation that existing board members Bollay, Kern, Petersen, Nordlund, and new nominees Ted Urschel and Dorinne Johnson stand for election to three year terms. Nordlund and van Duinwyk commended the work of the committee. Greene provided election process information.

Consider the Appointment of Frank Abatamarco to Serve on the Land Use Committee Through the Remainder of the 2011 Term – MSC Sinser/Atwill, unanimous.

Consider Appointments to the 2011 Beautification Day Committee – Elisa Atwill, Darlene Bierig, Helen Buckley, Caryl Crahan, Mindy Denson, Birgit Gutscher, Deirdre Hanssen, Le Ann Madden, Ann McWilliams, Andrea Newquist, Dana Newquist, Nina Terzian, Jo Thompson, Willard Thompson, Christie Venable, John Venable, Jean von Wittenburg. MSC van Duinwyk/Petersen, unanimous.

Consider Land Trust Request for Support in Hot Springs Canyon Fundraising Efforts – Nordlund advised the Land Trust has requested that he sign a letter as president of the Association in support of the fundraising effort. Joanne Rapp will also sign as president of the Montecito Community Foundation. MSC to allow Nordlund to sign as president of the Montecito Association, Short/Bollay, unanimous.

VII. Committee Reports

Land Use – Petersen reported that the committee reviewed revised architectural plans for Fire Station 3. The committee suggested revisions to relocate the proposed secondary building, designate one driveway for primary use and limit the second drive for major emergencies. There was also discussion regarding a tower element and the adequacy of the setback at the rear of the site to address the property owner's concerns.

Greene described the work of an advisory committee in response to event professionals' concerns raised at the County Planning Commission regarding temporary events. The group developed a recommendation that ordinance amendments proceed that would close the existing party palace loophole and create a director level permit for one time commercial events. Additionally, the county will work to clarify existing permit requirements and fees. The hope is that these will encourage greater compliance.

If the planning commissions express general agreement, planning staff will return with ordinance amendments.

Beautification – Atwill encourages board members to sponsor and participate in the upcoming Beautification Day event. Advised the Montecito Union Green Team, Laguna Blanca, and Cold Spring Schools will be participating again this year.

History – Atwill reported on the committee's quarterly meeting. Discussed David Myrick's passing, and the wish to have a plaque installed in the library's garden in memorial of his dedication to the community. The committee was given tour of Westmont archives. Norlund advised that efforts to secure a location to house Myrick's collection are ongoing.

Publicity and Communications - Schleck advised the new website is planned to be up by mid-November. Encouraged submission of community photos for the online gallery to be featured on the site.

VIII. Treasurer's Report - Sinser reported on current financials and membership.

IX. Executive Director's Report – Greene reported on activities based around providing content for the new website. Preparations for the upcoming election are being made.

X. New Business – None

XI. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 pm.