

Approved Board Meeting Minutes
San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society
March 7, 2012 6:34PM to 8:03PM – Audubon Offices, 4010 Morena Blvd.

Board Members Present: Tom Beltran, Cindy Burrascano, Mike Evans, Connie di Girolamo, Susan Krzywicki, Frank Landis, Tom Oberbauer, Greg Rubin, Bobbie Stephenson, Kay Stewart

Announced Absences: Jonathan Dunn

Unannounced Absences: None

Guests: None

Tom Oberbauer called the meeting to order at 6:34PM.

Approval of Minutes: Frank Landis moved to approve the February 8, 2012 board meeting minutes as amended. Kay Stewart seconded. The motion passed (10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained).

Treasurer's Report: Connie Di Girolamo presented the board with the February Treasurer's Report. Income in the last month increased by \$10,747 due to sponsor money from the plant tour and conservation conference book sales. Expenses were \$2,327 which included the newsletter postage. Connie received a \$415 reimbursement request from Vince Scheidt for conservation conference attendance. Vince is on the state CNPS board, not a chapter representative position. The board has been asked to approve the reimbursement but no money was budgeted for this reimbursement. Tom Oberbauer will contact Vince. Bobbie Stephenson moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Susan Krzywicki seconded. The motion passed unanimously (10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained).

Action Items:

- Susan Krzywicki moved to approve the budget with the \$1,500 in additions for: \$200 Audubon Society of San Diego, \$800 for Ocean Discovery Institute, and \$500 in undesignated mini grants. Funds for SDNHM may be requested next month. Greg Rubin seconded. The motion passed unanimously (10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained).

Committee Reports:

- Conservation – Frank Landis reported that Conservation Program Director Greg Suba is working on the Desert Renewable Resource Conservation Plan (DECRP). Locally, an article will appear in the *Voice of San Diego* about damage to the Del Mar Mesa. On April 20th, Intuit will be talking about it since their offices are adjacent to the preserve. Frank is trying to schedule a CNPS walk there on April 21st. There is interest in what the City of San Diego will do with the area and what will happen to the vernal pools. The City will make the vernal pool maps public on March 15th.

Tom Oberbauer and Frank Landis wrote comments regarding the Red Tape Task Force but the San Diego County Board of Supervisors yet to make a decision.

- Rare Plants – Frank Landis reported that work is being done in the dunes and that a new sampling strategy is being used. Only one square foot samples are used now, which dramatically speeds up the survey time. The sample data is used to calculate average densities. In addition to saving time, another advantage is that dense areas can be surveyed with less damage from trampling.
- Garden Tour – Susan Krzywicki reported that docent training was completed and that there was full house attendance. There were many master gardeners as well as biologists and botanists from the Sunrise Powerlink project. Clayton Tschudy, who works on the project, arranged for their participation. Three hikes in Mission Trails will be conducted Saturday, March 10th in Mission Trails. The objective is to allow everyone the opportunity to observe plants in situ that shows what we are trying to accomplish in the garden. One-on-one training will also be done at the garden tour homes for those docents who request it. More docents are available than needed. Todd Gloria has agreed to be one of the co-spokespersons. We will also have an article in the *Union Tribune* at the end of March. We expect the article to generate a lot of interest in the tour and, hopefully, a commensurate increase in ticket sales. The thank-you party for sponsors, docents, and homeowners that will be at the Chula Vista Nature Center the week before the tour. The party has been helped by some in kind donations for some of the required party services. Connie expressed concern that if alcohol is served at the party that adequate insurance coverage may not exist. The Nature Center's insurance, one of the in kind donations, is expected to cover us for the event. However, Susan will check with the Nature Center to ensure that CNPS will be named as an additional insured. Greg Rubin has had success obtaining some sponsors and is working on more; one of them is Carl Strauss Brewery. A \$550 transfer was just made from our PayPal account to the CNPS Garden Tour checking account. The website is up and we're receiving a lot of hits. It also includes a link to Facebook. Next year we want to discuss changing web hosts due to problems with our current one.
- Posters and Books – Cindy Burrascano reported that she had purchased some gardening books. She also mentioned that the popular book with the poppies on the cover is now out of print.
- Newsletter – Bobbie Stephenson did not have anything to report but reminded everyone that submittals must be turned in by the 10th of each month. She also reported that the last issue was delivered by the 3rd of the month, which is quite good.
- Website – Frank Landis remarked that searching the chapter website is difficult. He thinks that as some point, we need to think about what we're using it for and consider changes. Kay Stewart suggested that the board members be listed on the home page.
- Invasive Plants – No report.
- Field Trips – Kay Stewart reported that there will be an April 21st field trip to The Tunnels (Del Mar Mesa). The tour is limited to 12 people, not including Frank and his wife, since the ranger had mentioned that groups should be limited to 15. Kay is trying to schedule a general interest trip up McGinty Mountain in May and another one to Guatay Mountain to see ancient cypresses. Guatay will not have a size limit

but it will be a long hike with lots of elevation gain. Calavera will be at the end of the month with James Dillane.

Discussion Items:

- 2012-13 Budget - Connie reported that the additional income that we will see for this month may be \$1,250 but it could be as much as \$2,250. The bulk of that money comes from PayPal registration for the garden tour, projected between \$1,000 and \$2000. Cindy will probably sell another \$250 in books at the chapter meeting. The additional expenses may be \$1,500 for the garden tour, \$425 for the newsletter, \$1,500 for books, \$500 for admin and outreach. Total projected expenses will be about \$5,000, which is a conservative number. At the end of the year, we expect to have \$23,000 in capital reserve and an additional \$22,000 that we don't touch. Last year we started with \$24,800. Connie presented the garden tour as a separate budget. If the proposed budget is approved, it would include the garden tour as well. Kay Stewart explained that Peter St. Clair has been trying to get signage for the Old Town garden because people have so many questions. \$800 was budgeted to design three signs for the garden. \$200 was budgeted for use of the Audubon conference room. Cindy Burrascano requested an additional \$500 for undesignated mini grants. Bobbie suggested that \$5,000 be approved for the San Diego Natural History Museum's Plant Atlas. Any money approved for the Plant Atlas would reduce the projected \$23,000 in capital reserves. Frank Landis requested more information about how Plant Atlas money will be used. Frank's opinion is that we frequently give our funds away to other organizations, ones that have larger operating budgets than ours, and then we don't have funds for our own purposes when needed. Specifically, Frank was thinking about the San Diego Vernal Pool HCP. We have \$6,700 left in legal fund and an unspecified amount coming in from the Chaparral Institute. It was decided that no money would be approved until Bobbie speaks to SDNHM and updates the board. Bobbie withdrew her motion. Connie requested \$800 for the Ocean Discovery Institute on behalf of Carolyn Martus.
- Kay Stewart reported that the annual report of volunteer time had been submitted.
- Tom Oberbauer announced that there will be a sale at the Tree of Life Nursery. Pat Fishstein had requested T-shirts for members to wear at certain functions. In addition, she had requested T-shirts for some new members. Frank reiterated that these particular T-shirts were created in order to raise funds for the chapter. Frank Landis responded that everyone so had purchased their own T-shirts and that it should continue in that fashion. The consensus reflected Frank's position. Tom Oberbauer will respond to Pat.

Cindy Burrascano motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:03PM. Bobbie Stephenson seconded. The motion passed unanimously (10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained).