

MINUTES OF THE 2019 SPON ANNUAL MEETING

At 8:45 Andy's volunteers had the Environmental Nature Center set up and ready.

At 9:00 the guests and dignitaries started drifting in.

At 9:30 the breakfast officially started, to a full house --- and rapidly disappeared.

CALLED TO ORDER at 10:00 by President Marko Popovich.

GUESTS were introduced: Our Assembly representative Cottie Petrie-Morris, former Mayor Evelyn Hart, and Chair of the Council's Aviation Committee Jeff Herdman.

ATTENDANCE (99):

Marjorie Austin	Fred Fourcher	Marko Popovich
Jill Ayres	Jennifer Frutig	Jeanne Price
Sandra Ayres	Lance Gilbertson	Jessica Rauch
Dennis Baker	Evelyn Hart	Sharon Ray
Tom Baker	Heather Hendrickson	Steve Ray
Bruce Bartram	Jeff Herdman	Wayne Ray
Ernest Bastien	Sally Herdman	Brendan Roth
Allan Beek	Jo Carol Hunter	Marissa Ruiz
Jean Beek	Hoiyin Ip	Terry Sanders
Philip Bettencourt	Charles Klobe	Nancy Scarbrough
Mary Bossy	Sheila Koff	Melinda Seely
Joy Brenner	Dorothy Kraus	Nancy Skinner
Mary Ann Bruce	Nancy Larner	Susan Skinner
Tom Callister	Robert Larner	Mike Smith
Karen Carlson	Carol Lind	Polly Smith
Christine Carr	Andy Lingle	Debbie Stevens
Carol Chandler	Elaine Linhoff	John Stuart
Daniel Cohen	Bob Marger	Margo Stuart
Beth Cooper	Sherry Marger	Kathleen Temple
Ted Cooper	Pam Marks	Jolane Thomas
Dick Corngold	Sylvia Marson	Karen Tringali
Sally Corngold	Joan McCauley	Karen Tuckerman
Carol Crane	Jennifer McDonald	Chuck Turner
Gary Crane	Liz McNabb	Suzanne Turner
Carol Anne Dru	Nancy McNash	Jim Warren
Tom Edwards	Don Mengauale	Linda Watkins
Randall English	Jim Mosher	Jean Watt
Denise Fachko	Joni Nichols	Lorna Watt Tirman
Frank Feller	Linda Oeth	Newt Wayne
Shirley Feller	Dennis O'Hern	Sorrell Wayne
Donna Flower	Bert Ohleg	Erik Wiegand
Suzanne Forster	Cottie Petrie-Norris	Portia Weiss
Adriana Fourcher	Rita Phillips	Alan Zall

BUSINESS The Treasurer's Report and the Minutes of the previous (2018) annual meeting were on the tables for scrutiny. Both were accepted.

ELECTION One third of the Directors (six) were termed out, but were nominated for re-election. There being no nominations from the floor, these six were auto-elected: Bruce Bartram, Don Krotee, Bobby Lovell, Rita Phillips, Jeanne Price, and Jean Watt. The twelve holdovers were Nancy Alston, Jo Carol Hunter, Dorothy Kraus, Melinda Seely, Nancy Skinner, Portia Weiss; and Dennis Baker, Tom Baker, Allan Beek, Andy Lingle, Elaine Linhoff, and Marko Popovich.

AWARD Our representative Cottie Petrie-Morris urged us to remain active in keeping our communities vital. She presented Assembly Certificates of Appreciation to SPON and to the Newport Bay Conservancy.

PROGRAM 1 ---THE UPPER BAY

Randall English, president of the Newport Bay Conservancy gave a speech on the organization's 50-year history. The speech was broken in three main segments. First Mr. English's covered Francis and Frank Robinson battle to save the bay and the formation of Friends of Newport Bay. How they used education and advocacy to help sway public opinion and gather support for the courtroom battle that was won in 1973.

Mr. English then segued into the formation of the Upper Newport Ecological Reserve in 1976 and how SPON's action in the late 80's led to the addition of the Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve. He then continued by recounting the maturation of Friends of Newport Bay and the expansion of activities offered. The subsequent formation of Upper Newport Bay Naturalists in 1990. How both organizations worked to support opening of the Muth Center in 2000 and finally the merger of the two organization into Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends in 2010.

The topic then turned to present day operations and programs providing statistics on the thousands of hours the organization provides to in its mission of Education, Conservation, Restoration, Advocacy and Research. A special focus was given to the continuing importance of education and advocacy. After giving an overview of progress on the phases of the Big Canyon Restoration Project he concluded by discussing some of the future challenges the Newport Bay Conservancy faces.

PROGRAM 2 --- TRAFFIC OVER THE BAY

Councilman Jeff Herdman gave a report from the Aviation Committee on the struggle for peace and quiet. The City has retained expert consultants to help it make the right moves in its attempt to retain benefits inherent in the Settlement Agreement.

ADJOURNMENT was at 11:30, with thanks to Andy and her team, to the speakers, and to the Environmental Nature Center for the use of its beautiful facility.