

**BOARD MINUTES for: ENHANCE LA JOLLA MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**

**DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2021 - MEETING WAS HELD AT RIFORD LIBRARY**

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**In attendance:**

Present: Hauer, Lipsky, Michaelson (Secretary), Nelson (Treasurer), Witt (Chair), Pfeiffer, Wagener, Warfield, Warwick, Bry, Kassel, Kanjo.

Staff: Mary Montgomery

City of San Diego: Steve Hadley, Sean Karafin

**MINUTES**

1. **The meeting** was called to order at 4:05 PM.
2. **Adopt the Agenda.** Unanimous Approval.
3. **Certify Election Results:** Counted and Certified by Sean Karafin from the City of SD Economic Development Dept.
4. **Election Results:**
  - a. President: Ed Witt
  - b. Treasurer: Andy Nelson
  - c. Secretary: John Michaelson
  - d. Board Members: Steve Warfield, Julie Dubick, Barbara Bry;
  - e. Jonathan Lipsky and George Hauer will be off the Board as their terms have expired.
5. **Officers' Reports:**

**President's Report – Ed Witt:** Good afternoon and thanks for joining us for this, our annual Enhance La Jolla meeting. Today we're going to cover a lot of items, most importantly our annual elections. As you know, this year the election was held online and our hope it that it was easier for voting. Special thanks to **Kathryn and Phyllis** for their efforts on the Nominations and Elections committee.

Over the last year we, as a MAD, have accomplished a lot to improve the look and feel of our village and, of course, it's all due to the enthusiastic efforts by all of our board members. So thanks to each of you on the Board for what you do. And thanks to **Jonathan Lipsky** for two years of service.

With the elections to the Board now over for this year, today we will also nominate and vote for Board Officers. Being a board officer is an important role in the soundness and effectiveness of our mission. I thank the officers that have served and given their time.

I've personally given a lot of thought to my role as President of ELJ and thus, this board. Before that, however, I'd like to speak to a couple of items that I strongly feel need to be said.

## Pres. report (cont)

As the President of this Board, I feel part of the role is being in touch with as many other village organizations as time permits. This has been helpful with Zoom and I've done my best to attend many other La Jolla group meetings. We do have a lot of groups and a lot of very passionate people serving. By listening to their efforts to improve La Jolla, I've learned a lot.

Having said that, I've also noticed most recently a trend of what I'll call "cancel culture", which has the result of making open discussion and finding new solutions to ongoing village issues rather impossible. As you know, our meetings and most of the groups that meet in La Jolla, follow the Brown Act and thus we have "open meetings". The very term "open" means what? To me it means open comments and discussion. I see this as a benefit to our community and its forward progress. Open discussion is vital to our democracy and to the vitality of our little village. When we try to stop open discussion, we eliminate the possibility of learning and improving. We may not always agree on the topic or subject matter, but we also don't have the right to stop it! As members of this Board, we have a responsibility to listen. It is my opinion when we feel we don't need dialogue, we should stop being a part of a public forum and/or discussion. I'm not talking about our public discussion time specifically, but more about other groups that I've listened in on. I want you all to know I am strongly against the stopping of free and open discussions and, as long as I serve the public on this board, I will encourage that discussions be had! We have so many wonderful hard-working people in La Jolla to not listen to their ideas would be a travesty. Let's have open minds and hearts and listen! Thanks, and now back to the agenda.

Now I'd like to shift focus to someone who is an integral part of the Enhance La Jolla/LJ MAD team. Chris Cott, would you please join me over here? For those who don't know him, **Chris Cott** is a volunteer who dedicates several hours of his own time each week to removing graffiti and other vandalism from public areas. He also photographs the graffiti to give to the police for possible prosecution later. Chris' efforts keep the village clean and visibly welcoming. His volunteer actions have raised the level of service the MAD is able to provide. Both Mary and I are in regular communication with Chris and have a system of responding to vandalism issues, large and small. Chris has a passion for our community and does a lot of good. His contributions make a huge difference in the appearance and enjoyability of our neighborhoods. Chris, on behalf of the Enhance La Jolla Board, and in recognition of your volunteer efforts to remove graffiti and vandalism in the Village, please accept this Golden Paintbrush Award as a token of our sincere appreciation.

**Tony Gild**, who wasn't able to be here today, has volunteered to inventory all the utility boxes in the district needing attention. He will then get back to me with details and mapping.

We will be working on Wall Street in the next week or so filling tree wells that have been left vacant, which are not only unattractive but are also dangerous trip hazards. We've had to move a large planter to cover one that is missing a tree so look for more improvements from Herschel to Ivanhoe. As you know, the Post Office has a lot of activity so people will notice.

### Pres. report (cont)

Attendance at our quarterly meetings is very important. Having said that, we certainly do recognize that it's not always possible to be in attendance. If you would please put our meeting dates in your calendar for the year, you can try and prioritize them so we always have a quorum. We meet on the third Thursday of the first month in each quarter. Our next meeting will be January 20<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

**Treasurer's Report:** **Andy Nelson** reported that our payables are current from our operating account. We have a 2<sup>nd</sup> bank account which receives donations for the LJ Foundation.

**Secretary's Report:** **John Michaelson** reported that the minutes of the July meeting were approved unanimously. John also reported that our insurance policies have been renewed as of 7/1/21->22. Our coverage includes General Liability of one million including D&O coverage and \$250,000 coverage for volunteer accidents. Since we have no employees, we REQUIRE all contractors working for us to provide appropriate insurance naming Enhance as "Additional Insured". John obtained an outside consultant to review our policies and based on the review, the executive committee determined that our current insurance coverage is satisfactory.

6. **City of San Diego Report – Sean Karafin:** Outdoor dining options will be presented to the City Council on 10/25. The MAD contract will be renewed in 2 years.  
**Steve Hadley:** The current dining ordinance is unenforceable on public space – parks. On Dec. 14 a new local law will be in place and will be in compliance with State law.
7. **MAD Items – Mary Montgomery** reported on the purchase and planting of a new hibiscus tree at Starbucks on Prospect and new hanging flower baskets on Girard. She is working on more engagement on social media.
8. **La Jolla Foundation – Phyllis Pfeiffer** reported that the street modifications for Prospect, Girard and Wall Streets are expected to cost about 15 million. The foundation has 1.5 million currently and expects that it will take about 2 years to raise the balance of the required funds. The street encroachment by the various restaurants on Prospect is a problem that needs to be resolved before the project can be implemented. The Contractor does have feedback from the City on a preliminary review. The next step is for the construction committee to meet with various community groups to get feedback. The start of the project will probably be the 4 corners at Wall Street and Herschel. Christopher Beech will be helping with the fund-raising project. Mark Steele has been involved for over 10 years putting the plans together for the improvements. Phyllis emphasized that Enhance La Jolla will be responsible for getting the construction done and then monitoring the improvements since Enhance La Jolla has the contract with the City, not the La Jolla Foundation.
9. **Update on Enhance La Jolla Day 2022:** **Barbra Bry** announced the event will be scheduled on 4/23/22 from 9am-12pm. There will be an art program for children at the Museum and milkweed plants will be located throughout the Village. Nishoo and other vendors will provide support as there is no budget for the event. All required funds will be donated.

**Oct. 2021 Board Minutes, (cont)**

10. **Action Item:** **Ed Witt** suggested a change to the Bylaws to include one of the Board Members at large to have City Experience or be a lawyer to help the Board deal with the City and Legal issues. **Barbara Bry** is our current guide to assist Enhance with our City interactions. This matter will be voted on at our Jan. 20, 2022 meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.**