

MINUTES

April 18, 2015



The Newport Boating Association met on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at 27 Sorrento Way at 1:00 PM.

Present from Amalfi: Peter Buettner, Bob & Lynn Cummings, Betsy Groh.

Absent from Amalfi: Jennifer Coan, Colleen Porter, Mo Witzel, Larry & Sandy Joseph

Present from Canal: Marty Komitopoulos, Doug Traeger

Absent from Canal: Ric & Ann Laurence, Alan & Christine Cereghino, Liz Ruellen, Larry & Pavla Luckham

Present from Capri: Bryon Bass, Dan Duarte, Tore Abrahamsen

Absent from Capri: Patrick Martin, Genevieve Clark, Ian & Jenny Hughes, Eugene & Sharon Oswald (2 Capri)

Present from Lido: Bob & Barbro Gregory, Sherry & Sia Bakhtiari

Absent from Lido: Khac Nguyen (5 Lido)

Present from Portofino: Sam Ferguson, Lillian Trac, John Gonzalez, Peter Gregory

Absent from Portofino: Joanne Greene, Bill Jones

Present from Sorrento: Aline & Jack Perry, Gary & Colleen Scheier

Absent from Sorrento: New Owners (5 Sorrento), Lloyd Watson, Warren & Susie Weisenburg, Chris Toomajian, Bill & Liz Weeks

Bryon welcomed everyone to the meeting, gave a summary of the agenda, and invited members to introduce themselves. Among the long term residents of the NBA are Gary and Colleen Scheier, who have been at their home for 21 years. Bob and Lynn have been residents since 1983!! Our newest NBA members are Sia and Sherry, who moved into 12 Lido Lane, and Betsy Groh, who has a 2 year lease at 5 Amalfi Place.

Sam Ferguson provided a vital community update on the Corps of Engineers' dredging of the Canal in 2017-18. The central core of the San Rafael Canal was last dredged by the Corps in 2011 to a depth of 5' to 5'-6" feet. Since our 2011 dredge, many of the key Canal dredging advocates such as Major Albert Boro and Congresswomen Lynn Woolsey have now retired and left office.

The Army Corps of Engineers has a tentative schedule to dredge the San Rafael Canal in 2017; however NO FUNDS HAVE BEEN APPROVED due to congressional budget cuts. With these new cuts the Corps has limited funds to dredge. The Corps is now prioritizing dredging projects that have heavy commercial traffic. With only 20% of its traffic generated by commercial activity, the Canal is a light commercial traffic waterway and therefore has a lower dredge funding priority. We are ranked 8th out of 11 for dredge priority. One good note is that the first 7 projects have already received dredge funding, so it's vitally important that we act in concert and make our voices heard. Sam and Bryon are looking for NBA volunteers who can work with them to connect with local officials and organize the community to ensure that the central channel is dredged either in 2017 or 2018. Working with the NBA dredging committee will include project management, meeting with city officials, negotiating with congressional decision makers and organizing local businesses to secure federal funding.

If federal dredging funds are not secured through these actions the effect could be crippling for the Canal and NBA Community. The related 1.5 to 5.6 million in dredging costs could be passed on to home and business owners alike. Hopefully this will not happen, there are some very strong and active groups along the San Rafael Canal and we will be working and strategizing with every one of them to secure these large and important funds.

Since this is critical community project, updates will be forwarded as new information is obtained.

We will need all hands on deck for this important community project.

Bryon next presented some ideas for community building activities that had been discussed with the Executive Committee. Among the ideas were a community garage sale, summer time BBQ, a holiday food drive, or adopting a family in the Canal. Marty liked the idea of a garage sale, and suggested that the proceeds from the garage sale could be used to fund the summer time BBQ. Other ideas were for the NBA to invite both the Army Corps of Engineers and Salt River to the BBQ so that they could 1: meet one another, and perhaps Salt River might be considered for the next dredge (they were shut out from the Main Channel bidding process the last time around) and 2: for the NBA members (and possibly nearby businesses) to receive an update on the future dredge.

Bryon explained that he had recently received authorship rights to the NBA website (<http://newportboatingassociation.com>) from Ian Hughes (past president) and that he would be looking to refresh the website and make it more relevant to members' daily life. Among the goals of the revitalized website are:

1. Publication of a newsletter updating members on upcoming activities. This newsletter would be published every other month, and also include helpful phone numbers and tips.
2. One such helpful tip was shared by Aline. The City offers a vacation check-up on your home whereby officers will drive by your house at least once every day that you're on vacation to check that no suspicious activities are occurring at your home.
3. Gary shared that the Department of Public Works picks up large abandoned trash on Fridays, so contacting DPW by Thursdays ensures that these items are cleared from the streets.

Bryon handed out a NBA informational tri-fold that he and Dan co-authored and which has been delivered to new NBA members. This tri-fold will be amended in the coming days to include those helpful phone numbers discussed earlier.

Bryon also handed out a prototype NBA newsletter (in color and on glossy paper) that showcased some recent activities in the neighborhood, including information about the large scale development at Loch Lomond. For a link to this newsletter, head on over to the NBA website (<http://newportboatingassociation.com>).

Lastly, Bryon alerted members that within the last couple of weeks, one of the NBA members had been robbed when she returned home one evening. A couple of guys approached her when she got out of her car, and told her that they were going to take everything from her car, which they then proceeded to do. Bryon is looking for NBA street captains to form a neighborhood watch to ensure the safety of our community. As our community has had some recent turn-over, members are encouraged to consider whether they would like to volunteer to be street captains prior to our next meeting in September.

Contact Bryon at 415-418-4782 or Bryon.Bass@icloud.com if you are interested in volunteering for any of the efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40pm.