



## SANTA MONICA CANYON CIVIC ASSOCIATION

### Board Minutes

March 18, 2008

**Recorded by:** Marilyn Wexler

**Attending:** Jennifer Barker, Betty Bradshaw, Bob Bronstein, Mike Deasy, Quentin Fleming, Dawn Forrester, Judy Golden, Babs Lebowsky, John Murphy, Alejandro Ortiz, Lani Pagano, Sanford Panitch, Steve Richards, Marilyn Wexler, Cynthia Winter, George Wolfberg, Elizabeth Zaillian

**Excused:** Jill Baldauf, Lisa Bittan, Joan Graves, Leslie Hope, Isabelle Mizrahi

**Guests:** Lucinda Mittleman, Brigitte Kouba, Chris Casady, Richard Holbrook, Michelle Mowery (LA DOT), Helene Bibas (LA City Planning), Irene Stern

**Meeting was called to order at 7:06 by President George Wolfberg.**

**Introductions:**

**Minutes February 2008.**

Upon motion by Marilyn Wexler, seconded by Dawn Forrester, the minutes from February 19 were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's report: (02/29/08)**

Savings	\$ 2,841.06
Checking	2,887.16
Certificate	<u>10,736.16</u>
Total	<u>\$16,464.38</u>

**Membership:** There are currently 269 paid members.

**Briefing on LA City Bicycle Plan update/bicycle issues.**

Michelle Mowery, LA City DOT Senior Bicycle Coordinator, gave a thorough report on the existing Los Angeles City bicycle plan and options for changes. There are numerous changes being reviewed to increase the safe usage of bicycles for transportation and recreation throughout Los Angeles City. Ms. Mowery answered questions relating to bicycle issues and access to the beach bike path. For more details or to give input see [www.bicyclela.org](http://www.bicyclela.org)

### **Old Business.**

- **Prop. K Project.** No new update.
- **California Incline Project.** No new update.
- **Fireworks issues.** No report, to be taken off the agenda.
- **John Flynn Memorial Bench.** Bench was received cracked and is being replaced.
- **Neighborhood Character Study.** Helene Bibas (LA City Planning Department) gave a brief report on SB1818 and the Neighborhood Character Study. The “flat lands” ordinance currently with the City Attorneys office and once drafted will go back to the City Council. We are awaiting the initiation of the “Hillside” study.
- **VA.** A Rally of Veterans’ advocates will be held March 30.
- **Speed enforcement in canyon.** The board discussed priorities for traffic enforcement in the canyon. The Commander of West LA Traffic has agreed to consider community input for enforcement priorities. The Board agreed that traffic enforcement priorities should be: 1. Entrada near Canyon School; 2. Entrada near the curve at Kingman; 3. the 100 Block of West Channel Road; 4. Sunset Boulevard at Brooktree. George will send a letter to the Commander.
- **New Speed Humps in Rustic.** There is still a lot of confusion and disagreement over the speed humps installed by a local resident on Latimer.
- **Newsletter planning.** The Newsletter went out successfully this past month and membership response has been strong.
- **Planning for Eucalyptus Forest.** No new report.
- **Planning for Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting is in the works and is scheduled for May 6. Elizabeth Zaillian has reserved the gym for the meeting and featured speakers will be Senior Lead Officer Michael Moore and historian Randy Young. The nominating committee will be contacting board members and others.

### **Other Business**

Former Board member, Lucinda Mittleman, reported on the Campaign to Save Topanga State Park, and Save the State Parks Campaign. These are in response to the Governor’s proposal to close 48 State Parks as a cost cutting measure. A petition was passed around which was in support of keeping Topanga State Park open.

**Motion.** A motion was made by Marilyn Wexler, seconded by Dawn Forrester and unanimously passed that the Board support of these two Campaigns and the Association’s name can be used for that support. [Resolution is attached]

**Adjourned at 8:30 pm.**

**Next meeting.**

**April 15.**

## **SAVE OUR STATE PARKS CAMPAIGN**

WHEREAS, The California state park system is home to 276 state parks, beaches, historic parks, recreation areas, and other park units;

WHEREAS, Annually over 77 million visitors take advantage of the myriad low-cost opportunities for recreation, education, fitness and other outdoor pursuits in state parks;

WHEREAS, California's economy is dependent on travel and tourism revenues, a large portion of which are derived from visitation to the state's unmatched state park system;

WHEREAS, State parks are an important economic engine to the local communities in which they are located and studies have shown that every \$1 invested in the state park system returns \$2.35 to the states General Fund, largely in the form of economic activity in local economies;

WHEREAS, The Governor's 2008-09 State Budget proposes an unprecedented closing of 48 state parks and drastic lifeguard reductions on 16 popular state beaches;

WHEREAS, Such a proposal creates considerable harm for local governments that rely on tourism from state parks for their community's livelihood and community identity;

WHEREAS, Closing 48 state parks and decreasing lifeguard staffing on 16 state beaches will reduce revenues for local businesses and will result in overall losses in local fees and taxes, thereby eroding financial savings envisioned by the closures;

WHEREAS, The 186-acre Will Rogers State Historic Park in Pacific Palisades was acquired by the state in 1944 and was the ranch home of the most popular actor in Hollywood and is now open to the public after a major renovation that includes the original restored structures, a polo ground and horseback riding, hiking trails and a connector to the Backbone Trail that takes hardy hikers all the way to Point Mugu;

WHEREAS Topanga State Park is located in the heart of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, is marked by spectacular geological formations, features 36 miles of trails through open grassland, live oaks, and spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean and is considered the world's largest wild land within the boundaries of a major city — the City of Los Angeles — and is enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people every year;

WHEREAS, The Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association (SMCCA) was incorporated in 1946 and is believed to be the oldest community-based organization in California and is located immediately adjacent to the Will Rogers State Historic Park and Topanga State Park that will be shuttered by the Governor's draconian proposal;

WHEREAS; Closure of these state parks will jeopardize Californians' access to treasures that were specifically set aside to be experienced by the public;

WHEREAS, Lifeguard staffing reductions will endanger public health and safety on California's state beaches; and

WHEREAS, The funding required to keep state parks open and restore lifeguards on

state beaches represents a mere fraction (0.00006 %) of the entire budget proposed by the Governor;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the SMCCA hereby supports the Save Our State Parks Campaign and urges the Legislature to reject Governor Schwarzenegger's proposal to close 48 state parks and drastically reduce lifeguard staffing on 16 state beaches, to uphold the public's trust in protecting and preserving public access to the treasures in the state park system, and to identify funding to enable all 278 state parks to remain open for the public's access and enjoyment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the SANTA MONICA CANYON CIVIC ASSOCIATION does hereby unanimously adopt this resolution on this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2008. Copies of this resolution will be transmitted to the Save Our State Parks Campaign, the Governor, and the state Legislature.