CALL TO ORDER AT 4 PM.

1. ROLL CALL

Beautification and Natural Resources Commission Members:  Jeanie Anton, Chair; Thom Akeman; Colleen Goldsmith; Kelly Terry; Lindsay Jacob; Dave Myers; Rebecca Lee

2. Approval of December Agenda

Jeanie Anton added Item 10 C: George Washington Park Update by Lindsay Jacob. Motion to approve agenda carried 7-0 vote

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of November 19, 2019 carried 7-0 vote with correction of a spelling error in 5b and deletion of "near term" under Staff Announcements Item 11 as vague.

4. Presentations

a. Monarch Sanctuary Docent Report: Mary Dainton presented updated count of 411 Monarchs in the sanctuary with 2540 visitors logged during period of November 19th until December 15th by the volunteer docents. Mary noted that not all shifts were covered by volunteers due to weather conditions. School groups were in attendance at both the museum and sanctuary for a total of 514 children. Mary noted that 8 eucalyptus trees in portable pots are dead and asked whether they should be removed. The planted pots are root bound and need to be put into the ground.

Bathroom is well utilized but not open one Sunday with public requesting access. Grove Acre entrance does not appear to have a "No Dogs" sign which is needed. Dan Gho requested that docents contact Public Works when there is an issue. Jeanie Anton suggested that sagging ropes be switched out with split rail. Rebecca Lee commented on the plants in pots. Public Works will follow up and plant the daisies in the ground.

b. Weather Station Concept for Monarch Sanctuary: Dominick Sinicropi, Ph.D, gave a presentation for a weather station to be located in the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary. He noted that 2019 Real Time Western Monarch Count data indicates better count numbers for butterfly populations
to the north and south of Pacific Grove. Installation of a weather station would provide accurate data regarding wind, temperature, rainfall, and solar radiation within the Sanctuary. Currently weather data is supplied from the Monterey Airport which does not address the coastal micro-climate. The components in a weather station record and send data every 5 minutes every day. Data can then be graphed and proper management of the Sanctuary determined. The proposal is that Dr. Siricropi will donate the equipment to city, with the understanding that Public Works would do the installation and could maintain the hardware. PW would also pay for the online monitoring fees estimated at $25 per month. Jeanie Anton suggested that city staff will need to research possible issues with deed restrictions in the sanctuary. Thom Akeman inquired about the location of equipment and Rebecca Lee brought up possible disruptions to insects by the weather station equipment. Colleen Goldsmith asked if other coastal sanctuaries have weather stations which was affirmed by Dr. Sinicropi.

5. Public Comments
   a. Written Communication: Lisa Ciani regarding the nectar brochure and IPM
   b. Oral Communications: Lisa Ciani commented on the single use plastics ban and smoking ordinance work by BNRC; also remarked that Crespi Pond designated as an environmentally sensitive area and 5 new permits have been requested with an absence of biological monitoring guidelines

6. Reports Not Requiring Action
   a. Council Liaison Nick Smith absent
   b. Mayor Bill Peake addressed establishment of procedures for new City ordinances from concept review to 1st reading, then 2nd reading before being enacted. Also commented on the updated Resource Inventory survey; bench policy; 2nd reading of smoking ban, cannabis presentation, wireless presentation and request to Museum Board to assume responsibility for the lighthouse.
   c. Jeanie Anton acknowledged PG artist Robert McIntyre, who was present and who thanked BNRC for this recognition.
7. Items Requiring Action: None

8. Unfinished Ongoing Business: None

9. New Business

a. Jeanie Anton explained that historically the Beautification and Natural Resources commissions were separate commissions which were merged into one "BNRC". A new name would be more reflective of what this commission really does and one suggestion is: Environmental Protection Commission.

b. Public Comment: Lisa Ciani requested that the new name include "sustainability"

c. Rebecca Lee likes the word "stewardship" such as Environmental Protection and Stewardship Commission; Lindsay Jacob suggested "conservation" in name such as Environmental Conservation Commission; Dave Myers commented that Natural Resources covers recycling; Colleen Goldsmith would like to see "public art" in a name change and Thom Akeman sees "restoration work" as part of the new name. Discussion of a name change will continue at next BNRC meeting.

10. Commissioner's Report:

a. BNRC approved the ban on glyphosate in the IPM (June 2019). Jeanie Anton requested the public support this by speaking to city council when this matter will be discussed and decided during city council meeting.

   1. Public Comment: Lisa Ciani expressed concerns about IPM being addressed by city council

   2. Thom Akeman also has concerns about what comes next for the glyphosate issue

b. Jeanie Anton thanked Rebecca Lee for her work on the nectar brochure and noted that sub-committee will continue work on it.

   1. Public Comment: Cathy Wooten recommended that non-native plants be listed after the native plants suggested in the brochure; Dominick Siricropi noted that planting lantana attracted large number of butterflies; Lisa Ciani praised brochure as way to educate the public and suggested title "Guide to Selecting Plants" be larger; Mary Dainton noted that monkey flower goes by another name.
2. Jeanie Anton noted that non-native plants now reside in the sanctuary; Thom Akeman would like to see brochure printed in color; Dave Myers provided update by Environmental Defense Fund advising Monarch butterfly population has plummeted and EDF advise planting and restoration of milkweed habitat. Jeanie Anton mentioned the article about Monarchs in the Monterey County Weekly; Rebecca Lee stated that milkweed plantings are confusing to many residents.

c. Lindsay Jacob spoke on habitat restoration for George Washington Park with the first meeting of volunteers on Saturday, January 11th from 9 to 12 noon at Spruce and Alder.

1. Public Comment: Lisa Ciani requested a link on the BNRC web page and inquired about the RFP for the forestry plan.

2. Thom Akeman also requested an update. Milas Smith advised that the RFP went out with no responses to proposal. Another RFP can go out in January/February 2020. Rebecca Lee observed that signage regarding dogs is confusing in the park. Thom Akeman commented that there are loose dogs at all hours and there is no enforcement of off leash restrictions. Thom will include signage in the annual sub-committee review for this year. Rebecca Lee noted there was less wrapped candy after the city parade this year. Jeanie Anton attended a meeting at the Aquarium with Milas Smith. Aquarium has been very helpful with resources available to reduce use of single use plastics.

11. Staff Announcements: None

12. Items for Next Agenda:

BNRC name change discussion; George Washington Park; finalize nectar brochure; weather station proposal; and city council glyphosate update

Meeting Adjourned: 5:17 pm