

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 7, 2009
MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, 6:30 P.M. at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center, One Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego, California.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Dorothy Leonard, Chair, Member-at-large
Dick Murphy, Vice Chair, Special Member
John F. Pilch, San Carlos Area Council
Richard Gadler, City of El Cajon
Roger Utt, County of San Diego
Nancy Acevedo, Member-at-large
Betty Ogilvie, Tierrasanta Community Council Alternate
Donovan Geiger, Tierrasanta Community Council
Matt Rahn, SDSU
David Boyer, MCAS Miramar
Norman Greene, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
Shannon O'Dunn, City of La Mesa
Dale Peterson, Navajo Community Planners
Dale Shockley, Member-at-large

Members Absent

Judy McCarty, Special Member, excused
Gene Hatton, City of Santee, excused
Mike Pent, Special Member, excused

City of San Diego

Chirs Zirkle, Open Space Deputy Director, Steve Haupt Open Space District Manager
Nathan Batchelder, Councilmember Emerald's Office

Guests

Mojgan Poursadighi, Martin Coghill, San Diego County Water Authority
Gardner Grady, Kim Wiley, San Diego Mountain Bike Association
Pete Cuthbert, Former CAC member
Eric Leenerts, Citizen

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dorothy Leonard at 6:35 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (PILCH / GADLER) to approve the minutes of the May 5th 2009 meeting. The motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Dorothy Leonard reported:

- At the last MTRP Task Force meeting, the Endowment Fund from the San Diego Foundation that was recommended to be transferred to the Mission Trails Foundation for projects to be determined was approved.
- Dale Shockley was approved as the new member-at-large for the MTRP CAC.

STAFF/RANGER REPORT

In Senior Ranger Walker's absence, Open Space District Manager Steve Haupt reported:

- The 4th of July night patrol went very well. Over 300 people were at the Cowles Mt. summit to view the numerous fireworks displays all over the San Diego region. Ranger night patrols will occur on an as-needed basis only and when approved by the District Manager.
- One group of four people was ejected from the park at the Barker Way Trail Head trying to enter with a controlled substance. PD was notified. There were no other problems of any kind.
- During the patrol, Rangers Walker and Miller talked with several hundred people voicing interest in our volunteer program at MTRP. Ranger Walker has asked our Volunteer Coordinator, David Lee, to begin using current volunteers to recruit at the Cowles Staging Area on the weekends. That location provides us with the highest number of potential volunteers anywhere in MTRP.
- Kumeyaay Lake Campground has been very busy. Over the last several months, even with the campground open only two nights a week, our camper statistics have far exceeded stats generated when the campground was open five days a week. This may be due in part to recent economic issues.
- Staff continues to battle the ongoing mosquito issue at Kumeyaay Lake Campground.
- Staff is still working on finding a way to get material to several staging areas on Cowles Mt for maintenance of the primary truck trail.
- Due to several fires around MTRP, Ranger Walker has asked for components of local emergency response agencies to meet and discuss area issues and communications. So far, two very successful meetings have been held.

WATER DEPARTMENT'S LAKE MURRAY REPORT

No representative to give a report.

ACTION ITEMS

101. SDSU RiverNet Project: All required project funding has been approved. The project is a joint partnership between San Diego State University and the San Diego River Conservancy and the San Diego River Park Foundation. Data in the field generated by autonomous field stations located in

the San Diego River will collect environmental information (weather, water quality and possibly sedimentation information) and distribute it in a real time format to all project partners. Another attribute is that sensing chemical changes in water quality may point to problems such as sewer discharges. The unit installed in Mission Trails will be the first of several on the San Diego River and act as a proof of concept.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (MURPHY / PILCH) to support the installation of the SDSU RiverNet Project sensing station and move for suggested approval at the MTRP Task Force. The motion passed, with David Boyer and Matt Rahn abstaining.

102. Mission Trails Arbor Day proposal: It was noted that several trees have died and replacements were needed at the Equestrian Staging Area. It was proposed to plant two coastal live oaks and eight cottonwood trees in areas having irrigation.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (GADLER / ACEVEDO) to approve the planting of the 10 replacement trees at the Equestrian Staging area during the Dec 5th, 2009 Arbor Day. The motion passed, with David Boyer abstaining.

103. Park Use Permits: The criteria for bringing proposed event permitting to the CAC was discussed. Ground Use Permits are used for events with an anticipated attendance of over 50 persons. It was proposed that all Ground Use Permits be brought before the CAC for review. A process model was drawn from the Balboa Park permitting format. Modifications were made to accommodate Open Space applications.

MOTION : It was moved and seconded (ACEVEDO /GADLER) to approve the CAC's review of all ground use permits. The Senior Ranger will make the final decision on granting permits. The motion passed, with David Boyer abstaining.

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. San Diego County Water Authority Projects: SDCWA staff reported on the ongoing construction work going on in the park.
- The Mission Trails Tunnel: The support trailer complex at the end of Claremont Mesa Blvd. has been completed. The contractor is fully on site and the operation is 100% functional. The tunnel is about 75% complete. If all continues to go well, this project will be completed in June of 2011.
 - FRS-2 Progress: This project should be completed around July of 2011. The SDCWA board approved the budget allowing the Lake Murray Control Valve project to move forward. It is hoped that this project will begin sometime in 2012.
 - The Pipeline 4 relining: Reports on several phases of the relining projects and locations were discussed. FRS-2 and the relining project are going on at the same time to reduce impacts to the park.
 - Habitat restoration contract / plan. Recon is the revegetation contractor for habitat restoration. Recon will be working in concert with the MTRP CAC under the good neighbor policy. Restoration sites are primarily inside the SDCWA right of ways. The Master Restoration Plan

draft has been completed. This represents a “how to” provide restoration inside MTRP. From this plan, site specific construction documents for each project component within the park will be detailed. It was decided to appoint a sub-committee to review all related Habitat Restoration Plan documents. Committee members include: Matt Rahn, John Pilch, Roger UTT, Dale Shockley and David Boyer. Dale Shockley was appointed as sub-committee Chair.

202. CIP Project Updates.

- a. Old Mission Dam Maintenance Project: Staff is working with Engineering and Capital Projects environmental section to take over the mitigation portion of the project following CPCI (Community Planning and Community Investments) submittal to DSD (Development Services Department) to update the certified MND (Mitigated Negative Declaration) that will bring the environmental document up to date. The contract with the Urban Corps is being reviewed by Purchasing and Contracting to resume work on the ongoing mitigation site. Not until this is brought up to date can the city proceed with the long term Old Mission Dam dredging and associated permit application.
- b. Equestrian Staging Area Comfort Station status report: The consultant needs to be approved by council. The action will be reported sometime in July.
- c. MTRP Resource Management Plan update: Five proposals were received by the deadline of June 26th for the Master Plan consultant. The project manager will coordinate with the MTRP CAC representative for the interviews to occur during the week of July 20th or 27th. Matt Rahn and Nancy Acevedo are on the interview panel.

203. Report from READ regarding Cowles Mountain leases: Open Space District Manager Steve Haupt offered information, including a list of the current leases operating on Cowles Mt. The report was offered as general information only. A report regarding the balances in the MTRP Antenna Fund will be provided at either the September or November 2009 CAC meeting.

204. MTRP Foundation Report: Chair Dorothy Leonard reported on financial and educational aspects of Foundation activity. Two Foundation employees were hired to offer educational programming at the Visitor Center. It was noted that these programs are in addition to, and do not replace, any Ranger or Trail Guide generated programs. The ability to make donations to the Foundation right off the website should be launched later this week. Work continues on the new campground reservation system.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Kim Wiley of the San Diego Mountain Bike Association reviewed several articles on urban trails in a well know magazine. SDMA was located on the very first page of the magazine. Kim also demonstrated the use of the “Bear Bell”. Bear Bells are used to announce bike locations to hikers and other trail users. It was proposed that several Bear Bell stations and associated signage be set up at key trail head locations in established kiosk. REI is being contacted for possible donations.

Mr. Eric Leenerts spoke in support of the proposed Mt. Bike Skills Park located in the BMX area behind the Deerfield Pump Station. There was some concern voiced regarding the status of this project and what the next move would be. Open Space District Manager Steve Haupt remarked that he would look into the issues and report back. It was requested that this item be included on the

September 2009 CAC agenda.

CAC Member John Pilch reported that the July 4th Lake Murray fireworks show took place with no major issues.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey Walker, Staff Representative
for Steve Haupt, Open Space Division District Manager