

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 6, 2010
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 6, 2010, 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
Dale Peterson, Navajo Community Planners
Roger Utt, County of San Diego
John F. Pilch, San Carlos Area Council
Mike Pent, Special Member
Dale Shockley, Member-at-large
David Boyer, MCAS Miramar
Nancy Acevedo, Member-at-large
Gene Hatton, City of Santee

Members Absent

Shannon O'Dunn, City of La Mesa, Excused
Matt Rahn, SDSU, Excused
Richard Gadler, City of El Cajon, Excused
Donovan Geiger, Tierrasanta Community Council, Excused
Green, Norman, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board, Absent

City of San Diego

Steve Haupt, Open Space District Manager
Rick Thompson Senior Park Ranger
Nelson Manville, Lake Murray, Lake Program Supervisor

Guests

Anne Wolfstange, DePratti, Inc., Representing Sprint/Clearwire and T-Mobile
Kim Wiley, SDMBA
Mojgan Poursadighi, SDCWA

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 (ACEVEDO/UTT) to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2010 meeting. Dick Murphy noted one misspelling, to be corrected. The motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Dorothy Leonard

STAFF/RANGER REPORT

Mission Trails Senior Ranger, Rick Thompson updated the CAC on current operations and projects being done by staff. Rick reported that 3 of the 4 culverts at the Kumeyaay Lake outfall had been cleared. Clearing was done by hand by Sr. Ranger Thompson, Volunteer Terry Gaughen, GMW's Tom Folk & Carmelo Esquer, and monitored by Laura Ball. Two possible nesting sites were flagged by Betsy Miller and Laura Ball. These sites were avoided, and noise levels were monitored during the week of work. Sr. Ranger Thompson reported that discussions were moving forward with Kim Wiley (SDMBA) on the concept of retaining some of the local trail names, in addition to approved trail names. It was mutually decided that until there was more discussion no local trail names would be submitted at this time. Sr. Ranger Thompson also reported on discussions and email exchanges with Jay Showalter (SDMBA) on the Deerfield BMX / Skill Park. While this concept is moving forward, until local users come on-board to support, planned upgrades to this site are still on-hold. Sr. Ranger Thompson also reported on a recent email from Chris Pearson (Councilmember Marti Emeralds office) expressing concern on both real and perceived emergency response issues, and proposed solutions made by Captain Tim Wilson (Station 34) including additional signage, naming trails using color designations, and other potential solution. Rick had a meeting with Captain Wilson following this email, to discuss issues. Captain Wilson apologized for the unexpected email, but did have some concerns. Several ideas were discussed, and will be explored further. It was noted by Sr. Ranger Thompson that MTRP had always worked closely with all emergency responders, including SDPD, SDFD, SD Sheriff's Department, and others. Retired SDPD, Dale Shockley, explained the history of the many years of working to streamline all response times, and the system had been fine-tuned, and performed without flaw. He was distressed that this process had apparently become flawed, and agreed to work with City staff to resolve any real issues. It was agreed that the primary cause for Captain Wilson's concerns was probably because of changes in staffing, and a breakdown in chain of communications. A meeting with SDFD has been tentatively scheduled for July 22 to discuss issues and possible solutions.

District Manager Steve Haupt provided an update on the hiring of new Rangers. While there is approval to hire, the number of new Rangers actually posted to Open Space was unknown. Additionally, the locations where new Rangers would be posted was also unknown. Steve explained that candidates were being notified, and both the interview panel and questions to be asked were in-place. It was hoped that some positions could be filled as early as the end of the month. District Manager Haupt also said that there was a possibility to reestablish the Trails Manager Position, however there was no guarantee or expected timeline for this to occur. Steve also informed the CAC of the retirement of Ranger Tom Miller last month. Ranger Miller was a valuable asset to MTRP and will be missed. It is hope that a backfill of this position will be one of the new hires.

WATER DEPARTMENT'S LAKE MURRAY REPORT

Nelson Manville, Lake Murray Lakes Program Supervisor, provided the same report presented to the MTRP Task Force on May 27, 2010. The report included changes of gate entrance times to open at 5:30AM and close at 8:00PM. Nelson reported that the baseball activities are in full swing at the San Carlos recreation center fields across the reservoir. Recent Lake Murray activities included:

April 24th Rotary Club reroofing the structures that supports the large barbecue built by the Kiwanis many years ago, and the picnic table covers in Sycamore Grove. April 25th Cub Scouts completed a project of mounting 4 fishing string recycling bins and will maintain for 2 years, recycling the string. Other notable projects included major cleanups, graffiti removal, painting of picnic tables, removal of invasive plants, trimming and/or removal of palms after unknown arsonists tried to burn fronds and other park structures. Palms were checked for the presence of raptors, as well as pigeons and rats.

Fishing is generally good for bass with some large females (12lb) being released. Trout plants from the Department of Fish and Game are ongoing, with the last major stocking in April. Water temperature is around 71 degrees, and the bass spawn has produced many fry (baby bass).

The launch ramp is operative; however the reservoir is being lowered by a couple of feet to facilitate repairs to the sink hole in the maintenance road near the San Carlos arm of the lake. Lowering the lake will also allow for the drying and compaction of exposed soils improving the effectiveness of the run-off areas. Road work is scheduled from June 8th to July 9th at San Carlos Bay, and Nelson met with environmental staff to evaluate the location of a possible bypass trail to reduce conflicts from Lake Murray patrons and active maintenance worksites. Other activities included an off-site evaluation of new culverts to be installed, fire control / weed abatement where needed, extensive repairs of the entrance causeway to the primary dock, and clean-out of the 4 mile diversion ditch. Nelson reported on the completion of the last 4 wood duck boxes located near the lake spillway, including the installation of new nesting material. The boxes are being used by the wood ducks, and there is expectation of many new ducklings this year. The 4th of July celebration at Lake Murray was, once more, a great success. As always, because of potential for fires, staff and SDFD monitored the fireworks display. Everything went as planned, and there were no incidents. Nelson also reported that the boat rental concession was no longer renting boats, however, private boats that met Lake Murray regulations were allowed.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no new Communications to report.

ACTION ITEMS

Action items 101 and 102 were taken up concurrently.

101. Site Development Permit for T-Mobile – Project No. SD06902 Sycamore Landfill

201. Site Development Permit for Sprint/Clearwire* – Project No. 201396 Father Junipero

Ann Wulftange, representing T-Mobile and Sprint/Clearwire, presented follow-up information requested at the May CAC meeting for the following: (1) landscape plan with irrigation; (2) clarification of the placement of all antenna on the tower (T-Mobile, Sprint, Verizon, AT&T); and (3) color selection for the tower, antennas and equipment enclosures.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded that the MTRP CAC support the T-Mobile Site Development Permit 06902 Sycamore Landfill and the Sprint/Clearwire Site Development Permit 201396 Father Junipero. (MURPHY/UTT) The motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

103. Appointment of Matt Rahn to the MTRP Master Development Plan ad hoc subcommittee
MOTION: It was moved and second to add Matt Rahn to the MTRP Master Plan ad hoc subcommittee. (MURPHY/SHOCKELY) The motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. Mojgan Poursadighi presented the following information on behalf of the San Diego County Water Authority. The current SDCWA work focus is the completion of work on tunnel closures and restoration. The priority part of the project is the closure of the north tunnel. The shade structure is done, complete with bench. Most hydroseeding is taking place on the south side of SDCWA operations. When pressure testing is completed on the north tunnel, backfill, grading to topography and hydroseeding will be completed. Water Authority staff have been working closely with park staff to ensure the park is returned to as good as, or better than, when they began. Preparations to vacate the trailers and other staging equipment from the end of Clairemont Mesa Blvd is underway, with a projected date to be out of the Clairemont staging area by November 2010. All hydroseeding will be completed before winter rains, and monitored for success. Mojgan provided information on the creation of vernal pools, and is optimistic of overall success. The members of the MTRP CAC requested a field trip to the construction site area during the first quarter of 2011 to see how project mitigation is progressing.

302. CIP Project updates

a. MTRP Master Plan and Resource Management Plan update:

An e-mail from Jeff Harkness provided the following information, including the report to City Council for:

- 1) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to execute an agreement with KTU&A to provide consultant services for preparation of the Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan Update, Natural Resources Management Plan and Environmental document;
- 2) authorizing the expenditure of up to \$547,219 from MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE CIP for the purpose of executing this agreement;
- 3) authorizing the transfer of \$85,000 from MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TRAIL REALIGNMENTS CIP, and \$179,829 from unallocated Fund Mission Trails Regional Park Funds, to Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan Update CIP;
- 4) authorizing a \$264,829 increase to the Fiscal Year 2011 Capital Improvements Program Budget in Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan Update CIP; and
- 5) authorizing the Chief Financial Officer, upon advice from the Administering Department, to return excess funds if any, to the appropriate reserves.

This item is recommended for approval as part of the consent agenda for Natural Resources and Culture Committee on June 16th. It is anticipated that Council will take action by July 27th.

b. Old Mission Dam Maintenance Project

An e-mail from Jeanette DeAngelis provided the following information: The project was officially moved to the Engineering and Capital Projects Department in March. The Urban Corps started work again on the site at the end of January, after a year of no activity.

Unfortunately, the Arundo and other weeds had grown back. The Urban Corps has spent all their time cutting the re-sprouting Arundo and a few trees that were missed in 2008, as well as digging up Arundo root. The work was slowed down with the continual rains this winter and spring. The site is in the floodplain and was inundated many times this year. The work is also slow because it all has to be done by hand. With the river running through the north end of the site getting grading equipment in there is impossible. Another complicating factor is, when the golf course is having a special event they won't let the Urban Corps work out there. The crews were not able to finish exotics removal before the breeding season hit. Several surveys for nesting species had to be conducted before they could proceed with any additional work. The biologist has approved limited work with only hand tools, no power equipment for noise concerns of adjacent habitat. The Urban Corp is proceeding now with limited crew members and a careful, cautious approach. The irrigation will still need to be installed. Jeanette is hoping to have the native plants installed mid August. This project got severely off track and Jeannette is doing her best to make sure it gets back on track so the long-term permits for removing silt behind the dam can be pursued.

c. Equestrian Staging Area Comfort Station

Leonard reported for the ad hoc subcommittee. The modifications to the 60% plans have been made with the adjustment of the roof length and tilt and the addition of windows in the concession area exterior door as suggested by the CAC. One hundred percent drawings will be available for the September CAC meeting.

303. Indemnification of Citizens' Advisory Groups

District Manager, Steve Haupt reported that the City Attorney has opined that no CAC's were currently indemnified, but that all Citizen Advisory groups needed to be indemnified. Criteria for indemnification would need to be established, and Citizen Groups would be evaluated whether groups would meet required criteria. The need for this indemnification would be evaluated on a case by case basis, and there may be the potential for an on-line training. This created some discussion within the CAC, with members asserting that they did not work in the normally identified capacity of regular City volunteers. The stopgap measure of using the standardized volunteer sign-in sheets would work as a short-term fix, while working toward a long-term solution.

304. Status report on the transfer of the future West Sycamore area of MTRP from McMillin Land Development to the City of San Diego

Steve Haupt reported that there is nothing new to report on this item.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Thompson, Staff Representative