

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 4, 2011
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, January 4, 2011, at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Matt Rahn, SDSU
Gene Hatton, City of Santee
Donovan Geiger, Tierrasanta Community Council

City of San Diego

Chris Zirkle, Deputy Director, Open Space Division
Rick Thompson, Senior Park Ranger
Gayle Havens, City Water Department
Ken Malbrough, Deputy Fire Chief, City Fire Department
Ben Castro, Captain, City Fire Department
Steve Haupt, Manager, Open Space Division
Robin Shifflet, City Park Planner
Jeff Harkness, City Park Planner

GUESTS

Mark Carpenter, KTU&A
Andrea Jones, representing Congressman Duncan Hunter
Don Steele
Jay Wilson, MTRP Foundation Executive Director

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dorothy Leonard at 6:30 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (O'DUNN/PILCH) to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2010 meeting with corrections. The motion passed with David Boyer, Roger Utt, and Betty Ogilvie abstaining.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Leonard reported on actions taken by the MTRP Task Force at the November meeting.

- Approved the 2011/12 MTRP Project Funding Priorities and Future Needs List.
- Approved the following individuals for reappointment to the MTRP CAC with terms expiring January 2013: Nance Acevedo and Dale Shockley, at-large members; Shannon O'Dunn, City of La Mesa; David Boyer MCAS Miramar; Dr. Matthew Rahn, SDSU; John Pilch (April Boling- alternate), San Carlos Community Council
- Approved a motion that the City Council should develop a policy that indemnifies CAC members the same as members of recreation councils.

STAFF RANGER REPORT

Mission Trails Senior Ranger Rick Thompson reported on several projects underway at the park all related to repairs. SDG&E did a major upgrade to the Cowles Mountain service road. Unfortunately, much of their work was washed away by the heavy December rains. Staff is working on having debris and blockage at the west end of Kumeyaay Lake removed and on evaluating needed trail work. Staff has walked the entire Cowles Mountain Trail and observed numerous locations where people are going off trail.

WATER DEPARTMENT'S LAKE MURRAY REPORT

Gayle Havens, Senior Reservoir Keeper for Lake Murray, introduced herself. She reported on several recent fires at Lake Murray and that the San Diego Police Department had a good idea of the suspect, had visited the individual's home, and the fires have stopped. James Arden, the flasher at Lake Murray and Mission Trails, now has an electronic monitor and will be going to court on January 21st. Gayle asked if anyone has information about him and would like to testify they are urged to do so. The \$10,000 pay station was vandalized with \$6,000 worth of damage for \$400-500 worth of money. It is not known at this time if the machine will be repaired as the Department has contracts out for new concession operators. The December rains resulted in water overflowing the dam. The plant was pumping 35,000,000 gallons a day. The lake received a stocking of trout today with an estimated 1,500 lbs. of fish. The Lake Murray Trunk Sewer Line project is moving along although the rain caused delays.

COMMUNICATIONS - NONE

ACTION ITEMS

101. Cowles Mountain Trails sign program –

Deputy Director Chris Zirkle report that at the November Task Force meeting it was requested that the issue of the Cowles Mountain and Climbers Loop trail signs be referred to the MTRP CAC. The goal of the project is to provide significant markers to allow for a more rapid emergency response time and to pinpoint the location of a victim.

San Diego Fire Department Deputy Fire Chief Ken Malbrough referenced the memo from Fire Capt. Ben Castro and Park and Recreation Open Space Deputy Director Chris Zirkle. To assist Fire Dispatch with providing accurate information provided by the caller, it is proposed there be three different types of signs; Trailhead Marker, 911 sign to provide caller with information, mile stone markers that would be color coded with a number. An alternative is to use a sign proposed by Sr. Ranger Thompson – a brown and white sign at key locations with the pertinent information displayed. Implementation would be phased in working with the Park and Recreation Department, Open Space Division and Fire-Life Safety. The proposal includes the following:

- 1) Signs to be purchased by Park and Rec (mockup signs)
- 2) Fire would then check sign locations and once verified regarding GPS and viability, permanent signs in the specific locations would be installed.
- 3) Chris Zirkle stated we could have either a sequential numbering system, use color and/or use abbreviations for the various signs. We also included what other parks are doing. The 4X4 color markers shown in the photos are from back east.

Dorothy Leonard presented her recommendations in a memo to the CAC members, referencing an attempt by Sr. Ranger Tracey Walker to make modifications to the coordinated sign program established for all open space parks in the city. She stated a desire to have the CAC review the proposals and work with Fire-Rescue and Open Space Division staff on a solution, with a recommendation to be brought to the CAC and the March meeting. Leonard stated a desire to continue to coordinate the City open space sign program with other local jurisdictions and to reinstate protocols for rescues on Cowles Mountain that had been used successfully in the past.

CAC member Dale Shockley reviewed what transpired in 2000 when he was with the San Diego Police Department. At that time the Police and Fire Departments created a viable program. Dale went through a power point which laid out what had been developed, recommending that the program be reinstated now since it is a program that works.

CAC member Mike Pent recommended that an MTRP CAC ad hoc subcommittee be appointed to work with City staff and come back with a recommendation at the March meeting.

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (MURPHY/ACEVEDO) to appoint an ad-hoc sub-committee of the MTRP CAC to include representatives from the MTRP CAC and, at a minimum, one member from Fire-Rescue and one member from Park and Recreation Open Space Division in addition to Senior Park Ranger Rick Thompson, to review and make recommendations regarding the issue. It was noted that a member from the police department should also be included. The motion passed with David Boyer abstaining. Leonard appointed herself, Dale Shockley and John Pilch to represent the CAC on the committee.

102. MTRP Design District Ordinance

Concerns and suggestions expressed by CAC members included:

- There are several places within the document that are inconsistent such as the height limit. Page 15 item b references “no more than 4 stories or 50 feet in height” yet on page 41 the chart refers to “a minimum set back of 50 feet and 70 foot height limit.”
- A suggestion to modify the chart on page 41 is to include a provision that the 50 foot height limit could be exceeded if the City determines there was an exceptional benefit.
- A concern that along the river by East Elliott more than 50 feet could be a problem.
- How to develop the river is a sensitive issue. Some time there needs to be a discussion about the building costs to ensure there is an incentive to build and preserve the pathway. Setback limits need to be defined.
- Need a clarification of Sub Area 3

It was requested that Robin Shifflet return to the March meeting with changes in the document and clarification of the conflicts on page 15 and 41. An update of information for Navajo Community Planners was requested as the Navajo CPOZ and MTRP Design District Ordinance are now in conflict.

103. San Diego River Park Master Plan

Prior to this meeting, Leonard reviewed the September 2010 Draft San Diego River Park Master Plan and sent a memo to CAC members with proposed the following corrections:

- Recommendations page 86, paragraph 1, lines 4-5 reads “At approximately 5,800 acres, Mission Trails Regional Park is one of the largest urban parks in the nation, and a regional destination for hiking, biking, and wildlife viewing.” This information is inconsistent with the acreage information in the Recreation Element of the 2008 City of San Diego General Plan which reads “The park encompasses approximately 8,000 acres of rugged hills, valleys, and open areas which represent a San Diego prior to the landing of Explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in San Diego Bay in 1542.” This information is also quoted on page ii of the draft Mission Trails Regional Park Master Development Plan 2008 which is available on the mtrp.org web site. Recommendation – Change wording to read “At approximately 8,000 acres,”
- Recommendations page 87, item E reads “Study trail connections from Kumeyaay Lake campground to the Mast Boulevard Staging Area.” There is an existing connection from the campground via the Grasslands Crossing a few feet to the west of the campground

on Father Junipero Serra Trail which provides access to the Equestrian Staging Area (not the Mast Boulevard Staging Area). Recommendation – Change wording to read “Study trail connections from Kumeyaay Lake campground to the future river pathway below State highway 52.”

- Recommendations page 87, item G reads “Study trail connections and alignments from the Mast Boulevard Staging Area to the future river pathway below State highway 52.” Recommendation – Change “Mast Boulevard Staging Area” to “Equestrian Staging Area.”
- Design Guidelines page 124, paragraph 2 reads “All signs in the River Corridor Area should contain the River Park Logo (refer to Image). Recommendation – Change wording to read “All signs in the River Corridor Area, except those in Mission Trails Regional Park, should contain the River Park Logo (refer to Image). When feasible, signs in Mission Trails Regional Park should contain the River Park Logo in addition to the Mission Trails Regional Park logo.”
- Design Guidelines page 124, paragraph 3 reads “All site furniture in the River Corridor Area should contain the River Park Logo. Recommendation – Change wording to read “All site furniture in the River Corridor Area, except those in Mission Trails Regional Park, should contain the River Park Logo (refer to Image).”
- Regulatory Framework page 185, paragraph 2, last sentence reads “A master plan update is slated to begin in 2010. The master plan update began in 2007 with the appointment of the MTRP CAC Master Plan ad-hoc subcommittee. The subcommittee met monthly, took field trips into the park, and made recommendations which were presented to the MTRP CAC and Task Force. The CAC and Task Force approved the 2008 Draft MTRP Master Development Plan as presented by the ad-hoc subcommittee in the fall of 2008. At that time funding was identified and the process started to work with Park Planning and Community Development to create a “City-sanctioned Master Plan update with an official standing,” which will include a MTRP Resource Management Plan, and a Program Environmental Impact Report. The City agreed in a memorandum dated September 17, 2008 to work in close coordination with the CAC ad-hoc subcommittee on a regular basis during the completion of the plan update, presenting draft documents to the CAC for review. Recommendation – Change wording to read “A master plan update began in 2007, spearheaded by the MTRP CAC. The City hired consultant will begin work on the update, which will include a Resource Management Plan, in 2011.”

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (PENT/MURPHY) to approve the recommendations as presented by Chairperson Leonard. The motion carried with David Boyer abstaining. Shifflet’s target date for getting the document to Development Services is the end of March 2011.

The MTRP ad hoc subcommittee, as directed at the November 2011 CAC meeting, will be meeting prior to the March 2011 CAC meeting for additional review and recommendations to the 2010 Draft San Diego River Park Master Plan.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. CIP Project Updates

a. MTRP Master Plan Resource Management Plan

The project consultant, Mark Carpenter with KTU&A, was introduced by Jeff Harkness. Mark provided an update and project timeline. A document for public review should be available in 12 months. The Master Plan update will include the future West Sycamore and East Elliot areas of MTRP. Trails throughout the park will be assessed, and if opportunities are available, there may be recommendations for rerouting. Over the next 3-4 months public workshops will be held and a couple of alternatives developed. The updated Plan will include the MTRP Natural Resource Management Plan. A programmatic EIR will be completed prior to submitting the document to the City Council for approval. Status reports will be presented at CAC meetings. By mid-year 2012 the review process should be completed. Jeff and Mark will work with the MTRP CAC ad hoc Master Plan subcommittee during all phases of the Plan update.

b. Old Mission Dam Maintenance Projects – *Rick Thompson reported for Jeannette DeAngelis.* Jeannette is waiting for the bid proposal from Native Landscaping on finalizing the site prep/irrigation/planting. The 1544 for Dudek to do biological monitoring/dam maintenance permitting is routing and currently with EOCP. She hopes to have both these contracts up and running by the end of Feb.

c. Equestrian Staging Area Comfort Station – *Rick Thompson reported for Ali Darvishi.* Building permit paperwork has been submitted to Development Services. When specs are finalized, construction documents will be issued to bidders.

302. Schedule SDCWA field trip to the East Fortuna area of MTRP

It was determined by general consent that a Sunday morning at 10AM is the best time for a field trip. Leonard will set up some dates in early March with the SDCWA.

303. Construction of a suspension or truss pedestrian bridge across the San Diego River on the San Diego River Crossing Trail

Chris Zirkle reported that there is not a formal proposal for this project and that funds are not available at this time. Senior Ranger Thompson reported that there are some excellent pre-fabricated break away bridges that could be used at this crossing. CAC members requested that pre-fabricated break-away bridges be considered and the process for getting the project started, including cost estimates for the process, be provided at the next meeting. Zirkle indicated that staff can come up with a basic design and location and determine the cost of permits and funding opportunities such as grant funding. Mark Carpenter expressed an interest in incorporating this into the master plan update, and CAC member Shannon O'Dunn volunteered to do some additional research on pre-fabricated break-away bridges.

304. MTRP Foundation Report

Jay Wilson, MTRP Foundation Executive Director, presented the following report:

- a. Attendance at the visitor center for 2010 was up 17% over 2009 - an increase from 64,500 to 74,500
- b. The MTRP Foundation recently received grant checks – \$8,000 from AT&T to complete funding to update the water exhibit and an additional \$15,000 from Sempra Energy Foundation for the Environmental Education program started in 2009.
- c. Special events – Sunday, January 9, from 1 to 4 there will be a public reception sponsored by the five artists showing in the visitor center gallery. The show will be up through the end of the month. Also on January 9 the Native American Flute Players will be practicing in the amphitheater. Sunday, January 16, the Pomerado Brass Quintet will hold a concert at 3 pm in the Visitor Center theater with a public reception following.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.