

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 1, 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, March 1, 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
Mike Pent, Special Member
Dale Shockley, Member-at-large
David Boyer, MCAS Miramar
Gene Hatton, City of Santee
Dale Peterson, Navajo Community Planners
Norm Greene, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
Betty Ogilvie, alternate, Tierrasanta Community Council
Richard Gadler, City of El Cajon
Shannon O'Dunn, City of La Mesa

Members Absent

Nancy Acevedo, Member-at-large
Donovan Geiger, Tierrasanta Community Council
Matt Rahn, SDSU
Roger Utt, County of San Diego Park & Recreation Committee

City of San Diego

Rick Thompson, Senior Park Ranger
Ken Malbrough, Deputy Fire Chief, City Fire Department
Ben Castro, Captain, City Fire Department
Steve Haupt, Manager, Open Space Division, Park and Recreation Dept.
Jeanette DeAngelis, Engineering and Capital Projects Dept.
Jeff Harkness, City Planning and Community Investment Dept.

GUESTS

Andrea Jones representing Congressman Duncan
Mark Carpenter, KTU&A
Jay Wilson, MTRP Foundation, Executive Director
Don Steele, MTRP Foundation Board member
Craig Balben, San Diego County Water Authority

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 (GALDER /PILCH) to approve the minutes with corrections. The motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Dorothy Leonard stated there was no report because the January Task Force meeting was cancelled.

STAFF RANGER REPORT

Sr. Ranger Thompson reported the following:

- Some brush clearing done by a San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) contractor adjacent to an entry road in the Fortuna area was reported by a Tierrasanta resident. Two sides of the road were cleared, however, debris was not properly removed nor had the park staff been informed that the mowing would be taking place. Senior Ranger Thompson was contacted by the resident who was assured he would follow up and get back to him. Unfortunately the individual contacted Turko at KUSI before Ranger Thompson was able to respond. Ranger Thompson stated it looks much worse than it actually is. SDCWA sent a letter to the Open Space Division Deputy Director Chris Zirkle acknowledging communication had broken down and the contractor had not received a clear understanding of what was to be cleared before the action was taken.
- SDG&E is gearing up for work on the SunRise Power Link, replacing towers within the boundaries of MTRP. It will be a two year project and they will be in and out of the park.
- A lot of events are being conducted in the park.
- Staff is coordinating repairs to the Cowles Mountain Trail and working with Fire-Rescue to coordinate lifts with their helicopter to get materials to strategic locations on the mountain.

WATER DEPARTMENT'S LAKE MURRAY REPORT

Gayle Havens, Senior Reservoir Keeper for Lake Murray was not in attendance as she is working temporarily at Otay Lake. She will be at the Task Force meeting. Shannon O'Dunn asked if there was any damage to the dam due to all the water from recent rains. It was stated there was no damage, although the water level had been very high.

COMMUNICATIONS - NONE

ACTION ITEMS

101. Climbers Loop and Cowles Mountain Trail sign program - Thompson/Malbrough

Ranger Thompson reported on the recommendations from the MTRP CAC ad hoc subcommittee regarding a viable signage program to facilitate rescues in the park. San Diego Fire-Rescue and SDPD representatives participated in the meeting. Recommendations include: (1) Signs will have a brown background and white lettering consistent with signs through open space parks in San Diego County. (2) Information to help climbers relate to where they are on the trail and to make it easier to locate anyone in case of an emergency will be included. (3) There will be coded information including GPS coordinates to help

Fire-Rescue pinpoint the location. The signs on the Climbers Loop trail will be used as a pilot project. Once the trail is signed, a mock rescue will be staged to verify the efficiency of the signs. Once it is determined the new signage program works, it will be implemented with the same format for Cowles Mountain. Signs will be at approximately ¼ mile marks along the trail. If someone is injured, and is not near one of the signs, staff will rely on the person remembering what they last saw along the trail, or will rely on the next person passing by to assist. Chief Malbrough commented that his department is happy with the new signage plan. Additionally the questions provided by Dale Shockley have been implemented by their dispatchers. The questions pop up when the dispatcher types in Mission Trails.

MOTION It was moved and second by PENT/MURPHY to support recommendations of the MTRP CAC ad hoc subcommittee, supported by Fire-Rescue and Sr. Ranger Thompson. The motion passed unanimously with David Boyer abstaining.

102. MTRP Design District Ordinance – This item was withdrawn at the request of Robin Shifflet.

103. SD River Park Master Plan report and recommendations from the MTRP CAC ad hoc Master Plan subcommittee. Dick Murphy, a member of the ad hoc subcommittee, referenced page 43A and requested the 35 feet reference be deleted from the subcommittee recommendations. Don Steele made the following recommendations to the report. (1) Page 60 include the words “native plants” in addition to drought tolerant plants; (2) Page 103e include “where practicable” in this location and wherever ADA is referenced; (3) Page 124 paragraph 2, in the last sentence include “when and where feasible.” This addresses the issue of sign cluttering; (4) Page 129a Include faux fabricated bollards as an alternative to steel. (6) Page 52 correct Formosa Slough to Famosa Slough.

MOTION Moved and seconded (MURPHY/HATTON) to approve the MTRP CAC ad hoc subcommittee recommendations to the September 2010 draft SD River Master Plan, incorporating the additional recommendations provided by Mr. Steele. Motion passed with Boyer abstaining.

104. MTRP Endowment Fund with San Diego Foundation

MOTION Moved and seconded (PENT/PILCH) to recommend to the MTRP Task Force that the transfer of the distributable balance of \$1,134.00 (2010 earnings less San Diego Foundation management fee of .05%) to the MTRP Foundation be approved. Motion passed with Boyer abstaining.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. CIP Project Updates

- a. MTRP Master Plan Resource Management Plan – presented by Jeff Harkness and Mark Carpenter (consultant with KTU&A). Eighty-three people signed in for the first workshop. Reviews and maps used at the first workshop were handed out. Next steps are to assess the constraint issues to determine where the most sensitive areas in the park are located so the reasons why they cannot be impacted with additional trails

can be addressed. Mark is also doing a trail assessment component using computer technology. Chairperson Leonard commented on the pending Castle Rock project because they are looking for a connection through their property up to the Goodan Ranch. The next workshop will be at the Visitor Center on March 31.

b. Old Mission Dam Maintenance Projects reported by Jeanette DeAngelis.

The two vital contracts she was working on have been approved and re-vegetation is ongoing. It will be completed before the bird breeding season begins. \$200,000 dollars for the total contract was approved, and includes a provision to help secure a long-term permit. It should be at least a five year permit and hopefully a 10 year contract that will include permission to dredge behind the dam. Within 18 months it may be possible to start re-dredging behind the dam.

c. Equestrian Staging Area Comfort Station reported by Rick Thompson for Ali Darvishi.

Paperwork for the building permit has been submitted to the Development Services Dept. When specifications are finalized, construction documents will be available to issue to bidders.

302. SDCWA Mission Trails project Update

- Craig Balben reported that the SDCWA Board is considering delaying the construction of FRS II in MTRP. Pipeline 4 realigning is set to begin construction in the fall of 2012.
- Mark Tegio provided a power point presentation of the SDCWA's revegetation efforts, both temporary and long-term. He stated that it is not known how good the quality of the temporary revegetation will be. Pictures of the before and after temporary and long term restoration were shown. For the long-term restoration, SDCWA has gone well beyond anything done before to ensure it is a well done job. One of the dramatic successes is the before/after of the new vernal pool area. Mark also discussed some of the clean-up conducted and some of the material found such as portions of previous bridges that had been washed out. Dick Murphy asked about a truss bridge that was washed out and asked if anyone knew when it might have been installed. Nobody was certain.

303. SDCWA Field Trip to the East Fortuna area of MTRP – The field trip was confirmed for Sunday, March 6, 2011. Eleven CA members confirmed their participation. Everyone is to meet at 9:45 at the MTRP entrance at the east end of Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

304. Construction of a suspension or truss pedestrian bridge across the San Diego River on the San Diego River Crossing trail. Senior Ranger Thompson discussed bridge alternatives. Shannon O'Dunn is following up on researching feasible bridges. David Boyer suggested including the bridge in the MTRP Master Plan Update as a project so it would be part of the Master Plan EIR. Mark Carpenter, the MTRP Master Plan consultant, agreed as long as the project can begin in two to three years. It would save a CEQA document and an additional EIR.

304. MTRP Foundation Report presented by Jay Wilson.

Attendance in January for the Visitor Center was just over 8,000 a 42% increase over last year. For February attendance was just under last year. Work has begun on several three to five minute educational videos, working in cooperation with the Visual Arts department at Grossmont Community College. Assignments also include the production of a public service announcement and a music video. The music video will be targeting the Native American Flute Circle group. This past Sunday the artists showing in the gallery sold \$3,000 in paintings during their four hour reception. The MTRP Board of Directors has voted to have a fundraiser at the Visitor Center on Saturday evening, July 16, 2011. It will include plein air paintings for sale and the MTRP Foundation will receive 50% of the art sale. It will be a wine, cheese and chocolate affair.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.