

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 5, 2011
MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Dorothy Leonard, Chair, Member-at -large
Dick Murphy, Vice Chair, Special Member
Dale Shockley, Member-at-large
Nancy Acevedo, Member-at-large
David Boyer, MCAS Miramar
Gene Hatton, City of Santee
Dale Peterson, Navajo Community Planners
Norman Greene, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
Roger Utt, County of San Diego Park & Recreation Committee
Betty Ogilvie, alternate, Tierrasanta Community Council

Members Absent

Mike Pent, Special Member
John Pilch, San Carlos Community Council
Matt Rahn, SDSU
Richard Gadler, City of El Cajon
Donovan Geiger, Tierrasanta Community Council\
Shannon O'Dunn, City of La Mesa

City of San Diego

Chris Zirkle, Deputy Director, Open Space Division, Park and Recreation Dept.
Steve Haupt, Manager, Open Space Division, Park and Recreation Dept.
Robin Shifflet, City Planning and Community Investment Dept.
Gayle Havens, Reservoir Keeper, Lake Murray

GUESTS

Mark Carpenter, KTU&A
Jay Wilson, MTRP Foundation, Executive Director
Ann von Gol CASA 5K
John Martinez CASA 5K
Kim Wiley SDMBA
Ali Looney TMF 5K
Billie Volmer TMF 5K
Lisa Wood, Lakeside Restoration

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dorothy Leonard at 6:33 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (MURPHY/SHOCKLEY) to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 3, 2011. The motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Dorothy Leonard reported –

- The Tierrasanta Town Council is recommending Betty Ogilvie become the official Tierrasanta representative to the CAC. This is an action item at the July 21st MTRP Task Force meeting.
- There are no signs in the parking lot at the Visitor Center to identify the San Diego River Crossing parking lot at Mission Gorge Road and Jackson Drive as overflow parking for the Visitor Center. Sr. Ranger Thompson agrees that signage is needed. A proposed design for the sign, which meets the MTRP sign criteria, was shown to the CAC members. This will probably be an action item on the September CAC agenda.

STAFF RANGER REPORT

Chris Zirkle reported for Senior Ranger Rick Thompson

- Chris referenced the budget memo from Stacey LoMedico, the Park and Recreation Department Director, regarding the approved FY2012 budget. The Visitor Center will remain open as before and the campground is to be closed after Labor Day.
Dorothy asked if park staffing will remain at three plus the Sr. Ranger.
ANS: Chris stated staff will remain at current levels and a full-time Center Director will remain at the Visitor Center.
Dorothy asked if Chris had discussed with Sr. Ranger Thompson how the Day Use would operate and how many days a week will it operate?
ANS: Chris stated we are discussing how to use the Camp Hosts, having Day-Use 7 days a week, and we are moving toward installing automated gates.
Dale Shockley raised questions about using a code or key card for the automatic gate.
ANS: Steve Haupt stated staff will be meeting with a supplier.
Dick asked about the \$60,000 being removed from the campground budget
ANS: Chris stated it is related to vector control for control at Kumeyaay Lake.
Dorothy asked if there were any plans to reopen the campground?
ANS: Chris stated we will work to have it restored most likely in four to five years.
Dick asked what happened to the outsourcing idea?
ANS: Chris responded that he will check on it again.
Dorothy commented outsourcing was referenced in her memo presented to City Council during the Park and Recreation Department budget hearing.

WATER DEPARTMENT'S LAKE MURRAY REPORT

Gayle Havens, Reservoir Keeper for Lake Murray reported

- Lake crew, with the help from the WST (Water System Tec), has been working very hard to get the fire breaks completed.
- People go crazy with the thought of the fireworks coupled with the fire season upon us. High, dry brush receives a lot of attention in the form of complaints from home owners, and is high priority for lake staff to clear.
- To date staff has cleared the condo areas facing the lake, the easement on Kiowa all the way to Sunset Park, and Alvarado Bay. All the daisies are gone. Houses running along Laport all the way to Jackson, and the east side of Baltimore, will be the next priority.

- Fireworks went off as planned and it was a great show. The park was fully staffed with five lake employees for the day and one City Lake Ranger Diver on station in the afternoon to help with any problems.
- Lake Murray staff cleared the site for the fireworks and provided the outhouses and the Kiwanis provided a great fireworks show. A 40 yard dumpster was donated to support trash from both sides of the lake (Park and Recreation side and Water Department side). They also provided the security guards at the fireworks site to control traffic for pedestrians. SDPD officers were on site. To my knowledge everything went smoothly. La Mesa police did traffic control on Lake Murray Blvd. and Kiowa Drive.
- The hard work of clean-up efforts from Kiwanis members was extensive. They scoured the shoreline on foot and by boat to insure nothing was left behind. Lake Murray was cleaned by city staff by early afternoon the next day.
- Fishing is great, the water level is good and business for the new concession stand is picking up. It is open for business Thursday, Friday and Sunday from 6 AM to 6 PM, and Saturday from 5:30 AM to 6 PM.)
- The next goal, after the fire breaks are completed, is clearing the lake road by cutting back the over growth.
- There is a male exposing himself to females on the upper jogging path. He is described as a white male, fair skin, 18-30 year old, 5'4"-5'10" tall, with a normal to chubby build and neck-long straight brown hair. He normally wears a t-shirt and knee length athletic shorts. Undercover officers have been at the lake multiple times with no sighting. The bushes in the area most used by this individual have been cut back to try and discourage this behavior.
- Nelson Manville has retired.

COMMUNICATIONS – NONE

ACTION ITEMS

101. McLaughlin Building (SS0614) Wireless communications facility on Golfcrest Dr.
presented by Danielle Goldman

- Danielle distributed site plans and stated the current antenna system was designed for six antennas on the roof. The proposal is to increase the number to 12 antennas because of the new 4G technology.
- The new antennas will be integrated into the building.
Dick asked if the six antennas are in the change.
ANS: Yes, there will be bigger chimney's and they meet the height limit requirements.

MOTION It was moved and seconded to support the proposed project (HATTON/OGILVIE). The motion passed with Boyer abstaining.

102. Citizens Against Substance Abuse (CASA) 5K run – October 16,2011 presented by John Martinez

- CASA works with schools and youth organizations. The event is set for October 6, 2011.

- Set up will begin at 6 AM and the 5K begins at 8 AM.
- There will be a one mile walk/run beginning at 8:30 AM
- They will use the established 5K course.
- Focus is on volunteers to make certain parking is controlled. After the event they will sweep the run parking areas to make certain nothing is left behind. EMT's will be on site as well.

MOTION It was moved and seconded to support the event (GREEN/ACEVEDO). The motion passed with Boyer abstaining.

103. Travis Manion Foundation 5K hike/walk/run, September 11, 2011 presented by Billie Volmer

- The foundation operates three major programs that honor our fallen soldiers. One program is the Heroes Run each September 11. All proceeds help the families of fallen soldiers.
- Before the presentation it was noted that the organizers need to be aware of the construction of the Equestrian Staging Area building that may be underway at race time.
- Billie stated we anticipate about 60 volunteers and 2,000 participants.
- The established 5K route will be used for the race.
- The plan is to start about 150 runners every 5 minutes.

Concerns expressed by CAC members included:

- Dorothy stated her concern about the number of potential participants and parking
ANS: Billie stated we would run shuttles from off-site if necessary. Mark was asked to look at the 5K routes
- Billie was asked if the top number could be 1,000 runners.
ANS: She responded YES.
- There was extensive discussion over the concern for the number of potential runners. It was then suggested the event be supported if the maximum number of runners did not exceed the largest number of participants in any race to date at Mission Trails.

MOTION – It was moved and seconded to support the event with discretion by staff for a maximum number of runners and that the sequencing of runners would be established by staff (MURPHY/HATTON). The motion passed with Boyer abstaining.

- Dorothy asked if they would entertain making a donation up to 10 percent of their proceeds to the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation as suggested in the guidelines.
ANS: Yes

INFORMATION ITEMS

301 CIP Project Updates

- a. MTRP Master Plan And Resource Management Plan –
Presentation by Robin Shifflet and Mark Carpenter

- A basic description of the San Diego River Trail realignment was provided by Robin Shifflet followed by a thorough presentation by Mark Carpenter on how the trail could go through Mission Trails. The trail as proposed would begin adjacent to Superior Ready Mix property. Mark stated city staff and the chair and vice chair of the CAC took a tour of the proposed trail between Jackson Drive and Superior Ready Mix. Twenty-nine slides were shown illustrating the portion of the proposed trail closest to Superior Ready Mix. Questions were asked about possible alternative routes. Mark went over the route and showed specifically why the current proposed route is the best one. Mark was asked if you can see the river from some of the vantage points. The answer is yes. The grades off the trail areas are very steep - 60 to 70 percent.
- Mark provided a synopsis of the third public workshop held on June 9, 2011. There were about 45 people in attendance and they were 50/50 as to old and new participants. The proposal Mark made at the workshop was pretty well received. The climbing community were the most vocal with concerns about what will be proposed. They still want documentation on why certain areas cannot be developed for rock climbing. The next step is to start the EIR. Early next year we will be at a point for public review of the proposed Master Plan.

Dorothy asked if Mark was working with anyone in Open Space regarding the Natural Resource Management Plan.

ANS: Yes, however, we are a little behind because of city staff's very busy schedules.

b. Equestrian Staging Area Comfort Station/Service Building

Steve Haupt reported for Ali Darvishi. Bids are set to be opened on August 18, 2011.

c. Old Mission Dam Enhancement Project

Steve Haupt reported for Jeannette DeAngelis

Everything is status quo at the site. Jeanette is still waiting for additional funding. Chris stated money is being moved around in the Mission Bay fund. Norm Green verified that the Park and Recreation Board approved the Fund Advisory Board's recommendation which included the funds for the MTRP Old Mission Dam project.

301 / 302. (Combined) Construction of a suspension and/or truss bridge across the San Diego River on the San Diego River Crossing trail

Presentation by Mark Carpenter with KTUA

- Initial look was at four possible points for the bridge to span the river.
- Mark is recommending selecting a site that is out of the 100 year flood plain. Two of the four sites were recommendation for elimination; one because it was on top of the County Water Authority pipeline. With the two proposed crossing sites the span would be between a 320 and 400 feet. A cable suspension bridge seems feasible. A range of options will be carried forward.

CAC and City staff questions/comments:

- Chris asked about the width of the existing trail. There are guidelines for establishing new trails.
- Dick stated Mark's proposal may be too costly to ever build a bridge. What is important is that the plan considers both a short and a long bridge.

- Nancy commented we already have access to the other side of the river via Tierrasanta.
- Dorothy stated the reason for providing access for lighter weight vehicles is to save staff time when accessing the Tierrasanta side of the park.
- Dale Shockley stated the bridge should be able to accommodate the police department's four wheeled vehicles.
- Roger Utt stated he was concerned about the visual impact of a bridge 40 feet in the air.
ANS: Mark commented that because of the contour of the area, most of the bridge would not be visible.
- Dick commented we are trying to improve the walkway across the river during low flow conditions.
RESPONSE: Mark stated most hikers and mountain bikers use the cement encasement over the existing sewer pipe. We might want to look at ways to improve this crossing.

303. MTRP Foundation Report – Executive Director Jay Wilson

- Attendance year to date is up about 19 percent.
- San Diego Family Magazine readers voted Cowles Mountain the best hiking trail in San Diego County as part of their "Best of Family Fun" awards.
- Provided a recap of the first survey sent to the Foundation's 2,500 e-news subscribers.
- MTRP Foundation is now a member of East County Chamber of Commerce.
- Sempra Energy Education Program has reached nearly 2,500 children to date .
- Free concerts at the visitor center are booked through December.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.