

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE JULY 3, 2012 MEETING**

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Dorothy Leonard, Chair, Member at Large
Dick Murphy, Vice Chair, Special Member
Shannon O'Dunn, City of La Mesa
David Boyer, USMC Miramar
Dale Shockley, Member-at-large
John Pilch, San Carlos Area Council
Nancy Acevedo, Member-at-large
Betty Ogilvie, Tierrasanta Community Council
Richard Gadler, City of El Cajon
Kathy Warburton, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
Eamonn Powers, City of Santee

Members Absent/Excused

Roger Utt, County of San Diego Park and Recreation Committee
Mike Pent, Special Member
Dale Peterson, Navajo Community Planners
Matt Rahn, San Diego State University

City of San Diego

Steve Haupt, Manager, Open Space Division
Matt Sanford, Senior Ranger, Mission Trails Regional Park
Jeff Harkness, Development Services Department

Guests

Mark Carpenter, KTU+A
Rethea Knight, Save MTRP.org
Brian D'Agostino, SDG&E
Steve Vanderberg, SDG&E
Karen Henry, San Diego County Water Authority
Brant Fountain, San Diego County Water Authority
Kim Willey, San Diego Mountain Bike Association
Jerry Bierman
Stephen Goldfarb
Theresa McCarthy
Mia Mortellano
Linda Ravetti
Kaylin Myers, Distancia Events
Kevin Brewster

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by chair Dorothy Leonard at 6:33 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (ACEVEDO/GADLER) to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 1, 2012. The motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Dorothy Leonard reported the following –

- Recommended that consideration be given to creating a CIP to construct the covered picnic area at the Equestrian Staging Area as identified in the Site Development Permit, utilizing Antenna Funds for the project. With concurrence from the CAC members this will be placed on the September meeting agenda.
- May Task Force meeting – Appointments of Kathy Warburton (City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board) and Eamonn Powers (City of Santee) to the CAC were approved. Task Force supported CAC recommendation to reopen Kumeyaay Lake Campground two nights a week in FY2013.
- Letter sent to Councilmember Emerald with request for FY2013 for Kumeyaay Campground as requested by CAC.
- Draft EIR information sent to CAC members regarding Castlerock development. Will be on the September CAC agenda as information item.
- Letter from the Commanding Officer at MCAS-Miramar regarding access to Stowe Trail through the base. "While the Marine Corps strives to be a good neighbor to adjoining communities, we cannot open East Miramar to public recreation due to security, law enforcement, safety, and encroachment concerns."
- Jeannette DeAngelis invited the chair to take part in a meeting with representatives from State Fish and Game, Army Corps of Engineers, and Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding permits for the Old Mission Dam maintenance / dredging project. Army Corps can issue a 5 year permit. Their concern is that the river is sediment starved downstream due to the dam. Regional Board can give a 5 year permit with a 5 year extension. California Fish and Game can give a 10 year permit with one 5 year extension. The consultants were also present and discussion centered around what needs to be done to get the permits.

STAFF / RANGER'S REPORT

Senior Ranger Matt Sanford reported the following –

- Rangers have been working on park beautification projects and the campground in particular.
- Probation crews are also working on trail maintenance.
- Trail construction at West Sycamore is coming along well. They have completed the North Ridge Trail along Beeler Canyon Road as well as connection trail to Gooden Ranch. They are installing mileage markers and kiosks this week. They will return later this year to hydro-seed areas adjacent to some of the trails.
- SDG&E is still using entrance to the West Sycamore area. Once they vacate, the contractors will complete the work on the staging area.
- Walk through of the East Fortuna Comfort station was done. The contractor is working on the required fixes.
- Stacy Davis, a park volunteer is working on a Smart Phone App for Apple products for MTRP.

- At the last meeting we were asked about the city's policy regarding handing out information in the Visitor Center. The San Diego Police Department has informed me that people may hand out information in the Visitor Center, but it cannot be left behind.

WATER DEPARTMENT'S REPORT

Jay Wilson reported for Gayle Havens, Senior Reservoir Keeper

- The San Diego River Park Foundation provided 100 people on May 19 to help clean up and paint at Lake Murray.
- Bluegill, bass and catfish are all biting very well.
- 1,000 pounds of catfish was stocked in the lake last week.
- The water level is very high at Lake Murray.
- No Fourth of July fireworks this year.

MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT

Executive Director Jay Wilson reported the following –

- A number of youth groups are coming to MTRP this summer including about 600 children from eight YMCA's throughout San Diego County as part of an MTRP Foundation sponsored program.
- A pilot program with the San Diego Unified School District has been started to provide the environmental element for sixth graders to replace a portion of the district's sixth grade camp program that has been cancelled.
- July 14 the Foundation, in partnership with the California Art Club, is sponsoring the first "Art in the Park" fundraiser. Twenty-five plein air paintings will be for sale during the event. It is an evening of fine art, fine wine, cheese, crackers and chocolate. Tickets are \$35 for an individual and \$25 each for two or more tickets. The event will run from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS – Non agenda public comment

The Chair stated comments would be limited to items not on the agenda. Each speaker will be limited to three minutes and comments are not debatable.

- Theresa McCarty provided information regarding the proposed change in zoning for the property being considered by the Quail Brush project. She distributed copies of her comments to committee members.
- Rethea Knight commented that the Mission Times Courier is on display every day at the Visitor Center and recommended the newspaper be withdrawn from the building because she believes it is controversial.
- John Pilch reported the following:
 - Lake Murray fireworks have been cancelled because of the threat of litigation.
 - The Lake Murray Playground is having a community build on Saturday, July 14 from 8-4. You may sign up on the web at www.lakemurraypark.org.
 - Today the registrar of voters certified the election and Scott Sherman will be the new councilmember for District 7.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Distancia Events 5k fun-run, October 20, 2012, 7 to 10AM
Presentation by Kalin Myers, Events Director

- A document outlining the event was handed out.
- It is a standard route in the park.
- The goal is to give back to the community.
- Will be a zombie themed fun run.
- The goal is to raise money (25% to the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation)
- October 27 is the alternate date.
- The event will be over by 11:00 a.m. with an estimated 300 participants.
- They will not be impacting any portion of the park and this is a family oriented event.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (PILCH/GADLER), on recommendation of the Senior Ranger, to support the Distancia event. The motion passed with Boyer abstaining.

102. Appointment of an MTRP CAC ad hoc subcommittee to review the Quail Brush co-generation power plant permit application as it relates to the Mission Trails Design District Guidelines

The Chair discussed the role of the City of San Diego Planning Commission in initiating the Plan amendment and rezoning for the project. If the Planning Commission does not support the initiation, the item is appealable by the applicant to the San Diego City Council. If the City Council does not support the initiation, the role of the City of San Diego becomes limited per Dan Monroe with the City Development Services Department. The California Energy Commission is the final decision maker for the project and can approve on an override if the City of San Diego does not support the Plan amendment and requested rezoning. The Chair sees the role of the CAC as making certain, if the project is approved, that it fits within the Mission Trails Design District criteria.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded, (MURPHY/WARBURTON), that an ad hoc subcommittee consisting of Roger Utt (chair), Dick Murphy, Dick Gadler, Matt Rahn, and Eamonn Powers be appointed to review the Quail Brush co-generation power plant permit application as it relates to the Mission Trails Design District Guidelines. Motion passed with Boyer abstaining.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) projects in MTRP

Karen Henry reported the following regarding the Lake Murray Control Valve project.

- The initial schedule to start the project in July has been postponed. Karen will return in six months with an update.

Brian Fountain reported the following regarding the relining project.

- The project is moving forward. The SDCWA Board approved the contractor and staff is working on the contractual documents.
- A notice to proceed should be issued in about two weeks with plans to start work in the Park by August 15.
- First shut down is scheduled in October.
- There will be an open house at San Carlos Library in late August or early September.
- Traffic on Jackson Drive will be limited to one lane, each direction, from four to six months.

302. SDG&E weather station in MTRP

Steve Vanderburg, Senior Meteorologist, and Brian D'Agostino, Meteorologist presented the following.

- SDG&E has one of the most sophisticated series of weather stations in the country with 135 in operation and more coming. One is proposed on the Fortuna Saddle in MTRP. It will be installed as a simple cross arm mounted on an existing SDG&E pole and is solar powered.
- Plans are to also install a 10 hour moisture stick to measure the moisture content in the vegetation.
- San Diego City Fire Battalion Capt. Dan Frolich commented this will allow the Fire Department to know the conditions in the park at any given time and will help in plans to fight any fires. Knowing what the fuel moisture count is will be a real asset for the Fire Department.
- The data, which is reported every 10 minutes will be publically available. The National Weather Service information is only updated once an hour.
- The stations are calibrated annually.
- There are two websites to check for information – www.sdgeweathr.com and www.mesowest.utah.edu.

In response to a question regarding placing a station at the top of Cowles Mountain, the following information was provided. SDG&E would be interested. They have been meeting with Dennis Akers from Florida regarding a new fire detection system. It was noted this is the same person MTRP staff and Foundation Executive Director Wilson have been working with, in conjunction with Dr. Eric Frost at SDSU, to install a pilot camera on top of Cowles Mountain.

303. CIP project update – MTRP Master Plan and Resource Management Plan

Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Development Services Department and Mark Carpenter, Consultant, KTU+A, reported the following.

- Progress is being made, but slower than desired.
- The draft Master Resource Management Plan (MRMP) has been distributed internally within the City of San Diego.
- There have been some staffing issues and at this point it is understood that RECON will deliver back to the city a revised draft MRMP.
- The Master Plan Update is on-going as well and meetings have been held with city staff. The draft MRMP is needed before they can proceed with the Master Plan Update. The intent is to incorporate all comments into the documents.
- The draft MRMP should be ready in mid-July and the draft Master Plan Update in August. Both should then be forthcoming to the CAC.
- A scoping meeting is planned for the end of September or early October.
- If progress continues, a draft EIR should be ready in April or May of next year. There will be a 30 day review period.
- This time next year we may be ready to go forward with final approval.

Public Comment

- Kevin Brewster requested that there be an update to the MTRP Master Plan that includes changes to the visual design criteria. He cited a letter from the City that

basically says the Quail Brush plan does not meet the current design district guidelines.

The chair responded that revisions to the Mission Trails Design District Guidelines are being processed along with the San Diego River Park Master Plan. It is anticipated both items will be on the September CAC agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.