

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2012**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members Present**

Dorothy Leonard, Chair, Member at Large  
Dick Murphy, Vice Chair, Special Member  
Nancy Acevedo, Member at Large  
Roger Utt, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Committee  
David Boyer, USMC Miramar  
John Pilch, San Carlos Area Council  
Dale Peterson, Navajo Community Planners  
Betty Ogilvie, Tierrasanta Community Council  
Richard Gadler, City of El Cajon  
Eamonn Powers, City of Santee  
Kathy Warbuton, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board  
Matt Rahn, San Diego State University

**Members Absent/Excused**

Dale Shockley, Member at Large  
Mike Pent, Special Member  
Shannon O'Dunn, City of La Mesa

**City of San Diego**

Matt Sanford, Park and Recreation Department  
Steve Haupt, Park and Recreation Department  
Jim Winter, Park & Recreation Department  
Ali Darvishi, Engineering & Capital Projects

**Guests**

Mark Carpenter, KTU+A  
Craig Balben, SDCWA  
Jimmy Ayala, Pardee Homes  
Alan Ziegauis, Pardee Homes  
Retha Knight  
Sandy Kuntz  
Mia Mortellaro

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (GADLER/PILCH) to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 4, 2012. The motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

- The September Task Force meeting was canceled due to lack of a quorum.

- Roger Utt was appointed at the last CAC meeting as Chair of the ad-hoc subcommittee for the design of the proposed Quail Brush/Cogentrix Peaker Power Plant. Roger Utt stated that he's been in contact with Lori Ziebart, Quail Brush Project Manager, but the ad-hoc subcommittee will need more information about the development plans in order to use the MTRP Design District guidelines as a checklist to see if the proposed plant designs are consistent with those guidelines. Dorothy Leonard stated that the San Diego City Council voted not to initiate the rezoning, and it now appears that we are shut out from the information related to the design. It also appears that the initial design has been changed.

**STAFF / RANGER'S REPORT – Matt Sanford, MTRP Senior Park Ranger**

- Park staff have been very busy with volunteer work crews starting back up:
  - The Park Beautification crew, led by GMW Tom, picked up trash around the Cowles Staging Area, and along Golfcrest Drive.
  - The Habitat Crew, led by Ranger Mika, performed maintenance work around several sensitive species of plants found in the park. Mostly weed pulling and repairing fencing around the plants.
  - The Trail Improvement Crew, led by Ranger Mel, worked on the Visitor Center Loop Trail.
  - Members of the San Diego Mountain Biking Association worked on the "E-ticket" trail on the west side of Fortuna Mountain. (Note: "E-ticket" is not an official trail name but is the name used by the mountain bike community for a section of a trail in the Fortuna area.) The work concentrated on restoring excessively eroded and worn trail sections, and improving drainage. A total of 47 hours was spent on this trail, and they will be returning to restore vegetation alongside this trail.
  - Jerry Bierman, a new volunteer to MTRP, recently organized a group of 5-6 volunteers and worked on a steep trail section near SR52 and Shepherd's Pond.
- The annual Arbor Day Celebration will be held on Saturday, December 1, at the Campground - 9AM, meeting at the day-use parking lot. Volunteers will be planting 10 native trees and a variety of native plants; also spreading wood chips around the plantings and in the campground.
- The Barker Way Service Road was refurbished recently:
  - Superior Ready Mix did a great job repairing the road surface, filling in deep long ruts, and refurbishing the drainage outlets that help take water off the road.
  - BIG thanks to the MTRP Foundation for paying for the labor and equipment needed, and to the Foundation's Executive Director Jay Wilson for all of his assistance with this project.
  - Also BIG thanks to Neil Mohr and the folks at the Sycamore Landfill for removing a large chunk of concrete and an old park gate that was unearthed during the road repairs.
  - We have some left over money with this project to do some touch-up repairs later this winter if needed.
- Repairs to the Kumeyaay Lake bridge were completed recently. The scope of work consisted of selective demolition and rubbish handling, drilling holes to inject and pump

high-density polyurethane grout to fill all holes and voids within the various materials that comprise the structure between the pipes, in order to improve bearing capacity.

- City and Foundation Staff, in coordination with SDFD, participated in a Thermo-Gel and emergency preparedness training recently. Thermo Gel, when sprayed onto structures or plants, helps to protect from wildfires. Good opportunity for new staff to review hose setup and spraying procedures, as well as the coordination with SDFD and park staff when a fire or emergency is happening in the park.
- A local college student offered to build a MTRP smartphone app several months ago. Jay and I have met with her several times to go over the content and design and we're very pleased with the work she's done and excited for the final result. She's still working on it and we will be meeting with her again after Thanksgiving.

#### **WATER DEPARTMENT'S REPORT – *Gayle Havens, Reservoir Keeper***

- No report.

#### **MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT – *Jay Wilson, MTRP Foundation Executive Director***

- The current photographs in the Visitor Center are very impressive and will on display for the next three weeks.
- The MTRP Foundation, in conjunction with the San Diego Unified School District, applied for a grant with the SDGE Environmental Champions program and was awarded \$25,000. This is the third grant from them in the last three years, and the funds will be used to bring sixth grade school children to the park.
- On November 3<sup>rd</sup> MTRP hosted a Military Family Nature Day at the East Fortuna Staging Area. This event was sponsored by the Sierra Club, in conjunction with the Children in Nature Collaborative. There was discussion about moving it onto MCAS Miramar property next year.
- Tree donations are still being accepted for this year's Arbor Day Celebration on December 1, 9AM at the day-use parking lot and campground.
- Last Saturday the first Children's Art Program at the Visitor Center was completed. Fourteen children attended each of the four classes.
- Dr. Pat Abbott will be giving a Geologic History of Cowles Mountain talk on Saturday, November 17 at 1PM in the Visitor Center theatre.
- Attendance has been down due to the intense heat.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS (Non-agenda public comment)**

- Retha Knight encouraged everyone to go onto the CEC (California Energy Commission) website and review the new proposed Quail Brush Peaker Power Plant designs, and to write letters of opposition to the project.
- John Pilch stated that the official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Lake Murray playground will be taking place on Thursday, November 14 at 1PM. The San Carlos Recreation Center will be closed next week while the gym floor is being refinished. He asked if the Lake Murray "Turkey Trot" on Thanksgiving was organized by City Park &

Recreation staff or by the City Water Department. Dick Murphy asked City Staff to provide a report at the next CAC meeting about how this event was processed and how it should be processed in the future.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

101. XTERRA Mission Gorge 5k & 15k Trail Run, February 3, 2012 – *Brennan Lindner, XTERRA*

- 400 people are expected.
- The race will be from 8AM to noon, starting and ending at the East Fortuna Staging Area.
- Cleanup sweeps will be following the last runner on the trail. Additional dumpsters will be provided by Waste Management.
- There is a \$30 to \$50 entrance fee.
- Matt Rahn asked if the course will be crossing over SDSU property near the Fortuna Summit, and stated that they have a standard release form that should be added to the participant's release of liability form.
- Brennan Lindner stated that they will add this language to their participant release form and their proof of insurance.
- Dorothy Leonard stated that the course will cross SDCWA property as well and suggested that XTERRA add SDCWA to their release forms and insurance.

**MOTION:** On recommendation of the Senior Ranger that the MTRP CAC support the event. Moved and seconded (PILCH/UTT). Motion passed with David Boyer and Matt Rahn abstaining.

102. Dirt Devil Racing "Stairway to Heaven" Trail Run, August 11, 2013 – *Dr. Victor Runco, Dirt Devil Racing*

- 400 people are expected.
- Additional porta-potties and dumpsters will be provided.
- John Pilch asked if there are any changes to this event. Dr. Runco stated they will have extra helpers in the staging area assisting with parking control to prevent people from parking on undesignated areas.
- John Pilch asked if this was the same course used in other races in the park. Dr. Runco stated that it is identical to the other race courses.
- Dorothy Leonard suggested that Dirt Devil Racing add SDSU and SDCWA to their release forms and insurance since the course will cross both of their properties.

**MOTION:** On recommendation of the Senior Ranger that the MTRP CAC support the event. Moved and seconded (PILCH/POWERS). Motion passed with David Boyer and Matt Rahn abstaining.

103. Covered Picnic Area at the Equestrian Staging Area (ESA) – *Ali Darvishi, City of San Diego*

- A 2,300 square-foot covered group picnic shelter is included in the Site Development Permit for the ESA.

- The concept presented to the MTRP CAC is for a 2,088 square-foot shelter with a steel roof and posts sited on a concrete pad.
- Estimated cost of \$150,000 includes
  - 4 inch concrete slab.
  - Prefab structure.
  - Concrete walk from new pad to existing site walkway for ADA accessibility.
  - Electrical conduits and wiring from existing source for lights under the roof and electrical outlets in posts.
  - City soft costs (approximately 20%).
- Once a CIP is approved by Council the project would take 16 to 18 months to complete.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (MURPHY/ACEVEDO) to approve in concept the proposal for a covered picnic shelter at the Equestrian Staging Area, authorize City staff to establish a CIP, and approve funding of \$150,000 from the MTRP Antenna Fund. Once the CIP is established MTRP staff and CAC representatives would work with Public Works/Engineering to design the project. CAC members would like to consider suggestions made by CAC member Roger Utt which would create a more unique structure complementary to the recently completed comfort station. These recommendations might result in an increased cost which could result in a smaller structure in order to stay within the budget of \$150,000. An alternative to decreasing the size would be to increase the budget using available dollars in the Antenna Fund. Motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

104. 2013 MTRP CAC Meeting Schedule – Dorothy Leonard

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (ACEVEDO/MURPHY) to approve the 2013 MTRP CAC meeting schedule. Motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

105. MTRP FY2013/2014 Project Funding Priorities & Future Needs List – Dorothy Leonard

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (PILCH/WARBURTON) to change the proposal to provide facilities for family and group picnicking at the Big Rock Park trailhead in the City of Santee from a Priority 2 to a Priority 3, and to approve the MTRP FY2013/2014 Project Funding Priorities & Future Needs List. Motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

106. MTRP Endowment Fund with San Diego Foundation: Transfer of the distributable balance of \$1,702.59 (Earnings less San Diego Foundation management fee of 5%) to MTRP Foundation – Dorothy Leonard

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (ACEVEDO/GADLER) to approve the transfer of the distributable balance of \$1,702.59 (earnings less San Diego Foundation management fee of 5%) from The San Diego Foundation MTRP Endowment Fund to the MTRP Foundation. Motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

301. San Diego County Water Authority Pipe Relining Project – *Craig Balben, SDCWA*
- The project began a few months back, and we're in the process of relining pipelines in the park with new steel liners to improve their reliability.
  - We'll be restriping sections of Jackson Drive, and installing delineators and concrete barricades around the portals to begin work along this street. The work will take about two weeks and we will be restriping Jackson Drive back to its original course after the work is completed.
  - Sound walls will not be installed around the portals on Jackson Drive.
302. Proposed Castlerock Development – *Jimmy Ayala, Pardee Homes*
- Castlerock is a 203-acre property that will include a mix of up to 430 single and multi-family homes. Approximately four acres will be used as public park space and pocket parks for the residents. Pedestrian and bicycle access to the MTRP trails will be provided.
  - Approximately 95 acres of open space will be preserved and consistent with the MSCP and MHPA. Maintenance of vernal pools located on the Castlerock property will be paid for by Pardee Homes in perpetuity.
  - We are ensuring that all subareas be in compliance with the MTRP Design District guidelines.
  - We've submitted all of our documentation to the City of San Diego, and hoping that our EIR will be completed before the end of the year.
  - We'll be going to the Planning Commission and the San Diego City Council in the first quarter of 2013.
  - Dick Murphy asked if there was any opportunity to build a staging area on the Castlerock property for access to the future MTRP trails in East Elliott. Jimmy Ayala stated that the 4-acre public park on the northern end of their property will provide additional off-street parking (10 to 20 spaces) and can serve as a trailhead. They're also in negotiations with the Santee School District to improve the dirt parking area across the street from West Hills High School so that it can be used as a trailhead.
303. FY12 Regional Park Fund Recommendations – *Jim Winter, Project Officer II, Administrative Services Division, Park & Recreation Department*
- San Diego City Charter Section 55 governs how we obtain regional park funds and how we use them. This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> year working underneath the charter. The funds are derived from the lease revenue from Mission Bay Park. The charter states that the funds have to be used for Capital Improvement Projects.
  - The threshold amount is \$23 million, which means the first \$23 million goes to the City's General Revenue Fund. The rest goes to the Regional Park Fund and Mission Bay Park. The threshold amount drops to \$20 million in FY15.
  - There was \$2.5 million allocated to this year's fund, with Mission Bay Park taking about \$2.4 million. In total we have \$3.4 million, and are recommending about \$3 million in allocations, and holding back almost \$500,000 for emergency projects and grant match funds.

- Money for the Cowles Mountain Trail CIP was shifted from pre-charter to post charter, and is still available.
- The bridge across the San Diego River and the Oak Grove all-weather trail were recommended to be added to the list. Federal grant money was suggested for repairing the Kumeyaay Lake berm.

304. CIP Project Updates:

a. MTRP Master Plan Update (MPU) and Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) – Mark Carpenter, KTU+A

- At the end of the summer we submitted revised drafts of the MPU and the NRMP to City staff for comment. The CAC ad-hoc subcommittee had a chance to provide comments to MPU draft.
- RECON is nearing the completion of a third draft of the NRMP.
- We received comments back from other City departments, and met with Open Space staff to talk about a few issues between the MPU and NRMP and how we resolve them. Specifically how we balance potential threats to some narrow endemic species with existing and proposed recreational use.
- We're in the process of reviewing all the comments provided within the MPU, and waiting on language for NRMP to make sure both documents are consistent before they are released.

b. Old Mission Dam Dredging/Maintenance Project – Matt Sanford for Jeanette DeAngelis, City of San Diego Public Works

- The agency permits have been submitted, the NEPA environmental document – an environmental assessment – has been written. The regional board has another 30 days to issue permission or not based upon our permission completion date and CA Fish and Game has issued an extension to our existing permit based upon our request.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

The next CAC meeting will be Tuesday, January 8, 2012, at 6:30 PM.