

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2013**

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Dick Murphy, Vice Chair, Special Member
Nancy Acevedo, Member at Large
Roger Utt, County of San Diego Park & Recreation Department
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
Kathy Warbuton, City of San Diego
Shannon O'Dunn, City of La Mesa
Dale Shockley, Member at Large

Members Absent/Excused

Dorothy Leonard, Chair, Member at Large
Eamonn Powers, City of Santee
Matt Rahn, San Diego State University
Mike Pent, Special Member

City of San Diego

Matt Sanford, Park and Recreation Department
Steve Haupt, Park and Recreation Department
Gayle Havens, Water Department
Robin Shifflet, Developmental Services Department
Natasha Collura, Department of Finance

Guests

Mark Carpenter, KTU+A
Todd Mead, Civitas
Greg Carron, Canteen Vending
John Slinger, Dailard PTF
Patrick McClain, Sun Strides Foundation
Craig Balben, SDCWA
Jerry Bierman
Candace Oertle

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:38 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (PILCH/WARBURTON) to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2012. The motion passed with David Boyer and Shannon O'Dunn abstaining.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Chair Dorothy Leonard was out of town. No report from Vice-Chair Dick Murphy.

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

- Roughly 1,300 acres of the West Sycamore addition to MTRP has officially been deeded over to the City. Park staff will be installing 6-pack rules signs, trail markers, information and trail maps on the kiosks, trash & recycling cans, and other components soon. Also repairing some sections of trail that were damaged during recent storms.
- The West Sycamore staging area at the end of Stonebridge Parkway is nearing completion. The developer is almost finished with some final punchlist items.
- The Urban Corps recently removed tulley's and other vegetation from around the east side of the Old Mission Dam as a requirement for the dredging permit, and for preservation of the historical dam.
- The December 2012 Arbor Day celebration took place at the day-use parking lot, and we had a very strong turnout. Ten native trees and variety of native plants were planted. Thanks to GMW's Carmelo and Tom for all of their hard work in planning this event. Also thanks to the San Carlos Methodist Church for their donation to the celebration. We were happy to help them celebrate their 50th anniversary with a tree planting in a very nice location.
- We're looking forward to the annual Trail Guide training starting this Saturday at 8 AM in the Visitor Center classrooms.
- Park Staff have been doing a great job working with the volunteer work groups that meet each month during this time of year. The Habitat Crew led by Ranger Mika meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month, 8 AM at the flagpole. The Trail Improvement Crew led by Ranger Mel meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month, 8 AM at the flagpole. The Park Beautification Crew led by GMW Tom meets on the 4th Saturday of each month, 8 AM at the campground day-use parking lot.
- Thank you to volunteers from the San Diego Mountain Biking Association for their recent work on some popular riding trails on the west side of Fortuna Mountain. They also donated about \$1,000 worth of native seeds to help restore disturbed areas alongside the trail.
- Also want to thank Jerry Bierman and his crew of volunteers who have been coordinating with Ranger Mel on repairing several steep trail sections near SR52 and Shepherds Pond. We're very encouraged by the work that they've been doing, and they're always looking for more assistance if anyone is interested.

WATER DEPARTMENT'S REPORT – Gayle Havens, Reservoir Keeper

- Fishing has been good.
- There will be a water shutdown from the 13th to the 19th of January as part of the SDCWA pipe relining project. This will happen again sometime in March.
- Rainbow trout, from the Department of Fish & Wildlife, are being stocked right now.

MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT – Jay Wilson, MTRP Foundation Executive Director

- Visitor Center attendance in 2012, compared to 2011, was down for a variety of reasons.

- KPBS recently did a story about West Sycamore and the park's expansion. They also did a story about the tracking program which led to an increase in the number of people that showed up for a recent hike.
- Nora's Children's Art Classes, for children 5-12 years old, are taking place each week at the Visitor Center and have been very popular.
- The SDG&E Environmental Champions Award grant that the Foundation received in November is expanding rapidly, with a focus on the culture and history of the Kumeyaay, for 1,500-2,000 sixth graders that are unable to attend 6th grade camp.
- Explore Mission Trail Days will be held on May 18th. Channel 8 will be covering the event. La Mesa Spring Day is on the same day.

COMMUNICATIONS (Non-agenda public comment)

- Candace Oertle requested that the MTRP CAC and Foundation look into acquiring school district property that is currently for sale in Tierrasanta, near Colina Dorada and Calle de Vida, so that it can be made into park property.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Dailard Elementary School Fundraiser – *John Slinger, Dailard Teacher*

- 1 mile kid's fun run, 5k & 10k run for adults, starting and ending at the East Fortuna Staging Area.
- Sunday March 17th.
- Alternate date if it rains is the following weekend.
- Estimated attendance, 100-150 people.

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

102. Sun Strides Foundation – *Patrick McClain*

- 5k & 10k hike/run/walk starting and ending at the East Fortuna Staging Area.
- Saturday March 23rd.
- Alternate date if it rains is March 30th.
- Estimated attendance, 300 people.

MOTION: On recommendation of the Senior Ranger that the MTRP CAC support the event. Moved and seconded (GADLER/ACEVEDO). Motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

103. Recommend approval of the Draft San Diego River Park Master Plan, and the amendments to the Mission Trails Design District Ordinance and Design Manual – *Robin Shifflet, City of San Diego Developmental Services Department; Todd Mead, Civitas*

- The San Diego River Master Plan is a new policy document for the City of San Diego and addresses the treatment and development of the river through the City, starting at the Pacific Ocean and going up to the City of Santee.
- This document will be used to evaluate projects along the river, both public and private.

- The City municipal code is being amended so that the document can be implemented. The Mission Trails Design District Ordinance will be amended to support the policy document.
- Seeking CAC approval of the document so that it can be taken to the San Diego City Council in April 2013.
- Mission Trails includes a substantial section of the future River Park. A trail along the river will eventually be provided from Santee, through Mission Trails, and to the ocean. Interpretation of the river and its history will be provided in a number of ways. A plan to deal with invasive plant species along the river will be developed.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (PILCH/GADLER) to approve the draft San Diego River Park Master Plan, and amendments to the Mission Trails Design District Ordinance and Design Manual. Motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

104. Proposal to Install a Vending Machine at the Cowles Mountain Staging Area at Navajo Road and Golfcrest Drive – *Natasha Collura, Director of Strategic Partnerships, City of San Diego; Greg Carron, Canteen San Diego.*

- One vending machine, providing water and energy drinks only, is proposed for the staging area. It will be installed on the south side of the restroom building, using electricity from the building. It will be a credit card only machine.
- Maintenance of the machine, including any vandalism related issues, will be taken care in a timely manner by Canteen.
- Park staff will monitor the impact, trash and vandalism for example, on the staging area grounds and along the Cowles Trail throughout the summer. Natasha and Greg will return after the summer to discuss any concerns of park staff and the CAC.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (SHOCKLEY/O’DUNN) to install a vending machine at the Cowles Mountain Staging Area at Navajo Road and Golfcrest Drive. Motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

105. Proposed Entrance Sign for the West Sycamore Staging Area – *Matt Sanford, Senior Park Ranger MTRP*

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (ACEVEDO/WARBURTON) to approve the installation of an entrance sign for the West Sycamore Staging Area. Motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

106. Appointment of a CAC Ad-Hoc Subcommittee to Work with MTRP Staff on a Landscaping Plan for the West Sycamore Staging Area – *Matt Sanford, Senior Park Ranger MTRP*

- Postponed to the March CAC meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. San Diego County Water Authority Pipe Relining Project – *Craig Balben, SDCWA*

- Revegetation and taking down the sound walls in the park will be occurring in January and February. We need to be out of the park by February 15th.

- SDCWA and the project contractor will be working with park staff to restore trails affected by the construction, and also at the Jackson Drive Staging Area.
- We finished installing liners along Jackson Drive, but traffic control will remain until May.
- We're beginning work along Lakeshore Drive.
- We're on track to finish in May 2013.

302. CIP Project Updates

- a. MTRP Master Plan & Natural Resource Management Plan – *Mark Carpenter, KTU+A*
 - The Master Plan Update (MPU) and the Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) are going through one last round of review with City Open Space staff, other various City departments, the CAC ad-hoc subcommittee, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife for review as it relates to MSCP compliance. The County of San Diego and MCAS Miramar will also have an opportunity to review both documents.
 - Once any revisions are incorporated into both documents they will be considered public drafts, and the Environmental Impact Review (EIR) will begin.
 - A full formal scoping meeting for the EIR, and navigation through this process should last until around the end of 2013, and processing for approval in the beginning of 2014.
- b. Old Mission Dam Dredging/Maintenance Project – *Matt Sanford for Jeanette DeAngelis, City of San Diego Public Works, Engineering Department*
 - Progress on the permits for long term dredging is continuing. The Fish and Wildlife permit is completed. The Regional Board Water Quality Control Board has accepted as complete the permit application and we anticipate receiving the permit shortly. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are finalizing the Public Notice for the permit which will go out this week. It is anticipated that the City will receive the draft USACE permit during the first week or two of March. We're hoping that the final permit will arrive at the end of March.
 - The mitigation site along the San Diego River, adjacent to the Carlton Oaks Golf Course, is looking great. We hope to have new maintenance personnel on board very soon and anticipate a concentrated maintenance effort after the winter rains.
- c. Equestrian Staging Area Shade Structure– *Matt Sanford, Senior Park Ranger MTRP*
 - Manuel Oncina, architect of the ESA comfort station, prepared a design sketch with concrete columns. The cost for this shade structure is around \$350,000. Of this amount, around \$30,000 is for electrical and landscape roughly 20' around the shade structure.
 - More information about the design and cost breakdown is needed before the CAC can make a decision about which design they prefer. Specifically what exactly will be provided for \$150,000, \$250,000, and \$350,000.
 - Roger Utt offered to contact Ali Darvishi to explain what information the CAC needed before making a decision.

MOTION: To continue this item to the March 5th CAC meeting with a request for more information about the different designs, including what exactly will be provided for \$150,000, \$250,000, and \$350,000. Moved and seconded (UTT/ACEVEDO). Motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

The next CAC meeting will be Tuesday, March 5, 2012, at 6:30 PM.