

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 5, 2013**

**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 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  
Mike Pent, Special Member

**Members Absent/Excused**

Eamonn Powers, City of Santee

**City of San Diego**

Matt Sanford, Park and Recreation Department  
Chris Zirkle, Park and Recreation Department  
Jim Winter, Park and Recreation Department  
Jeanette DeAngelis, Engineering & Capital Projects

**Guests**

Craig Balben, San Diego County Water Authority  
Kim Wiley  
Stephan Houlahan  
Sandy Kuntz  
Jeff Kahn  
Judi Ravetti  
Retha Knight  
Charles Ringer

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (ACEVEDO/GADLER) to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 8, 2013. The motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** – *Dorothy Leonard, Chair*

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

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

- The XTERRA trail run on February 3rd went very well in the park, and in the staging area. Unfortunately there were multiple race participants that illegally parked under SR52, and blocking the bike lane along Mast Blvd and West Hills Parkway. I'll be working with future large race organizers on ways to deter illegal parking outside the staging area from occurring.
- As previously reported, the majority of the West Sycamore acreage has already been deeded over to the City. The developer, Brookfield Estates, completed the remaining punchlist items for the staging area at the end of Stonebridge Parkway. We're still waiting on the remaining acreage (approximately 50 acres), which includes the land where the staging area is located, to be deeded over. There are some cleanup issues within the remaining acreage related to the previous land owners, so the staging area will remain closed until these issues are resolved. Park staff have been installing signs, additional fencing, trail markers, and other components around most of this area.
- Landscaping crews working for the City Brush Management Department thinned approximately 1.75 acres of brush around the Visitor Center to create a better defensible space. The Visitor Center will be added to their annual schedule from now on, and they will return around the same time next year to do the same work.
- A contractor working for the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) installed new ordnance warning signs at trailheads around MTRP where the former Camp Elliot once was. USACE will be doing an ordnance sweep of the East Elliot area soon, and I will update you on when they will begin as soon as I find out.
- Park staff have been very busy working with our volunteer crews. Thanks again to members from the San Diego Mountain Biking Association for their continued work on some popular riding trails on the west side of Fortuna Mountain, and a trail maintenance crew led by Jerry Bierman on their continued work near SR52 and the Portobelo Ridge Trail. Jerry's crew is always looking for volunteers so please contact me if you know of anyone interested.
- Chris Zirkle reported:
  - The Budget & Finance Committee entertained some mid-year budget adjustments which include funding for electrical upgrades to the Visitor Center, and some funding to reopen the Kumeyaay Lake Campground.
  - The Open Space Division was not asked for proposed cuts for the FY14 budget, and we submitted a request for additional Park Ranger, Grounds Maintenance Worker, and Pesticide Applicator staffing, and a trailer for MTRP staff at West Sycamore.

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

- No report

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

- The Visitor Center attendance in February was 6880.
- On February 17<sup>th</sup> we hosted a Sumi-e Japanese art exhibit and a Japanese flute player while the current artist in the Visitor Center displayed their artwork. Six hundred thirty three people attended.
- We added a new interactive display to our water services exhibit that shows the water cycle.
- Next Sunday the annual Science & Engineering Festival starts in San Diego, and we will be participating by having some extra Saturday events, Discovery Tables, and telescopes looking at solar flares & sun spots. On March 23<sup>rd</sup> we will be at Petco Park participating in the festival events there.
- We'll be participating at the Scripps Ranch Day (the day after Explore Mission Trails Day), the Santee Tree Fest, and the Earth Day festivities at Balboa Park.
- The 21<sup>st</sup> MTRP Amateur Photo Contest is underway. Information can be found on the MTRP website ([www.mtrp.org](http://www.mtrp.org)).
- We've teamed up with SanDiegan.com, which is a website that locals & visitors can use to find out what's going on in the county.
- Our educational program with the SDG&E Environmental Champions Grant is going very well. We're concentrating on 6<sup>th</sup> graders this year, particularly with the City of San Diego schools as a replacement for the closed 6<sup>th</sup> grade camps.

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

- Stephen Houlahan asked the MTRP CAC to take a stand against the proposed Quail Brush Power Plant project.
- Jeff Khan expressed concerns about vandalized trees along the Oak Canyon Trail, and freshly burned wood in the same area. He also urged the MTRP CAC to take a stand against the proposed Quail Brush Power Plant project.
- Sandy Kuntz urged the MTRP CAC to work with the MTRP Task Force on a letter of opposition to the proposed Quail Brush Power Plant project, and send it to the California Energy Commission. She asked if the Quail Brush project will be on the March Task Force meeting agenda. Chris Zirkle stated that it is tentatively on the agenda.
- John Pilch stated that District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis will be the guest speaker tomorrow evening at the San Carlo Area Council meeting, which meets at the San Carlos Library. The Navajo Community Planners meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> will consider an all-way stop sign proposal for Cowles Mountain Boulevard and Boulder Lake Avenue. This is the back way up Cowles Mountain and parking has become very bad, especially on weekends.

**ACTION ITEMS**

101. CAC recommendation to Task Force on size, design and budget for the Equestrian Staging Area shade structure – *Jim Winter, Project Officer, City of San Diego Park & Recreation Department*
- The CAC was unsure what the options are in terms of the size, budget, and design for the “off-the-shelf” design presented to the CAC by Ali Darvishi, and the more expensive design presented to the CAC by Manuel Oncina, the architect for the Equestrian Staging Area (ESA) Comfort Station.
  - Dick Murphy asked if a smaller, less expensive design that’s more consistent with the ESA Comfort Station design was possible.
  - Jim Winter stated that the cost for a more architecturally consistent shade structure would be less if someone from the community provided a design that could be used to award a contract. He added that students from the New School of Architecture are always looking for new projects, but paying them for a design and labor would be difficult since this project is using City money.
  - Roger Utt asked if something could be designed that combines the “off-the-shelf” design with some added features to make it appear more consistent with the ESA Comfort Station in order to keep the cost down, and offered to work with Jim Winter and/or Manuel Oncina directly to help move this along.
  - Nancy Acevedo offered to work with Roger and Jim on the ad-hoc subcommittee and will report back at the May CAC meeting.

*Public Comment:*

- Retha Knight asked where the funding for this project is coming from. Dorothy Leonard answered that most of it is coming from the Cowles Mountain Antenna Fund.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (MURPHY/PENT) to appoint Nancy Acevedo and Roger Utt to the Equestrian Staging Area Shade Structure ad-hoc subcommittee, and to report back about this project at the May CAC meeting. Motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

301. San Diego County Water Authority Pipe Relining Project – *Craig Balben, SDCWA*
- We just finished relining one of the pipes that is in the park. All of the soundwalls in the park have been removed, and we are completely finished with all construction in the park.
  - The project contractor, LH Woods, have been coordinating with Sr. Ranger Sanford and Ranger Naidas on repairs to the service road, and dropping off donated materials to the park.
  - Work along Jackson Drive and Lakeshore Drive will continue, and traffic control will stay on Jackson until the project is complete. We’re about a month ahead of schedule, and should be done around the end of April.
  - A shutdown will occur so that pipelines 3 & 4 can be tied back into the existing system. This will take place May 5<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>.

302. MTRP Acquisitions – *Lane Mackenzie, City of San Diego Real Estate Assets*

- The City has acquired around 1000 acres of the former General Dynamics property (West Sycamore addition), and there is around 50 acres that the City will acquire once some cleanup issues related to the former land owners are resolved.
- There are willing sellers on the West side of East Elliot area (future MTRP addition), but the City is waiting for additional funds to acquire these parcels. We're also trying to acquire approximately 70 acres on the east side of East Elliot. The City currently owns around 750 acres on the west side, and around 250 acres on the east side.
- Roger Utt asked about the San Diego Unified School District property that's currently for sale on the west side of MTRP, near Colina Dorada. Lane Mackenzie stated that the school district isn't looking for any type of exchange or payment plan, and the City doesn't have the funds to purchase the property. The property does have a number of restrictions on it in terms of the type of usage, and it would have to go through a series of planning improvements.
- Dick Murphy asked if the school district is interested in acquiring any City property in exchange for this school district property. Lane Mackenzie stated that they have not indicated this.

*Public Comment:*

- Retha Knight stated that she is pleased with the acquisitions occurring in the East Elliot area, and urged members of the CAC to submit letters of opposition to the proposed Quail Brush Power Plant.

303. Mission Gorge Trunk Sewer Project – *Keli Balo, Project Officer, Engineering & Program Management, Public Utilities Department*

- Postponed to the May CAC meeting.

304. CIP Project Updates

- a) MTRP Master Plan & Natural Resource Management Plan – *Matt Sanford for Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Developmental Services Department*
  - The consultant has been working with Open Space staff to address issues that they would like resolved prior to agency and jurisdictional review of the draft MPU, and prior to making the document available to the public.
  - It is anticipated that the MPU will be sent to the agencies by March 15<sup>th</sup>, with a request for a 30 day review.
- b) Old Mission Dam Dredging & Maintenance Project – *Jeanette DeAngelis, City of San Diego Engineering & Capital Projects*
  - We have secured the CA Fish & Wildlife permit and the regional board permits. The US Army Corp of Engineers permit went out for public review recently and we received no

- substantial comments. We're expecting to finalize the USACE permit by the end of March.
- These are 5-year permits, and permit renewal process should be fairly easy once several dredging's occur and the agencies can see that the resources aren't being disturbed.
  - The permits will be turned over to the Open Space Division, and dredging could occur this fall if a contractor is lined up and additional funds are acquired.
  - Matt Rahn asked about the monitoring requirements for this project, if the City pays for this to be done, and stated that SDSU may be able to provide some in-kind assistance with this monitoring using students in various degree programs.
  - Chris Zirkle stated that it's been a very difficult to get these permits secured, and that Jeanette should be recognized for all of her hard work throughout this process.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (MURPHY/GADLER) to commend Jeanette DeAngelis for the great work she did in acquiring the permits needed to dredge around the historic Old Mission Dam. The motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

The next CAC meeting will be Tuesday, May, 7 2012, at 6:30 PM.