

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 7, 2013**

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Dorothy Leonard, Chair, Member at Large
Dick Murphy, Vice Chair, Special Member
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
Dale Shockley, Member at Large
Matt Rahn, San Diego State University
Mike Pent, Special Member

Members Absent/Excused

Eamonn Powers, City of Santee
Nancy Acevedo, Member at Large
Shannon O'Dunn, City of La Mesa

City of San Diego

Matt Sanford, Park and Recreation Department
Steve Haupt, Park and Recreation Department
Chris Zirkle, Park and Recreation Department
Keli Balo, Public Utilities Department
Nabeel Qawasmi, Public Utilities Department

Guests

Kim Wiley, San Diego Mountain Biking Association
Jerry Bierman

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – *Dorothy Leonard, Chair*

At the March 2013 meeting the Task Force took the following actions:

- Voted to support the installation of a vending machine at the Cowles Mountain Staging Area. The machine will offer only water and Gatorade, and will only accept credit cards for payment. Five cents of each transaction will be donated to the MTRP Foundation.
- Voted to support the San Diego River Park Master Plan and the Amendments to the Mission Trails Design District Ordinance and Design Manual.
- Voted to submit a letter of opposition to the California Energy Commission about the proposed Quail Brush Peaker Power Plant.
- Voted to approve the entrance sign for the West Sycamore area of MTRP.
- Elected Councilmember Scott Sherman as Task Force Chair and Supervisor Dave Roberts as Task Force Vice-Chair.

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

- Repairs to the Cowles Mountain Trail began Monday 3/25. Two crews from Urban Corps of San Diego County are working with park staff, and volunteers. Ranger Mel Naidas is the project lead. Scope of Work:
 - Installing rolling grade dips/water bars to improve drainage off the mountain; building better rock walls and installing natural deterrents to keep people from cutting corners or using unauthorized trails; and improving steps/stairs in some key sections.
 - Installing lodge pole fencing to deter people from using unauthorized trails.
 - Improving our signage along the trail to help people know where the actual trail is. Lots of confusion in some sections.
 - Adding materials, such as decomposed gravel and pea gravel, to several of the most eroded sections.
- The volunteers assisting on this project have been of great assistance to park staff and the Urban Corps crews. Terry Gaughen and Bob Graham have been working on the project from day one, serving as crew captains. Also thanks to all of the volunteers that have assisted at the Cowles Staging Area. We did our best to get word out about the trail and staging area closing, but there were still many people that showed up the first few weeks wondering what was going on.
- We've had a lot of media interest on the trail repairs. The U-T did a photo and video story on the project. It was a great opportunity for me to show the public what's taking place, why we're doing the project, and to remind them about why it is so important to follow the posted rules/regulations.
- The Urban Corps crews, all of the project volunteers, and Ranger Mel will be recognized before this month's Task Force meeting – 5/16 at 12:30pm. Thanks to Dorothy and the Foundation for purchasing lunch and refreshments for the crews.
- Thanks to Jay and Roland for all of their assistance in getting the word out about the project, answering questions from the public, and everything else they do to help keep this park running smoothly.

- Thanks to Neil Mohr and Gabe at the Sycamore Landfill for donating a large supply of rebar to the project.
- The final day of the work will be Friday, 5/17.
- Explore Mission Trails Day is on Saturday May 18th, 9AM to 2PM.
- Our Chief Rodent Patrol Officer, Kwaay Paay, passed away on Tuesday. She will be missed.

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

- No report

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

- Visitor Center attendance for April 2013 was 8,011. In April 2012 it was 8,059. Year to Date: 31,679 (2012: 30,651).
- April 21 was the annual Earth Day in Balboa Park. It was a busy day for us, with many public contacts made. We distributed over 1,000 pieces of literature.
- Our last Art Exhibition generated just over \$612.50 in revenue for the MTRP Foundation. Connie Ho sold \$2,450 in watercolor paintings.
- Our 21st annual Amateur Photo Contest is on exhibition through May 26. There are 103 photos on display. Please vote for your favorite.
- Last Wednesday, Alicia Berg, our Education Program Instructor and I attended the SDG&E 2013 Environmental Champions Program. SDG&E launched their \$1,000,000 in grants program at this event. They work with 83 nonprofits throughout the year. We were one of four nonprofits selected to make a five minute presentation on the success of our education programs funded by SDG&E over the past three years.
- Explore Mission Trails Day is Saturday May 18th, 9AM to 2PM. We have flyers available and more if needed.

COMMUNICATIONS (Non-agenda public comment)

- Kathy Warburton reported that there is a petition going around Tierrasanta to turn the SDUSD property, near Colina Dorada and Calle de Vida, into a dog park.
- Matt Rahn reported that he is stepping down as a member of the MTRP CAC. Paul Ganster, with the SDSU International Studies and Field Stations programs will be his replacement. Matt was elected to the MTRP Foundation Board of Directors.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Castlerock (Project # 10046/SCH # 2004061029 in the Mission Trails Design District) – *Jimmy Ayala, Pardee Homes*
 - Castlerock is a 203-acre property located across the street from West Hills High School and near Mast Blvd. It will include a mix of up to 430 single family homes, and the project will be consistent with the MTRP Design District Guidelines.

- Approximately 95 acres of the site will be dedicated as permanently protected open space. Wetlands found on the property will be restored and protected.
- Vernal pools found on the property will be restored and protected.
- There will be a four-acre park on the northern end of the property that will be landscaped with drought tolerant plants, and which will provide 17 off-street parking spaces. Pedestrian and bicycle access to MTRP will be provided.
- Pardee is in negotiations with the City of Santee and Grossmont Union High School District to improve a vacant dirt lot across the street from Castlerock so that it can be used as a staging area and trailhead.
- Any runoff on the property will be collected in brow ditches, stored in detention basins, and filtered before being released.
- Dick Murphy asked how much turf space will be included on the four-acre park. Jimmy Ayala stated that park landscaping will be a combination of drought tolerant plants and turf space.
- Dick Murphy also asked about what is being done to fire proof the homes. Jimmy Ayala stated that there are brush management zones around the homes, and that they are constructing ignition resistant eaves. All homes will come with an internal sprinkler system, and a central alarm system in each home that bypasses emergency dispatchers and directly alerts Fire and Police if there is an emergency. There will be fire barrier walls strategically placed near some brush management zones. There will also be restrictions on residential ignition sources.
- Kathy Warburton asked if the utilities will be underground. Jimmy Ayala stated that they will be underground.
- John Pilch asked if they will be using purple pipe water for irrigation. Jimmy Ayala stated that if the development stays in the City of San Diego then purple pipe will not be provided right away, but if the property is annexed to the City of Santee then purple pipe water would be provided right away. He added that dual piping will be provided for each home when/if purple pipe water can be provided.
- David Boyer stated that it is premature at this time to suggest that a trail from this property to the Sycamore County Park will be allowed through MCAS Miramar property.
- Dick Gadler expressed concerns about the increase in traffic, archeological sites and artifacts found on the property, and about landslides during the building of the homes.
- Dick Murphy asked if Pardee Homes could get their water from the Padre Dam Water District even if they are in the City of San Diego, and added that it doesn't make sense to build a long water pipeline to the property. Jimmy Ayala stated that he doesn't think it would be possible, and that Pardee would have to construct a pipeline to the development if this property stays in the City of San Diego.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (UTT/MURPHY) to recommend to the MTRP Task Force that the project proceed with water coming from the Padre Dam Water District utilizing purple pipe. Motion passed with Dick Gadler opposing, and David Boyer abstaining.

102. CAC Recommendation to Task Force on the Size, Design, and Budget for the Equestrian Staging Area Shade Structure. – *Report from CAC ad hoc Subcommittee*

- Roger Utt reported that the ad hoc subcommittee met last week with Steve Haupt, Jim Winter, Robin Brisebois and several students from the New School of Architecture at the Equestrian Staging Area and discussed the project, including the budget constraints.
- We're asking them to come up with a preliminary design of the shade structure that will fit within the budget constraints. We should hear back from them in the next week or two, and we will report back at the July CAC meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. Mission Gorge Trunk Sewer Project – *Keli Balo, Project Officer, and Nabeel Qawasmi, Associate Civil Engineer, Public Utilities Department*

- There is a large 36" trunk sewer pipe that runs through the park. A section of this pipe at the Jackson river crossing is currently exposed. This pipe is encased in concrete and rock, and has been undermined by erosion over time. Approximately 280 feet of this pipe has been undermined and some sections are now exposed.
- Large cranes will be used to place 1 ton, ½ ton, ¼ ton, and 6" minus rip rap under the pipe. This rip rap will be encased in concrete.
- An inflatable portable dam and pump will be used to divert the river water around the work site.
- Existing roadways will be used. No new roadways or paths will be created.
- If all permits are secured in time, work should begin this fall after the bird nesting season. If all permits are not secured in time, then the project might be delayed until next fall. Work should last three days to a week. They are proposing to work 24 hours a day.
- There will be closures to the public around the immediate work area. The Visitor Center Loop Trail will remain open, but the public will not be able to cross the river while the project is taking place.
- Roger Utt asked where the rip rap rock is coming from, and if it will be compatible in color and texture to what's currently in the river bed. Keli Balo stated that the rip rap will not be visible since it is being encased in concrete. Roger suggested that they try to use rock that blends in with the natural rock in the river bed.

Public Comment:

- Kim Wiley stated that most people use the concrete pipe encasement to cross the river in this area, and asked if this crossing will be improved during the project. Keli Balo stated that Public Utilities Department does not endorse or condone pedestrian activity or recreation immediately on top of the encased pipes for safety reasons, and no improvements will be made to the top of the encasement during this project.

302. MTRP Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan – *Sr. Ranger Matt Sanford for Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Developmental Services Department*

- Staff have prepared and submitted the pre-public drafts of the Master Plan Update and the Natural Resource Management Plan to the resource agencies, the CAC ad hoc Subcommittee, and other project partners.

- The agencies have requested a meeting that is tentatively scheduled for May 17th to discuss the Master Plan Update. As such, the comments are not expected back before May 24th. Upon receipt of the comments at the end of this review, a timeline for holding the EIR scoping meeting will be determined.
303. Old Mission Dam Dredging/Maintenance Project – *Chris Zirkle, Deputy Director, City of San Diego Open Space Division*
- There is a narrow construction window to get this project done, and it must occur after the bird nesting season.
 - This is a Public Works project and there is a certain protocol with regards to the engineering drawings and the contract bidding process for these types of projects. The City does not currently have a design build firm on board, so the project will have to go out to bid.
 - There are some changes that are needed to the engineering drawings. They are minor and have to do with the amount of sediment to be removed, and that the sewer pipeline no longer needs to be encased. Both of these changes should result in cost reductions.
 - The MTRP Foundation Public Fund might be used to help fund the project. Another funding source could come from some money that the Open Space Division is about to receive from the San Diego Unified School District for the use of City land for vernal pool mitigation.
304. Mayors Proposed FY2014 Budget as it relates to the Open Space Division and Mission Trails Regional Park – *Chris Zirkle, Deputy Director, City of San Diego Open Space Division*
- Last October/November was the first time the Open Space Division was not asked to submit a budget with reductions or closings.
 - The Mayor approved four new Park Ranger positions and a pesticide applicator that we're targeting for Mission Trails, one Ranger for another park, and a drafting aide for the Division.
 - The Council did not support a midyear budget add to reopen the Kumeyaay Lake Campground. For some reason the campground reopening was not included in the Mayor's FY2014 budget, but the Mayor is likely to make more changes to the budget before the end of the month.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

The next CAC meeting will be Tuesday, July 2, 2013, at 6:30 PM.