

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF September 3, 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  
Shannon O'Dunn, City of La Mesa  
Dale Shockley, Member at Large  
Mike Pent, Special Member

**Members Absent/Excused**

Eamonn Powers, City of Santee  
Nancy Acevedo, Member at Large

**City of San Diego**

Matt Sanford, Park and Recreation Department  
Steve Haupt, Park and Recreation Department  
Jeff Harkness, Developmental Services Department  
Liz Saidkhanian, Councilmember Sherman's Office

**Guests**

Kim Wiley, San Diego Mountain Biking Association  
Jerry Bierman  
Brennan Lindner, XTERRA  
Mark Carpenter, KTU+A  
Brian Cox  
Mary Wagner

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (PILCH/MURPHY) to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 7, 2013. The motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

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

- The July CAC and Task Force meetings were canceled due to a lack of agenda items.

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

- On June 16, a brush fire that started on the south side of SR52 spread into the park and burned approximately 110 acres. SDFD and CalFire responded and full containment was reached around 11pm. Crews stayed on site through the night, and the incident command was moved to the VC until the next morning. Park staff closed all park staging areas and evacuated everyone from the park. The cause of the fire is not known at this time.
- In coming months we will be interviewing and hiring 4 new Park Rangers, and one pesticide applicator for MTRP. The Ranger additions will help with the West Sycamore and future East Elliot additions to MTRP. The pesticide applicator will help staff eradicate the invasive plant species around MTRP.
- Vehicle break-ins have increased in recent months. Park staff have increased patrols in the areas where the break-ins are occurring, and have distributed information about preventing vehicle break-ins. Police caught one suspect that was connected to several break-ins in MTRP. We also had 11 street light and irrigation boxes broken into at the Equestrian Staging Area and the copper wiring stolen out of each box. No suspects yet.
- The volunteer work crews will be starting back up in October. The Trail Rehabilitation meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 8am at the Visitor Center flagpole; the Habitat Crew meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 8am at the flagpole; the Park Beautification crew meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, 8am at the flagpole.

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

- The Lake water temperature has been in the 70's, and the water level is at 90 feet.
- Blue Gill and Bass fishing has been really good.
- On September 21, I Love a Clean San Diego will be at the Lake for a community cleanup event.
- Eagle Scouts completed a roof on one of the outhouses, and there are two more to go.
- The concession stand is doing really well and they are starting to rent boats and bicycles on the weekend.

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

- On Friday we received a new grant from SDG&E for our children's education program. It will be used to bring students to Mission Trails. A new program will also help Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Camp Fire members to earn merit badges.
- Attendance in August was good. It was up significantly because last year the Visitor Center was closed for the last week of August to allow for refinishing of the floor space.

- On the evening of October 5, we will have our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual “Art in the Park” fundraiser. Approximately 45 artists will be represented and there will be about 125 pieces of art on display and for sale. There will also be a silent and live auction. Tickets are \$25 and includes fine wine, fine cheese, fine chocolate and fine art. Members of the San Diego Native American Flute Circle will perform as well as the Caprice Strings Trio.
- Our children’s art program with art teacher Nora Kearney-Johnson has worked with 325 children ages 4-12, since November of 2012. Her classes meet on most Saturday’s and will continue through the school year. A Wednesday afternoon class is also going to be offered.
- During the last school year Alicia Berg, our Education Program Instructor positively impacted 1,068 students and 200 adults. The majority were 6<sup>th</sup> graders because our program is being used as a replacement for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade week-long camp the San Diego City Schools cancelled.
- Linda Hawley’s Children’s Nature Adventures for children 3 and up begins again this month. Her program meets one Tuesday a month from 9:30-11:30.
- Don’t forget to like us on Facebook.

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

- None

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### 101. XTERRA Mission Gorge Trail Run (5k & 15k) – *Brennan Lindner, XTERRA*

- The event will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2014. The alternate rain date is Sunday, February 9, 2014. 350-400 participants are expected.
- We are coordinating with West Hills High School on using their parking lot for overflow parking.
- Approximately 10 staff and 40 volunteers will assist park staff with the event production. XTERRA staff will be split amongst parking duties, registration, and course support. We will also post volunteers underneath the 52 freeway and along West Hills Parkway to deter illegal parking in these areas.
- We will be donating at least \$500 to the MTRP Foundation. We will also have Charity Spots around staging area, and 100% of these donations will be donated to the park.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (GADLER/PENT) to recommend approval to the Sr. Ranger for the XTERRA 5k and 15k Mission Gorge Trail Run. Motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

##### 102. Recommendation to create a CIP to construct the Equestrian Staging Area Shade Structure and Administrative Building as identified in the Site Development Permit, encumbering MTRP Antenna Funds to be used towards the project – *Report from CAC ad hoc Subcommittee*

- Roger Utt stated that the ad-hoc subcommittee originally consulted with students from the New School of Architecture about designing the shade structure, but the subcommittee wasn't satisfied with the proposal they submitted. Discussion then moved towards combining the shade structure project with the proposed administrative building in the same area. The shade structure and administrative building were originally proposed around the year 2000.
- Dorothy Leonard stated that there is a growing need for office space with the new staff coming on board soon. She added that Jim Winter informed her that the estimated cost of the shade structure is \$400,000, and since it would require the creation of a new CIP as a Public Works project, it made sense to combine both projects under one CIP.
- The MTRP Antennae Fund would be utilized to help pay for the combined projects.
- Dick Murphy asked if the cost of the construction drawings is known. Dorothy Leonard stated that the original construction cost for the administrative building was around \$1,000,000, but that number is likely closer to \$2,000,000 now.
- David Boyer asked if we have enough facilities for the Rangers up at West Sycamore. Matt Sanford stated that we currently do not, but are looking at some temporary possibilities.
- Kathy Warburton asked where the money will come from to help pay of these projects. Dorothy Leonard stated that once the CIP process is started, we could get in line for a number of funding sources including the Regional Park Fund and the Environmental Growth Fund, to go along with money from the MTRP Antennae Fund. There are also opportunities for grant money.
- Shannon O'Dunn stated that there is uncertainty about the overall cost of the combined projects, and added that we should be prepared to explain to people the reason for spending this money on these structures, and the cost breakdown for both.
- Dick Murphy suggested that space be included in the administrative building for the public to interface with the park and staff.

*Public Comment:* Kim Wiley stated that the San Diego Mountain Biking Association would be interested in using the shade structure for special events, and suggested that there be public workshops to gather ideas about what the user groups would like to see included in the project.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (MURPHY/PENT) to recommend the creation of a CIP to construct the Equestrian Staging Area Shade Structure and Administrative Building as identified in the Site Development Permit, and that there be a public workshop to discuss program development of the interior and exterior building design. Motion carried with David Boyer abstaining.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

301. MTRP Master Plan and Resource Management Plan – *Jeff Harkness, Developmental Services Department, and Mark Carpenter, KTU+A*
- We distributed a draft copy of the Master Plan to various entities including the CAC ad-hoc subcommittee, other agencies, and City departments. Comments about the plan proposals

have been received from the subcommittee, City departments, and outside agencies. We also met with representatives from the US and CA Fish & Wildlife agencies twice on field trips in the park.

- Mark Carpenter stated that they received the final comments from all the various groups and agencies around the end of August. We're now in the process of updating the document to prepare it for the public review draft, and then become the basis for the public scoping meetings for the EIR. We're hoping to have the public scoping meetings this October.
- Several significant comments were received from various groups including the San Diego Fire and Rescue about a need for an overall emergency response plan for the entire park and concerns about the proposal to open new climbing areas in the park. The Public Utilities Department requested that all of their access pathways into their utilities are maintained and not inadvertently closed, and that the picture of people walking over their concrete pipe encasement at the San Diego River crossing be removed since they do not condone this activity.
- We recently met with the Miramar Provost to discuss the trespassing issues and to see if the military and park staff can work together to help curtail these issues.
- The resource agencies (US/CA Fish & Wildlife) were supportive of some trail reroutes that were identified to help de-conflict with some of the resource protection goals, but would like to see unauthorized trails closed and restored ahead of any new development in the park. They added that the unauthorized trails, particularly in the East Elliot area, need to be controlled and that the amount is beginning to exceed the compatible use level identified in the MSCP. They are not supporting any new trails until the unauthorized trail building is controlled and the areas restored, and a program in place that shows the unauthorized trails are going to be controlled moving forward. They went so far as to recommend closure of the entire East Elliot area to all recreation use if the unauthorized trail building isn't controlled.
- We're hoping to have both documents completely revised by the end of September and back out for a quick review before they become public draft documents during the EIR process.

302. Old Mission Dam Dredging and Maintenance Project Update – *Steve Haupt, District Manager, Open Space Division*

- The project is officially at Public Works and they're finalizing the specifications. We're meeting with them next week to make sure everything is covered, and hopefully it will go out to bid soon.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

The next CAC meeting will be Tuesday, November 5, 2013, at 6:30 PM.