

MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF November 5, 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
Richard Gadler, City of El Cajon
Shannon O'Dunn, City of La Mesa
Dale Shockley, Member at Large
Paul Ganster, San Diego State University
Nancy Acevedo, Member at Large

Members Absent/Excused

Dale Peterson, Navajo Community Planners
Kathy Warbuton, City of San Diego
Mike Pent, Special Member
Betty Ogilvie, Tierrasanta Community Council

City of San Diego

Matt Sanford, Park and Recreation Department
Jeff Harkness, Planning, Neighborhoods & Economic Development
Jim Winter, Park & Recreation Department
Liz Saidkhanian, Councilmember Sherman's Office

Guests

Kim Wiley, San Diego Mountain Biking Association (SDMBA)
Gardner Grady, SDMBA
Minette Ozaki, SDMBA
Mark Carpenter, KTU+A
Tom Donnelly, Allied Climbers of San Diego
Jerry Bierman
Nate Franklin
Rich Thesing, Tierrasanta Community Council

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (PILCH/GADLER) to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 3, 2013. The motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Dorothy Leonard, Chair

- The MTRP Task Force, at the September 19, 2013 meeting:
 - Approved 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.

- Approved the appointment of Dr. Paul Ganster as a member of the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizen's Advisory Committee, representing San Diego State University.
- Declared the City of Santee position on the Citizen's Advisory Committee vacant due to over three successive unexcused meeting absences by the current representative.
- Councilmember Sherman reported the following:
 - He anticipates the funds needed to reopen the Kumeyaay Lake Campground for overnight use will be included in the mid-year City of San Diego budget.
 - The San Diego City Council approved the Castlerock development which will result in 96 acres of mitigation land being added to the Park.
- With the addition of the West Sycamore area into the Park, Councilmember Sherman suggested the Task Force consider adding representatives from the adjacent communities of Scripps Ranch and the city of Poway to the MTRP CAC. Consideration might also be given to including a representative from the city of Poway on the Task Force.

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

- Daylight Savings Time ended this past Sunday. All MTRP staging area gates and the gate at the entrance to FJST will be closed at 5pm. Please plan your trips accordingly.
- As reported at the September CAC meeting, and related to the ongoing Master Plan Update (MPU) and Resource Management Plan (RMP), representatives from the US and CA Fish & Wildlife agencies toured the East Elliot area and were taken aback by the number of unauthorized trails in this area. While Chris Zirkle continues to meet with the agencies and user groups, park staff have been tasked with starting to block access to trails that were illegally constructed from 2010 on. In the coming weeks park staff will be deploying signs around the East Elliot area and around the ESA to advise people that park staff are beginning to restore some of these unauthorized trails, and to please obey the posted signs in this area.
- Park staff worked with 2 crews from the San Diego County Urban Corps during the second to last week of October on the remaining Cowles Mountain trail that was started back in May. Materials such as pea gravel and brown DG were helicoptered in to several of the most eroded sections of trail for dispersal. It should help with ease of travel through these areas, and to limit the erosion occurring on this very popular trail. Several more lengths of lodge pole fencing and jute netting were installed to deter people from going off trail or cutting switchback corners.
- We completed the Park Ranger interviews a few weeks ago, and will be announcing the selections soon.

WATER DEPARTMENT'S REPORT – Matt Sanford for Gayle Havens, Lake Murray Reservoir Keeper

- We had over 150 people show up for the I Love a Clean San Diego cleanup day, organized at the Lake by Barbara Cleves Anderson and the Friends of Lake Murray.
- 800 lbs. of Rainbow Trout was stocked by the CA Department of Fish & Wildlife. The stocking schedule is posted on our website. The water level and fishing is good right now.
- With Daylight Savings Time ending our new gate closings time is 6:30pm, but we're still open daily at 5:30am.

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

- October attendance at the Visitor Center was very good. We had 6137 visitors. Year to date our attendance is up about 6%. 70,059 YTD.
- On October 5th we held our second annual Art in the Park fundraiser. The event netted approximately \$5,000.
- On October 26th we had our 3rd annual Halloween Storytelling Spectacular in the Visitor Center Amphitheater. 175 people attended, and we gave out 94 bags of candy.
- The annual Arbor Day Celebration is on December 7th, 9am at the Equestrian Staging Area. Tree donations are \$100 each.
- Our education school programs are going well. Alicia Berg, our education program instructor, worked with 523 students and approximately 50 adults through a grant from SDGE.
- The next Visitor Center concert is November 17th at 3pm. The Pomerado Brass Quintet will be performing.
- The San Diego City Beat voted Cowles Mountain the Best Hiking spot in San Diego County.

COMMUNICATIONS (Non-agenda public comment)

- Stacey LoMedico was recently named the Assistant Chief Operating Officer of the City of San Diego. She had been serving as the Director of Park & Recreation before being promoted. Andy Field will be acting as the interim Director of Park & Recreation.

ACTION ITEMS101. Dailard Elementary School 5k walk/run, March 16, 2014 – *John Slinger, Dailard Elementary School Parent/Teacher Foundation*

- To promote health and well-being the Dailard Elementary students, teachers, parents, and the surrounding community.
- Rain day: March 23, 2014
- Equestrian Center and the Grasslands Loop. I do not anticipate and road or parking enclosures. I also do not anticipate the need for additional restroom facilities.
- Approximately 150 to 200 participants expected.
- All profits go directly back to the Dailard Elementary Parent/Teacher Foundation.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (PILCH/GADLER) to support the recommendation of the Sr. Ranger to approve the Dailard Elementary School 5k walk/run. Motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

102. MTRP FY2014/2015 Project Funding Priorities and Future Needs List – *Dorothy Leonard*

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (MURPHY/ACEVEDO) to approve the FY2014/2015 Project Funding Priorities and Future Needs list as presented. Motion carried with David Boyer abstaining.

103. MTRP CAC 2014 Meeting Schedule – *Dorothy Leonard*

- The November 4, 2014 meeting was moved to October 28th because of Election Day.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (PILCH/ACEVEDO) to approve the MTRP CAC 2014 Meeting Schedule. Motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. City of San Diego Regional Park Improvement Fund allocation recommendations – *Jim Winter, Park & Recreation Department*
- The funds are generated from lease revenues at Mission Bay Park, and how we use these funds is governed by City Charter Section 55.2.
 - The first \$23 million collected from the lease revenues goes to the General Fund and can be used for any municipal purpose. Anything above this amount goes to the Regional Park Improvement Fund and Mission Bay Park Improvement Fund. The Regional Park Fund receives the first 25% or \$2.5 million, whichever is greater. Anything above that amount goes to the Mission Bay Park Improvement Fund. Starting in FY15, the \$23 million threshold fund drops to \$20 million, which means more money, will be given to both funds. These funds have to be used for capital Improvement projects.
 - The charter also names which parks are eligible for these funds. Mission Trails Regional Park is on the list.
 - We're looking at how to allocate these funds over a 5-year period so we can keep several CIP projects moving forward at the same time. This will also give us a better idea about what the construction cost will be for each project.
 - There are 4 projects being recommended this year for use of the funds: the California Tower Seismic Retrofit (Balboa Park), the Chicano Park Comfort Station, the Mohnike Hay Barn and Adobe Restoration in Rancho Penasquitos, and the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Drainage Improvements Phase 1 project.
302. MTRP Master Plan Update (MPU) and Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) – *Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Planning, Neighborhoods & Economic Development Department; and Mark Carpenter, KTU+A*
- A draft version of the Master Plan Update and a scoping letter for the environmental document should be released mid-November for the public, and a link to both documents can be found on the park website.
 - Both documents have made it through the pre-public agency comments, and we can officially begin the EIR process. The EIR is a minimum 1-year process.
 - The MPU and NRMP will go out as public drafts until the public draft EIR process begins. There will be ample time for the public to review and comment on both documents.
 - Dick Murphy asked about the US & CA Fish & Wildlife's recent letter to the City about the MPU and NRMP proposals, specifically what authority they have and if future projects could be held up if the City were to ignore their comments. Mark Carpenter responded that if the City did ignore their comments the agencies could come back with harsher comments that the City would be forced to respond to. Those responses could impact and devalue portions of the plan, and would greatly reduce the chances of obtaining permits from them for future projects.
 - Mark Carpenter added that there are trails proposed in the MPU for the East Elliot area that are similar in level to the unauthorized trails currently out there, but the new trails will be located in somewhat different locations depending on the natural resources and spread throughout the entire East Elliot area. There will also be public workshops specifically about the East Elliot area.

Public Comments:

- Tom Donnelly stated that the unauthorized trails in East Elliot are great for mountain biking compared to some of the authorized trails in MTRP, and suggested that the service roads be redesigned to offset the impact of some mountain biking trails. He added that the public has been going to the Santee Boulders area since the 60's and he assumed access to this area would remain. Jeff Harkness stated that the Santee Boulders land is still privately owned.
 - Kim Wiley stated that trail closures rarely work as intended, and often times result in unauthorized trail building and use in previously uninfected areas. He added that SDMBA has offered to help restore the unauthorized trails in exchange for continuing to ride trails in the East Elliot area until the MPU is approved.
 - Nate Franklin stated that the 'Deer Dancer' unauthorized trail was poorly constructed and that he would be happy to see it restored.
303. Status of creation of CIP for administration building and shade structure at the Equestrian Staging Area – *Jeff Harkness*
- Establishing a CIP for a project like this can be done through the budget process each year in July, or through the 1472 Council Action process. A request to start a new CIP for this project was received from the Park & Recreation Dept. and was routed through the 1472 Council Action Process.
 - We're trying to get on the December or January City Council meeting docket to approve the creation of this CIP.
304. Old Mission Dam Dredging/Maintenance project update – *Matt Sanford, Senior Park Ranger MTRP*
- We've been working with the Public Works Contracting Department and we're nearing a contract that can be released for bids.
 - We were recently advised that we still do not have the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) permit, and that within this permit is a requirement to consult with Native American entities to discuss the ramifications of this project.
 - Due to the recent government shutdown no work was done on the USACE permit. A representative from USACE was allowed a few hours during the shutdown to meet with City staff, and a Native American consultant at the Dam to discuss this project. She assured us that our permit would be worked on as soon as the shutdown is over.

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

The next CAC meeting will be Tuesday, January 7, 2013, at 6:30 PM.