

MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 6, 2014

Corrected at meeting of July 1, 2014

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Dorothy Leonard, Chair, Member at Large
Dick Murphy, Vice Chair, Special Member
Roger Utt, County of San Diego Parks & Recreation Committee
David Boyer, USMC Miramar
Jay Wilson, Navajo Community Planners
Jim McGinn, Scripps Ranch Civic Association
Richard Gadler, City of El Cajon
Frank Bathrick, City of Santee
Mike Pent, Special Member
Rich Thesing, Tierrasanta Community Council (alternate)
Betty Ogilvie, Tierrasanta Community Council
Paul Ganster, San Diego State University
Robert Chavez, City of San Diego Park & Recreation Board

Members Absent/Excused

Nancy Acevedo, Member at Large
Johnny Gonzales, City of La Mesa
John Pilch, San Carlos Area Council
Dale Shockley, Member at Large

City of San Diego

Andy Quinn, Park and Recreation Department
Steve Haupt, Park and Recreation Department
Roozbeh Ravansari, Park and Recreation Department
Liz Saidkhanian, Councilmember Sherman's office
Robin Shifflet, Neighborhoods & Economic Development Department
Craig Hooker, Neighborhoods & Economic Development Department

Guests

Stephen Goldfarb

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by CAC chair Dorothy Leonard.

ROLL CALL and introduction of new members

City of San Diego Open Space Division District Manager Steve Haupt welcomed the new Sr. Ranger Andy Quinn and the new Kumeyaay Lake Campground Center Director I, Roozbeh Ravansari. CAC members introduced themselves and gave a brief summary of their backgrounds.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (GADLER/UTT) to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 4, 2014. The motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – *Dorothy Leonard, Chair*

The Task Force approved the appointment of Robert Chavez to represent the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board, Jay Wilson to represent the Navajo Community Planners and reappointment of Dorothy Leonard as an At-Large member. City of El Cajon is still pending. Roger Utt was nominated to be the County of San Diego Park Advisory Committee representative. The Task Force reappointed Dorothy Leonard as Chairperson and Dick Murphy as Vice Chairperson for the MTRP CAC for another two years.

STAFF / RANGER'S REPORT – *Andy Quinn, MTRP Senior Park Ranger*

- Park Staff continues to replace lost/stolen signs and native brush that were installed at the access points of unauthorized trails created from 2010 to 2013. Additional restoration efforts and blocking access to other unauthorized trails in East Elliott is still pending.
- Graduation for the Trail Guide Class took place on Saturday March 29 at 9:00 a.m. in the Visitor Center amphitheater. Thanks to Fred Kramer, Bill Howell, Ranger Heidi and Ranger Chris for their excellent work.
- Ranger Heidi continues to lead the Habitat Restoration Crew (held on the 2nd Saturday of each month), Ranger Levi has taken over the Trail Improvement Crew from Ranger Mel (held on the 3rd Saturday), and Ranger Andrew has taken over the Park Beautification Crew from Tom (held on the 4th Saturday).
- Park Staff are gearing up for Explore Mission Trails Day – May 17th. GMW's Tom and Carmelo have been leading Urban Corps at the East Fortuna Staging area. Park Ranger Rebecca Smart has taken the lead for Explore Mission Trails Day at the East Fortuna Staging Area and has been meeting with former Mission Trails Ranger Mika, going over all the logistics.
- At West Sycamore, Park Rangers have been patrolling the area each week and have noticed that the trails are being used, mostly by mountain bikers. We're watching closely for any signs of illegal trail building. Volunteers Terry Gaughn and Bob Graham have been a huge help with trail maintenance in Beeler Canyon. ~~Rangers have also snow-fenced and re-vegged an illegal trail that mountain bikers were forming.~~ **Rangers have also snow-fenced and re-vegged an illegal trail that was formed by a vehicle years ago.**
- REI just completed their 5K Trail Run that took place on Saturday, May 3, from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Their total attendance was 75. The event was successful.
- Cowles Mountain continues to keep us very busy. The constant injuries are causing a lot of helicopter and ground rescues. Rangers have done a great job communicating with the SDFD and assisting them with rescues.

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

- No report in the absence of Gayle Havens.

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

- All of the primary sponsors for Explore Mission Trails Day are signed on.
- The Foundation received a \$10,000 grant from the Parker Foundation to fund a grant writer.
- The Boy Scout Merit Badge Program begins on June 1 with a class on Reptiles and Amphibians.
- The Foundation is involved in a 24 hour Give Big Campaign through San Diego Foundation. \$1,975.00 was raised.
- The Foundation has been doing community outreach by setting up booths at the Boy Scout Fair on April 26 and Earth Day in Balboa Park on April 27.

COMMUNICATIONS (Non-agenda public comment)

- Jay Wilson reported Police Chief Zimmerman will be a guest speaker at the San Carlos Area Council meeting on Wednesday, May 7.
- Rob Chavez reported the County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department is having a ribbon cutting at the Bay Front on Harbor Drive, Saturday, May 10, at 10:00 a.m.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. Navajo Community Plan Amendment/Grantville Proposed Park Equivalency in MTRP- *Robin Shifflet, Neighborhoods & Economic Development Department.*
- Robin Shifflet reported her new assignment title as Development Project Manager.
 - Introduced Craig Hooker as the new Park Planner/Designer
 - Proposal is to add about 4,200 units, roughly about 8,000 people that will require 23 new acres of park land. With this proposal, it's staff's responsibility to look through the community of Navajo to find additional park space for this additional population. Currently, Navajo Community has 121 acres of population based parks and a 15 acre deficit with the current population. Staff has spent three years working on finding other parkland within the Navajo Community. The goal is to find City owned properties so that the City doesn't have to pay to acquire new land. We identified school sites, city owned sites and are interested in including a portion of Mission Trails Regional Park. The general plan allows for park equivalencies which give other areas to look at in the City. We're getting a look at all our resource based parks to see whether there are areas that act like neighborhood parks. We can put in neighborhood amenities so that the community has more space to go to. The BMX site is one of the sites identified for enhancing so that it would act more like a neighborhood park. We've identified 13 acres in the BMX area in Mission Trails Regional Park. This 13 acres would be located in the Navajo Population based park inventory and could receive development impact fees to make improvements. Any improvements within MTRP would have to come before the MTRP CAC to receive design approval. Improvement ideas include overlooks, enhancing the BMX route itself,

enhancing the trail, providing shade structures, a trail that connects to the parking lot, and parking lot improvements.

- There were many concerns expressed by CAC members in regards to the proposal and a lengthy discussion took place. Robin Shifflet stated she will come back to the July 1 meeting, and bring a map of the entire Navajo area. She'll be presenting a power point which will display the different parks in the area, boundaries and what the linear feet of trail would be. This will be an action item on the July 1, 2014 MTRP CAC meeting agenda. The MTRP CAC recommendations will go forward to the MTRP Task Force.

302. FY2014/2015 Proposed Budget as it impacts the Open Space Division and Mission Trails Regional Park – *Steve Haupt, District Manager, Open Space Division, Park and Recreation Dept.*

Additional staff for the Open Space Division – 1. The campground has been restored and the budget includes a Center Director I and another Park Ranger. 2. One additional Ranger for additional Open Space acreage is also in budget. Council hearing to discuss the Park and Recreation Department budget is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on May, 7, 2014.

303. Reopening of Kumeyaay Lake Campground for overnight weekend camping – *Steve Haupt, District Manager, Open Space Division, Park and Recreation Dept.*

Planning to open the campground the weekend of June 13. The online registration program the City is working on is to be tested this week. Working on getting Rangers interviewed in the next couple of weeks.

304. Transfer of remaining West Sycamore acreage from private ownership to City of San Diego - *Steve Haupt, District Manager, Open Space Division, Park and Recreation Dept.*

The property owner was working on a few remaining punch list items. While ripping the ground to prepare for the hydroseeding, there was a lot of debris (concrete/asphalt) that was brought to the surface. Open Space staff will be out this week to inspect the work. If all goes well the land should be turned over shortly.

305. Old Mission Dam Dredging and Maintenance Project Update – *Steve Haupt for Jeannette DeAngelis, City of San Diego Public Works Department*

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is still trying to figure out how to adhere to their 2008 mitigation rule within the confines of local municipality regulations and policies.
- We're negotiating the final conditions of the new permit under the 2008 mitigation rule involving the long term maintenance, management and monitoring for the mitigation site, which is the site adjacent to Carlton Oaks. The 2008 mitigation rule has become a regional topic between many municipalities and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as it relates to long-term conservation measures and financial assurances. These items are difficult for municipalities to strictly adhere to. It is hoped that within the next couple of months the permit will be completed.

306. MTRP Master Plan (MPU) and Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) – *Robin Shifflet for Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Planning, Neighborhoods and Economic Development Department/ Mark Carpenter, KTU+A*

- City staff held a scoping meeting for the preparation of the EIR on April 17 at the Visitor Center. It was attended by 50 individuals. The comment period for the notice of preparation ended on May 2. Preparation of the EIR has started.

307. Status of the creation of a CIP for an administration building and shade structure at the Equestrian Staging Area – *Robin Shifflet for Jeff Harkness, Developmental Services Department, and Mark Carpenter, KTU+A*

This project was transferred from Development Services to the Public Works Department. They have a package to begin the project and are waiting for Financial Management to transfer the funds over to Engineering.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

The next CAC meeting will be Tuesday, July 1, 2014, at 6:30 PM.