

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 1, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Dorothy Leonard, Chair, Member at Large
Roger Utt, County of San Diego Park & Recreation Department
David Boyer, USMC Miramar
Jay Wilson, Navajo Community Planners
Jim McGinn, Scripps Ranch Civic Association
Frank Bathrick, City of Santee
Dale Shockley, Member at Large
Mike Pent, Special Member
Rich Thesing, Tierrasanta Community Council (alternate)
Betty Ogilvie, Tierrasanta Community Council
Mike Pent, Special Member
Robert Chavez, City of San Diego Park & Recreation Department
Nancy Acevedo, Member at Large
John Pilch, San Carlos Area Council

Members Absent/Excused

Dick Murphy, Vice Chair, Special Member
Richard Gadler, City of El Cajon
Paul Ganster, San Diego State University

City of San Diego

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

Guests

Jerry Bierman
Ben Stone, SDMBA
Susan vanWinkle
Kim Wiley, SDMBA
Kevin Loomis, SDMBA
Garett McDermid, SDMBA
Stephen Goldtarb
Roozbeh Ravansari
Daniel Smith, NCPI, Grantville Stakeholder

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM by CAC chair Dorothy Leonard.

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (Bathrick/Wilson) to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 6, 2014, with the following correction on page 2 under Staff/Rangers Report: “Rangers have also snow-fenced and re-vegged an illegal trail that was formed by a vehicle years ago.” The motion passed with John Pilch abstaining.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT – Dorothy Leonard, Chair

- Johnny Gonzales, new City of La Mesa representative to the CAC, has resigned due to lack of time. The City of La Mesa will be making a new nomination.
- Dale Shockley, an at-large member, has resigned due to a scheduling conflict.
- Roger Utt’s reappointment as the County of San Diego representative was approved at the May Task Force meeting.
- Dick Gadler is being nominated by the City of El Cajon to continue as their representative. His reappointment will be on the July Task Force agenda.
- At the request of the Task Force chair, the Task Force has agreed to have a User Group representative on the CAC. With the resignation of one of the three at-large members, the position held by Dale Shockley was converted to a User Group position. This change was made to the CAC Operating Rules at the May Task Force meeting. The wish of the Task Force chair, with the concurrence of the Task Force members, is to have this as an alternating position between the various User Groups. The Task Force chair is to recommend a policy for handling the User Group appointments. After the May meeting, a User Group application was created and distributed to various User Groups through the Task Force Chair’s office. It was also posted on the MTRP web site. The application deadline is July 1st. The Chair will be making the appointment which will be on the July 17th Task Force agenda for approval.

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

- Campground Opening
Thank you to MTRP staff and volunteers for their hard work in preparation of the campground. Councilmember Scott Sherman and his staff were very impressed. The morning KUSI segment on Thursday, June 12 ran smoothly, the official opening on Friday at 10:30 a.m. was a success. Center Director I Roozbeh Ravansari is picking up fast and is really excited to be here.
- Explore Mission Trails Day
All went very well. Thanks to the Foundation, CAC and Councilmember Scott Sherman, staff and volunteers, and all the agencies that volunteered their time.
- West Sycamore
The City is currently in the process of ordering trash receptacles, porta-potties and scheduling G4S security so that this area of the park can be opened soon. There’s still a lot of planning involved. Staff is currently working on the trailer placement which includes grading, ADA compliance, electrical and security measures. A conex box for storage will also be installed. Some changes will be made to the front entry gate to barricade/fence off entry points in an attempt to keep the illegal motorized vehicles out of the park.

WATER DEPARTMENT'S REPORT – *Sr. Ranger Andy Quinn reported for Gayle Havens, Lake Murray Reservoir Keeper*

- The Reservoir Keeper is out on leave recuperating from hand surgery – not an accident.
- Water level is good.
- The Canada Geese have nested and five of the six gosling still remain. This is a first for the Canada Geese.
- Blue Heron nested. No report on how many hatched.
- An Eagle Scout candidate just completed reroofing the sixth of seven “out-house” type bathrooms that are found around the lake.

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

- The Foundation recently received two grants –
 - \$10,000 from the Parker Foundation to pay for a part-time grant writer.
 - \$5,000 from REI to purchase eight Surface Pro 2 Tablets, keyboards and rugged carrying case for the Rangers to help them with their duties in the field. The MTRP Foundation provided funding to purchase a ninth unit so the Senior Ranger could have one as well.
- In a six week period – June 1 through July 16 – over 800 students, grades 3 through 7 will have participated in the field trip environmental education program funded by SDG&E.
- The Foundation was contacted by Louis Nava, the local contact for Google Maps. The MTRP map will be updated to include the new West Sycamore property, points of interest in the park, and photo spheres which will pop up at key points in the park and show pictures of the area in question.
- The second Boy Scout Merit badge class in six weeks was held earlier this week and an insect merit badge class is scheduled for the end of July.
- The San Diego Girl Scout Council is selecting a date for their first program.
- For community outreach, one of the Foundation's Education Program Instructors is holding a weekly summer class at the San Carlos Library; the most successful one in years.
- Southwest Strategies and Associates have begun issuing pro-bono news releases regarding MTRP. The first release was for the campground ribbon cutting and the Friday evening “S'Mores” party with Channel 8 doing a lengthy story on the campground and the festivities.

COMMUNICATIONS (Non-agenda public comment)

- John Pilch stated there will be no 4th of July fireworks this year at Lake Murray. The City Council settled with Marco Gonzalez, an attorney who represents the Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation, for \$250,000 last month. Along with the settlement came guidelines for a Special Event Permit. It appears that a full environmental impact report would be required which might preclude fireworks from ever happening again at Lake Murray.
- John Pilch stated, the San Carlos Area Council is having a meeting July 2 at the San Carlos library at 6:00 p.m. Fire Chief Dan Froelich will be discussing defensible space and how to protect your home especially near the canyon with the drought conditions that are going on. July 10, at 6:00 p.m., there will be a town hall meeting to discuss parking issues at the foot of the Cowles Mountain staging area. The meeting will be held at the Tifereth Israel Synagogue.

- John Pilch stated that nextdoor.com, which is the new online neighborhood watch program initiated by SDPD, has good information on it.

ACTION ITEMS

None

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. Navajo Community Plan Amendment: Two Proposed Park Equivalencies within MTRP: Bike Skills Area and the San Diego River Pathway - *Robin Shifflet, Planning, Neighborhoods & Economic Development Department.*
- Robin Shifflet reported that staff looked at the Mission Trails Master Plan and the Master Plan Update to see if there were any areas in the park that can act like a neighborhood park for Navajo. The bike skills area at Deerfield and the San Diego River Pathway were the two locations considered. A map of the area was passed around. The San Diego River trail is roughly 4.3 miles long, from the west end all the way up to the East Fortuna Staging area. The alignment comes directly from the Master Plan Update. Staff took a look at the areas that need improvement which is what the development impact fees would be used for. When City staff comes back in two months for a CAC recommendation, they would like to include the San Diego River Park trail.
 - CAC chair Dorothy Leonard appointed an ad-hoc subcommittee of the CAC which includes Dick Murphy, Jay Wilson, John Pilch, Mike Pent and Dorothy Leonard to meet with City staff and develop a Park Equivalency recommendation; to be presented at the September 2014 CAC meeting.
 - Robin Shifflet distributed a map from the amendment to the Navajo Plan which shows all the parks for the Navajo community.
 - Daniel Smith who represents Navajo Planners as well as Grantville Stakeholders stated he is really excited about the Park Equivalency opportunity and appreciates what Robin Shifflet is doing.
302. Deerfield bike park – Ben Stone
- Ben Stone, member of the San Diego Mountain Bike Association, presented a power point presentation about a bike skills park. It teaches users how to ride a bike on an uneven road scenario. A road cyclist and/or someone who commutes daily can learn a lot from a bike skills park. Mr. Stone envisioned the bike skills park to increase the available activities in the local community and relieve some of the current impact areas in the trail system at MTRP. This area in particular can be improved with limited environmental concern. Mr. Stone then addressed liability issues in regards to the bike skills park. CAC chair Leonard stated that a Bike Skills Park is included in the MTRP MPU recommendations, and that liability issues are out of the purview of the CAC.
303. 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.* (Before giving his report, Steve Haupt introduced Center Director I, Roozbeh Ravansari. Roozbeh Ravansari stated the attendance for the campground has been consistent and is expecting the July 4 weekend to be very busy.)

- The City has officially accepted the West Sycamore property. Funds have been budgeted for an office trailer, entry repairs, security, porta potty, etc. It has taken longer than anticipated to mobilize the vendors needed to officially open. South Bay Fence is scheduled this week to get the entry gates squared away and once that happens the area can be officially opened. The Ranger office trailer and other items can be installed as we go.
 - Still to be done is a landscape plan for the West Sycamore staging area. The following ad-hoc subcommittee of the CAC was appointed by the CAC Chair: Jim McGinn (chair), Roger Utt and David Boyer. This ad-hoc subcommittee will work with MTRP staff to come up with a plan to be presented to the CAC and Task Force at a future meeting.
304. Old Mission Dam Dredging and Maintenance Project Update – *Steve Haupt for Jeannette DeAngelis, City of San Diego Public Works Department*
Sorry to say, City staff is still working on finding a solution to the mitigation requirements of the Army Corps. An acceptable solution may have been found and Jeannette DeAngelis is hoping to have a meeting with their staff sometime this week.
305. MTRP Master Plan (MPU) and Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) – *Andy Quinn reported for Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Planning, Neighborhoods and Economic Development Department/ Mark Carpenter, KTU+A*
- The Notice of Preparation of the Environmental Report comment period has ended. No significant additional issues from the public for environmental document preparation were received. Most comments were for the Draft Master Plan Update itself and reflected comments previously provided to staff and the consultant during the preparation of the Draft MPU.
 - Staff and the consultant anticipate a meeting with the Wildlife Agencies this month to address comments that the Agencies provided as part of a preliminary review of the Draft MPU and during the Notice of Preparation comment period.
 - Staff and the consultant are also working with Environment staff on submittal of Technical Reports for the first screen check of the Environmental Document and addressing Development Services Department (DSD) comments provided as part of the Public Project Assessment review.
306. Status of the creation of a CIP for an administration building and shade structure at the East Fortuna Staging Area – *Andy Quinn for Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Planning, Neighborhoods and Economic Development Department*
- The Public Works Department held a staff Project Kick-off meeting on June 23rd for the formal transfer of the “MTRP Equestrian & Multi-use Staging Area Administration Building and Shade Structure” to its Engineering Branch, Architectural Engineering & Parks Division. Ali Darvishi, Project Officer III, will be overseeing Division staff in the development of the construction drawings for this project.

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

The next CAC meeting will be Tuesday, September 2, 2014, at 6:30 PM.