

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2014**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members Present**

Dorothy Leonard, Chair, Member at Large  
David Boyer, USMC Miramar  
Jay Wilson, Navajo Community Planners  
Jim McGinn, Scripps Ranch Civic Association  
Frank Bathrick, City of Santee  
Mike Pent, Special Member  
Rich Thesing, Tierrasanta Community Council (alternate)  
Betty Ogilvie, Tierrasanta Community Council  
Mike Pent, Special Member  
Nancy Acevedo, Member at Large  
John Pilch, San Carlos Area Council  
Paul Ganster, San Diego State University  
Dick Murphy, Vice Chair, Special Member

**Members Absent/Excused**

Richard Gadler, City of El Cajon  
Roger Utt, County of San Diego Park & Recreation Department  
Robert Chavez, City of San Diego Park & Recreation Department

**City of San Diego**

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

**Guests**

Rick Wiley, SDMBA	Julie Adams, SDMBA
Jerry Bierman	Andy Nelen, SDMBA
Ben Stone, SDMBA	David Sparks, SDMBA
Robert Craddick, SDMBA	Brian Cox, SDMBA
Brian Fitz	Tina Uppencamp
Minette Uzake, SDMBA	Matt Guilbert, SDMBA
Kathy Keehan, SDMA	Jim Kenny, SDMBA
Phil Moses	Seth Hanson, SDMBA
Brennan Lindner, Xterra	Kim Wiley, SDMBA
Eric Holland, SDMBA	Kevin Loomis, SDMBA
Austin Millsap	Roosbeh Ravansari, CDI

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by CAC chair Dorothy Leonard.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (Acevedo/Bathrick) to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 1, 2014, with the following correction, on page 3 under Water Department's

Report, Blue Herring should read, Blue Heron and Canadian Geese should read Canada Geese. The motion passed with David Boyer and John Pilch abstaining.

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

The July Task Force meeting was canceled due to lack of a quorum.

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

MTRP Fires

The first fire was spotted on the hillside of Kwaay Paay Peak by a park guest on Sunday, July 13 at about 2:15pm. No park guests were harmed and no structures were damaged in the fire. Due to the high heat over that weekend, the park had fewer guests than usual. It burned 95 acres on Kwaay Paay (one of the five major peaks in Mission Trails Regional Park ). It was declared 100% contained on Monday afternoon. The North/South Climbers Loop Trail, Oak Grove North Loop, and the Kwaay Paay Trail were closed. We've now opened Kwaay Paay Trail, Oak Grove North Loop and the North Climber's Loop Trail.

On Thursday, 8/28 at 8:45pm, we had another smaller fire 40 ft. by 10 ft. at Cowles Mountain off Navajo/Golfcrest. Fire Investigator Patrick Buckley arrived on scene. At this time, the cause is unknown.

West Sycamore

We're officially open. G4S Security is opening the entry gate at 8am and closing at 7pm. Trash receptacles have been placed. Grading is complete for the trailer placement, the next step is electrical. We should be getting porta-potties very soon. Ranger staff has done an excellent job removing weeds, old concrete, installing new signs and enforcing rules/regulations. We still have a lot of work ahead of us.

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

- The Canada Geese babies are doing great, we only lost one out of six, but the family is staying close. They are very protective still of their babies, but they are big and strong.
- The Great Blue Heron babies have left their nest. So my hope is, they will use the same nest next year. It was active for the last two years.
- The water level is good, but with the heat we are having algae in the water, it will clear on its own. Fishing is good.
- Big thanks to Barbara Cleves Anderson, retired chair of Friends of Lake Murray, for using the Friends of Lake Murray donated account money to replace the stairs, to access the lake from Baltimore Drive. La Mesa Lumber donates so much to Eagle Scouts for projects at the lake, we gave them the business and they recommended a great contractor to take on the project.
- I love a clean San Diego is scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

- Third Annual Art in the Park fundraiser is October 11, flyers are available. Tickets are \$25 each.

- Received a \$25,000 Environmental Champions grant from SDG&E for county schools and group fieldtrips
- All Rangers now have new binoculars through a grant from REI and a contribution from the MTRP Foundation.
- Through Google Maps & Google Business, there will be a virtual tour video of the park available on Google Maps on the MTRP website by the end of September.
- Proposals for a 6th grade over-night camping and two day fieldtrip is moving forward. City schools and Park and Recreation staff are talking to each other to work out the details. This will be funded from another SDG&E Environmental Champions Grant.

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

Liz Saidkhanian, representing Councilmember Scott Sherman, reported there will be a fire safety meeting tomorrow, September 3, at 5:30 p.m. at MTRP which is open to the public.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

101. Trails run presentation by Clean Trails – *Pulled from the agenda*
102. Generic Events XTERRA Mission Gorge Trail Run – February 1, 2015  
Brennan Linder presented a summary of the XTERRA Mission Gorge Trail Run.  
**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Pent/Pilch) to support the Generic Events XTERRA Mission Gorge Trail Run – February 1, 2015. The motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.
103. Children for Children 5K – *Postponed to October 28<sup>th</sup> CAC meeting.*
104. Navajo Community Plan Amendment – Proposed Park Equivalencies within MTRP: Bike Skills Area, Deerfield Canyon Nature Park and the San Diego River Pathway – Report and recommendation from the MTRP CAC ad hoc subcommittee

Presentation by Robin Shifflet, City of San Diego Planning Department, requesting support for the three park equivalencies that would be included in proposed amendments to the Navajo Community Plan. As presented at previous CAC meetings, the equivalencies include the Deerfield Park Skills Park, the San Diego River Trail and Deer Field Canyon Nature Park.

#### Public testimony

Ben Stone from the San Diego Mountain Bike Association reported receiving 775 signatures in support of the park equivalency recommendation. This could be a world class bike park, it would serve the community. Hopefully we can make this happen.

Robert Craddick from the San Diego Mountain Bike Association stated that he is an MTRP mountain biker and would cherish the opportunity to see a resource like the proposed Bike Skills Park for his child and his neighbors.

#### CAC member comments

Paul Ganster expressed concerns that this wouldn't really create a neighborhood park to serve the Grantville area as people will have to get into their cars and drive, which is very much against the tenor of discussion about creating walkable neighborhoods and other options from people getting from dense Grantville. It's a major concern because it seems that locating something remotely from a dense population goes against the direction of what

we're trying to do in the region, in terms of reconfiguring densities in population, and ease of transportation. How are the equivalencies determined?

Robin Shifflet's response:

When we locate parks throughout the Navajo Community, it's for everyone in the community. Even if Grantville wasn't redeveloping, the City would still need to look for more park land because Navajo as a community is growing. The 2008 City of San Diego general plan recognized that we're running out of land available to buy. Land here in San Diego is very expensive. The plan said, let's look at park equivalencies. The equivalencies are to look at trails, Mission Trails Regional Park, Joint Use Facilities, private parks (that are open to the public) which gave us more latitude to look at different ways of finding parks for people in these communities that don't have any more land. We've been working on the Grantville redevelopment plan for close to four years. A lot of time has been spent with the Navajo Community representatives identifying park equivalencies. We looked at Mission Trails Regional Park and thought, what would be comparable to a neighborhood park in Mission Trails and still meet the master plan guidelines. That's how we came up with these certain sites that would look and feel somewhat like a neighborhood park. Part of the financing for the park equivalencies is from development impact fees within that community. It covers a certain percentage. Other funds will come from grants and MTRP funds, where we would group a bunch of money together to implement the budget. Right now, MTRP does not get developer impact fees. Park equivalencies identified MTRP, which can receive development impact fees along with other funding that comes to this park. It's a way of supplementing the funding to make improvements.

#### Ad hoc subcommittee report

Dick Murphy reported the following.

The ad hoc subcommittee comprised of Dorothy Leonard, Jay Wilson, John Pilch, Mike Pent, and Dick Murphy, met with the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Staff to see if there was some way we could use the initiative to provide improvements to the park. We looked at funding for a Bike Skills Park, the San Diego River Trail and the Deer Field Canyon Nature Park. The ad hoc subcommittee recommends approval of the three proposed park equivalencies for the Navajo Community Plan Amendment. In addition we specifically would make findings that this proposal is consistent with the MTRP Master Plan and that implementation should provide significant benefits to Mission Trails Regional Park.

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Murphy/Acevedo) to approve the MTRP CAC ad hoc subcommittee recommendation and recommend to the Task Force the following three proposed park equivalencies for the Navajo Community Plan Amendment that are located in Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP): (1) Deerfield Bike Skills Area of approximately 12 acres; (2) Deerfield Canyon Nature Park of approximately 2 acres; (3) San Diego River Pathway improvements of approximately 7 acres. Further, the MTRP CAC finds that this proposal (1) is consistent with the MTRP Master Plan and (2) would provide significant benefits to the Park. The CAC recommends that any future request for park equivalencies in MTRP must meet these two criteria. Motion carried unanimously, with D. Boyer abstaining.

105. Naming three unnamed trails and renaming two quarries and the two main Fortuna entrances shown in the Draft MTRP Master Plan Update – Report and recommendations from the ad hoc subcommittee.

Dick Murphy reported for the ad hoc subcommittee.

On Saturday July 26, 2014, the subcommittee members Dick Murphy, Dick Gadler, and Mike Pent met with MTRP Ranger Mel Naidas, visited the subject sites, and made the following recommendations:

1. The “Equestrian Multi-use Staging Area” be renamed the “East Fortuna Staging Area” to reflect its location in the park.
2. The “Clairemont Mesa Boulevard Staging Area” be renamed the “West Fortuna Staging Area” to better reflect its location in the park. However, the sign at the entrance to the staging area which reads “MTRP Tierrasanta Entrance” would remain in place.
3. The quarry tentatively named in the draft master plan update as the “Jackson Drive Quarry” be named the “Southwest Boundary Quarry” to better reflect its location in the park.
4. The quarry tentatively named in the draft master plan update as the “Southwest Boundary Quarry” be named the “Visitors Center Loop Quarry” because of its proximity to the Visitors Center Loop Trail.
5. The unnamed trail noted as R10 in the draft master plan update be named the “Suycott Valley South Trail” because of its location.
6. The “Suycott Wash South Trail” be renamed the “Suycott Valley North Trail” to better reflect its location.
7. The unnamed trail noted as R24 in the draft master plan be named the Suycott Valley Bypass Trail” because of its location.
8. The unnamed trail noted as R26 in the draft master plan be named the “Shepherd Ridge Trail” to reflect its location.

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Murphy/Wilson) to approve the recommendation of the ad hoc subcommittee to (1) rename the two main Fortuna entrances as stated in items 1 and 2 above, (2) name two quarries as stated in items 3 and 4 above, and (3) rename one trail and name three unnamed trails as stated in items 5 through 8 above, as shown in the Draft MTRP Master Plan Update. Motion carried unanimously with D. Boyer abstaining.

106. Request from MTRP Foundation Board of Directors to amend the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation, Inc. and City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department Visitor & Interpretive Center Special Event Rules and Regulations by eliminating the restriction prohibiting rental of the Visitor and Interpretive Center for “private parties (e.g., birthday parties, bar mitzvahs, weddings, baptism, memorial services)”.

Foundation Board member Shannon O’Dunn made the presentation on behalf of the Foundation. The goal is to garner additional funds to support educational programs, displays, videos and go beyond to extend what the foundation can fund for the park. The Foundation has taken into account that we can expect the wear and tear of the facility to increase and agree to set aside funds up to the amount of \$25,000 for refurbishment and repairs.

Staff recommendation. This item was referred to City staff for a recommendation to come back to the CAC at the meeting of October 28, 2014.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

301. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines for Processing Sports, Grounds Use and Special Event Park Permits within City of San Diego Parks – *Andy Quinn for Steve Haupt*
- In 2010 a lawsuit filed by Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation alleged that the City's process for issuing permits was discretionary and therefore subject to CEQA review. (This was initially brought up regarding the 4th of July fireworks celebrations but pertains to all City special events.)
  - In 2011 the Muni Code was amended to clarify the park permit process but further litigation delayed its implementation.
  - In June 2014, City Council approved the settlement of the lawsuits. The settlement means that discretionary special event permits and discretionary park use permits are required to go to Development Services Division for a CEQA review.
  - All Open Space Park capacities have been set at 50 people. Any permit requested that has less than 50 people in attendance must be approved. It's a ministerial permit meaning we have little or no judgment regarding park operations, impacts etc.
  - Any event that anticipates over 50 in attendance is a discretionary permit and requires CEQA review. These are considered discretionary because park staff has to determine what the impacts to the park could be. Parking, impacts to regular users, maintenance, etc.
  - The process for discretionary permits: The Sr. Ranger takes in a park use Reservation not a Permit. The reservation form along with a detailed event diagram is submitted to the Development Services Department (DSD) for the CEQA review. There is no fee. We are told they have a person that was hired specifically for these reviews and that we should allow 60 days for the process, at least initially.
302. Old Mission Dam Dredging/Maintenance project update – *Jeannette DeAngelis, City of San Diego Public Works Department*
- Senior Ranger Andy Quinn reported for project manager Jeannette DeAngelis. She has been working diligently to get the permit and it looks like we may finally be there if all goes well with administrative review at the Army Corps. It has been an ongoing conversation with the Corps to remove mitigation conditions that no longer apply or present onerous requirements on the City and the Park and Recreation Department. She doesn't want to just accept a cookie cutter permit that would significantly increase the cost and implementation of the long-term maintenance of the dam. She hopes this time the Corps is amenable to the City's strategy.
303. MTRP Master Plan and Resource Management Plan – Andy Quinn reported for *Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Planning, Neighborhoods and Economic Development Dept. / Mark Carpenter, KTU+A*
- Meeting with the Wildlife Agencies to address comments provided as part of a preliminary review of the Draft MPU and during the Notice of Preparation comment period. Staff and the consultant submitted the first screen check of the Environmental document the first week of August. We are anticipating receiving comments the later part of September. City staff will be meeting with the environmental section tomorrow to confirm their review schedule. Any modification to this schedule will be reported to the CAC and Task Force.

304. Status of planning for administration building and shade structure at Equestrian Staging Area  
– *Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Planning, Neighborhoods & Economic Development Dept.*  
No report

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

The next CAC meeting will be Tuesday, October 28, 2014, at 6:30 PM.