

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2009
MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TASK FORCE

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Task Force was held on Thursday September 17, 2009, Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center, One Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego, California 92119

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Councilmember Marti Emerald, City of San Diego
Councilmember Brian Jones, City of Santee
Dorothy Leonard, Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee Chair
Councilmember Ruth Sterling, City of La Mesa

City of San Diego

Park and Recreation Department: Open Space Deputy Director Chris Zirkle, Open Space District Manager Steve Haupt, Mission Trails Regional Park Senior Ranger Tracey Walker
San Diego City Water Department: Nelson Manville
Council District 7 Staff Representatives: Chris Pearson

Members Absent

Supervisor Pam Slater, County of San Diego
Supervisor Diane Jacob, County of San Diego
Councilmember Donna Frye, City of San Diego

Guests

San Diego County Water Authority: Mojgan Poursadighi, Craig Balen
City of Santee: John Coates
San Diego Mountain Bike Association: Kim Wiley, Gardner Grady
Peter Tomsovic: RECON
Dale Shockley: Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Marti Emerald at 12:15 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the minutes of July 16th, 2009. (Leonard / Sterling) carried unanimously with the following corrections. The San Diego County Water Authority report for the minutes of July 16th carries the following modifications.

- Mission Trails Tunnel: Construction is proceeding well. The tunnel is 75% complete. If all goes well, this project should be completed on schedule by June of 2011.
- FRS-2 progress: This project is scheduled to begin in mid 2011.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES

None

CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Chair Marti Emerald made some positive comments on the park tour Senior Ranger Walker offered to the Chair and her staff. Areas covered included Cowles Mountain summit, the Old Mission Dam area and other related points of interest. The ride underlined the need to do some truck road maintenance on Cowles Mountain. Mention was made of the need to explore the re-alignment of the main hiking trail, as well. Erosion and trail cutting are taking a serious toll on the trail.

Judy McCarty announced her retirement from the CAC, directing her energies in other areas. Chair Emerald thanked Judy for her many years of service to the people of the City of San Diego. Her presence will be missed.

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE / FOUNDATION REPORT

CAC Chair Dorothy Leonard reported the last MTRP CAC action: Regarding Item #201, the subcommittee has completed its recommendation to the Task Force. Chair of the Ad-hoc committee, Dale Shockley, will discuss this later in this meeting. The criteria for ground use permits were discussed as well with a final draft being considered by the MTRP CAC in November. The Lake Murray Community Park improvements / upgrades will be on the CAC agenda for action in November as well.

Dorothy Leonard and Jay Wilson are working on a grant (60K) from Sempra Energy for the transportation of students and families to the park for an educational program here at MTRP. Grant funding awards should be announced around November 1st.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Lake Murray Report: Nelson Manville reported:

- Water temp is at 74 degrees.
- The reservoir is full, with the launch ramp operational.
- Major park clean-ups along the lakes shoreline are scheduled for this month via I Love a Clean San Diego and Friends of Lake Murray.
- The Water Department has provided a fishing clinic for kids during July and August of this year.
- New lake gate times were posted September 1st. Patrons are adjusting to this with no problems.

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- Senior Ranger Walker reported on Ranger Heidi Gutknecht's accident. Heidi was almost

hit by a Transit System bus. The encounter ended with Heidi's bicycle destroyed and Heidi sustaining a broken arm and shoulder. She is expected to make a full recovery.

- Ranger Walker conducted a tour of the Cowles Mountain and Old Mission Dam areas for Councilmember Emerald and her staff. Several issues were discussed, including the need for a new Cowles Mountain primary trail alignment that allows for maintenance and erosion control.
- The first ever Fire Rescue / Ranger Program training took place this month. The resulting information exchange will further enhance our ability to assist during rescues and emergency operations. Special thanks to Councilmember Emerald and her team for facilitating the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

201. San Diego County Water Authority Habitat Restoration Plan review. MTRP CAC ad hoc committee chair Dale Shockley reported on the sub committee's 112 questions that were "answered very well by the Water Authority and by RECON".

- The ad hoc subcommittee and the MTRP CAC recommend that the MTRP Task Force accept the SDCWA report with the sub committee's comments / corrections incorporated.
- It was noted, along with the above, that verbiage be included stating that implementation of the plan would not result in any additional monies or responsibilities to the City of San Diego.
- Shockley noted that most of the corrections were verbiage related.
- The bottom line is that the submitted report is a very well prepared five year plan. Ad hoc subcommittee members included: Dale Shockley (Chair), Matt Rahn, John Pilch, Rodger Utt, and David Boyer.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (LEONARD / STERLING) to accept the SDCWA report as recommended by the MTRP CAC ad hoc subcommittee and MTRP CAC, with the stipulation that the plan not result in any additional costs or responsibilities to the City of San Diego.

INFORMATION

301. Update on efforts by the County of San Diego to acquire land for the Stowe Trail. The Navy is unwilling to move off their appraisal figure of seven million dollars. Meetings between Supervisor Jacob's office and county departments will take place during the next several weeks to discuss strategies for moving forward.

302. San Diego County Water Authority Projects. The tunnel project is going well, with the contractor on schedule for a finish date in June of 2011. The San Diego River crossing project is underway at this time. The resulting "Arizona crossing" will facilitate a much safer corridor into the central region of the park for Rangers and other emergency responders. Completion should occur in the next few weeks. There was a concrete pad that was left over from a previous access road. Part of the contractor's job was to remove that

pad and associated concrete encasement. It was determined that there was about ten feet of fill material placed in that area that needs to be removed as well. That fill could affect the success of the area re-vegetation. RECON will be following up on this issue. Note: The Chair asked to see a budget describing the cost for removing the above mentioned fill material.

303. CIP Project Updates

- a. Old Mission Dam Maintenance Project. No action to report. The process concerning required input from various governmental and regulatory agencies involved in the process for moving forward on the OMD maintenance project was discussed.
- b. Equestrian Staging Area Comfort station. This project is now with the Engineering and Capital Projects Department. The consultant contract will be going to council later this month.
- c. MTRP Resources Management Plan and Master Plan update. CPCI conducted interviews with five consultant candidates in early August. Recommendation has been made to their department director to begin negotiations with their selected consultant. That information is confidential until all concerned parties have been notified of the results.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Senior Park Ranger
Tracey Walker
Staff Representative

Next meeting: November 19, 2009 @ 12:15 p.m.

Location: Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center, One Father Junipero Serra Trail
San Diego California 92119