

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2010
MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TASK FORCE**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Task Force was held on May 27, 2010 in the library of the 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
Councilmember Donna Frye, City of San Diego

City of San Diego

Park and Recreation Department: Open Space Deputy Director, Chris Zirkle, Open Space District
Mission Trails Regional Park Senior Ranger Rick Thompson
CPCI- Park Planning: Deborah Sharp, Jeff Harkness,
ECP-EAP: Jeanette DeAngelis
San Diego City Water Department: Nelson Manville
Council District 7 Staff Representatives: Chris Pearson
Council District 6 Staff Representative: Mary Ann Kempczenski

Members Absent

Supervisor Pam Slater, County of San Diego
Supervisor Diane Jacob, County of San Diego

Guests

City of Santee, Sue Richardson

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Marti Emerald at 12:37 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Approve the minutes of November 19, 2009 (Fry / Leonard) carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES

None

CHAIRPERSON REPORT

None

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE / FOUNDATION REPORT

CAC Chair Dorothy Leonard reported on recommendations for approval of Items 101, 102 and 104. Dorothy Leonard reported on the presentation of the 30% review of the comfort station plans at the May meeting, and the discussion of security concerns. Sixty percent plans are now available for review. The CAC supported including trail policy recommendations in the recreational element and glossary of the City General Plan with the Trail Standards/Guidelines being incorporated as an appendix. Trail Standards would define trail types, widths, surface material, and designated use. CAC accepted the staff recommendations regarding "Dog off leash" proposed amendments to the municipal code. Matt Rahn, representative from SDSU, mentioned that the City is obtaining a Master Channel Clearing Permit for the San Diego River, and suggested that the staff make inquiries regarding including MTRP river related projects in the permit. This could possibly include Kumeyaay Lake and Old Mission Dam projects. MTRP Foundation, working with park staff, held a very successful "Explore Mission Trails Day". Thank you to Marti Emerald and the San Diego City Council for the Resolution proclaiming May 15, 2010 as "Explore Mission Trails Day". There was a 25% attendance increase from last year's event, with most booths becoming interactive "Discovery Stations". Councilmember Marti Emerald discussed the opportunity to display photos from the "Photo Contest" at City Hall.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Lakes Program Supervisor Nelson Manville presented a comprehensive report on Lake Murray, including change of gate entrance times to open at 5:30AM and close at 8:00PM. Nelson reported that the baseball activities are in full swing at the San Carlos recreation center fields across the reservoir. Recent Lake Murray activities included: April 24th Rotary Club reroofing the structures that supports the large barbecue built by the Kiwanis many years ago, and the picnic table covers in Sycamore Grove. April 25th Cub Scouts completed a project of mounting 4 fishing string recycling bins and will maintain for 2 years, recycling the string. Other notable projects included major cleanups, graffiti removal, painting of picnic tables, removal of invasive plants, trimming and/or removal of palms after unknown arsons tried to burn fronds and other park structures. Palms were checked for the presence of raptors, as well as pigeons and rats.

Fishing is generally good for bass with some large females (12lb) being released. Trout plants from the Department of Fish and Game are ongoing, with the last major stocking in April. Water temperature is around 71 degrees, and the bass spawn has produced many fry (baby bass).

The launch ramp is operative, however the reservoir is being lowered by a couple of feet to facilitate repairs to the sink hole in the maintenance road near the San Carlos arm of the lake. Lowering the lake will also allow for the drying and compaction of exposed soils improving the effectiveness of the run-off areas. Road work is scheduled from June 8th to July 9th at San Carlos Bay, and Nelson met with environmental staff to evaluate the location of a possible bypass trail to reduce conflicts from Lake Murray patrons and active maintenance worksites. Other activities included an off-site evaluation of new culverts to be installed, fire control / weed abatement where needed, extensive repairs of the entrance causeway to the primary dock, and clean-out of the 4 mile diversion ditch. The July 4th fireworks will take place on the Park and Recreation side of the lake as it did last year (Golfcrest area). Nelson reported on the completion of the last 4 wood duck boxes located near the

lake spillway, including the installation of new nesting material. The boxes are being used by the wood ducks, and there is expectation of many new ducklings this year.

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Senior Ranger Thompson introduced himself to the Task Force, and gave a short biography of his career with the City of San Diego at the request of Councilmember Marti Emerald. Rick started his career with the City of San Diego as the Trails Ranger at Mission Trails, promoting first to Senior Ranger at Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve and then to the classification of Project Officer II as the Citywide Open Space Trails Manager. During his last 5 years as Trails Manager he completed the Citywide Trail Standards, adopted by not only Park and Recreation, but also the Public Utilities Department, and as an appendix to the City Consultants Guide. Rick also completed a comprehensive Trails Master Plan with all trails (approved and unapproved) mapped by GPS, and how they related to Community Plans throughout the city. Unfortunately, as a result of the Reduction in Force program, Rick was bumped from this position before the adoption of the Trails Master Plan. As a result Rick returned to MTRP as Senior Ranger. The return of Senior Ranger Thompson will hopefully move several major Trail CIP projects forward, as well as other projects he had worked on while posted to MTRP at the start of his career with the City. Senior Ranger Thompson discussed projects he hoped to move forward, including the Cowles Mountain Trails, cooperative efforts with SDCWA, and the variety of events taking place at MTRP.

Deputy Director, Chris Zirkle expanded on this change in personnel. Stating that the change was part of the Civil Service process for public employees. Chris informed the Task Force that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was not indemnified per the City Attorney. Indemnification could possibly be achieved by registering CAC members as City Volunteers, with a recommendation that a long term solution may require Council Action. Dorothy Leonard discussed the need for appropriate indemnification, including training, for CAC members. This could possibly include “on line” training. This will be included on the July CAC meeting agenda.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Mission Trails Regional Park Endowment Fund with San Diego Foundation: Transfer of the distributable balance of \$1,271.96 (2009 earnings less San Diego Foundation management fee) to MTRP Foundation for the Visitor Center Water and Conservation exhibit – *Leonard*

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (Leonard / Jones) to support the transfer to MTRP Foundation for the Visitor Center Water & Conservation exhibit. The motion passed unanimously.

102. Use of “The San Diego Foundation” fund income from 2008 and 2009 in amount of \$2,638.99 toward the new water and conservation exhibit to replace the current history of water exhibit installed in 1995. – *Leonard*

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (Leonard / Sterling) to approve the use of “The San Diego Foundation” fund toward the new water and conservation exhibit to replace the current history of water exhibit installed in 1995. The motion passed unanimously.

103. Reappointment of Gene Hatton as the City of Santee representative to the MTRP CAC as recommended by Santee Mayor Randy Voepel. – *Emerald*

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (Jones / Leonard) to approve the reappointment of Gene Hatton as the City of Santee representative to the MTRP CAC as recommended by Santee Mayor Randy Voepel. The motion passed unanimously.

104. Allocation of \$179,829 from MTRP Antenna Fund to MTRP Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan – *Harkness*

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (Emerald / Jones) to approve the allocation of \$179,829 from the MTRP Antenna Fund for the MTRP Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. FY2011 CIP proposed budget for MTRP Projects – CPCI staff
Old Mission Dam Preservation project for long term preservation permits shows the utilization of EGF funds in the amount of \$175,000. However, it was recently determined that the account fund balance is actually \$140,000. It is felt that the \$140,000 will be sufficient and the additional \$30,000 was actually a cushion for additional charges that may occur. Jeff Harkness explained that the discrepancy is a result of budget amounts not catching up to actual funding allocated and that the \$30,000 difference could be added if needed at a later date.
302. CIP Project updates
- a. MTRP Master Plan and Resource Management Plan update – Jeff Harkness
The City is currently in negotiations with consultants on an update in scope of services and will be going before the NRC (Natural Resource Committee) for a recommendation before going to City Council for approval of the 1472. This is scheduled to go before NRC on June 16, 2010. Antenna fund allocation will be included in future budgeted update.
 - b. Old Mission Dam Maintenance Project – Jeanette DeAngelis
Jeanette DeAngelis provided an update to the current status of the OMD project, and explained that this project had not been worked on for some time and she was only recently assigned the project. Jeanette explained that she is working on the long-term maintenance of this project, including permitting for maintenance dredging as needed. Removal of biomass material accumulated over the last year will require restarting the removal process (including tuber material from arundo). For the mitigation site, estimated start of plant establishment is mid June, with estimated completion in December. Five year maintenance and monitoring will begin after the 120 day establishment period is completed. This, and the fact this project did not move forward much in the last year, will result in a two year delay from the previously proposed timeline. Ms. DeAngelis stated that we are currently in nesting season, and work will be limited. The impacts that occurred triggered a Section 7 consultation

with Fish and Wildlife for the taking of a pair of Least Bell's Vireo (based on disturbance and removal of vegetation). The mitigation project will support at least one pair of Vireo. She will be meeting with consultants and a biologist to determine actual needs. An additional \$85,000 is being added to this project to fund an additional two years of maintenance and monitoring. There may be possible additional funding issues in the future. More studies and reports may be needed before applying for long-term maintenance permits. Frye and Leonard expressed frustration at delays and lack of forward movement. Don Steele expressed support for Jeanette and that she would do an excellent job moving this project forward. Don also commented on dissatisfaction with City reorganization. Don also discussed information from Mike Nelson (S.D. River Conservancy) in regards to a comprehensive permit for river clearing, and the possibility of working with the Conservancy to team-up for cost saving, and other benefits.

303. Status report on the transfer of the future West Sycamore area of MTRP from McMillin Land Development to the City of San Diego – Zirkle

Chris reported that the primary issue is the encroachment by neighbors on the north side of Sycamore Road. McMillin is aware that the City will not accept the transfer of this land until the encroachments are resolved. There is little progress at this time. Sr. Ranger Thompson reported on the issue with Beeler Canyon Road and the trail proposed by McMillin within the road right-of-way (ROW). Beeler Canyon Road is the east / west road along the northern boundary of the McMillin property to be conveyed, but is not presently a road, but a driveway for a property owner adjacent to the McMillin property. This driveway appears to be within the Beeler Canyon Road ROW at times, but looking at survey markers the actual ROW will need to be surveyed, and minimally bladed for the proposed trail connection. This trail connection is critical for the link within the Trans County Trail. Encroachments on the north side of Sycamore Canyon road consist of both temporary and permanent equestrian structures that would need to be removed, and habitat re-established. Dorothy questioned the actual need to take this disputed land, and the possibility of a land swap to make up the difference in required mitigation acreage. There is a requirement and contractual agreement to convey this land to the City as part of original development proposal which identifies the land to be conveyed as MSCP / MHPA. Responsibility for conveyance is the McMillin responsibility, and will occur on their timeline.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Senior Park Ranger
Rick Thompson
Staff Representative

Next meeting: July 15, 2010 @ 12:15 p.m.

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