

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MARCH 17, 2011
MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TASK FORCE**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Task Force was held on Thursday, March 17, 2011, at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center.

ATTENDANCE

Councilmember Marti Emerald, City of San Diego
Councilmember Lori Zapf, City of San Diego
Councilmember Rob McNelis, City of Santee
Dorothy Leonard, Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee Chair

Members Absent

Councilmember Ruth Sterling, City of La Mesa
Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, County of San Diego
Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County of San Diego

City of San Diego

Chris Zirkle, Deputy Director, Open Space Division
Rick Thompson, Senior Park Ranger
Deputy Fire Chief Ken Malbrough
Mary Ann Wallace, Council Representative for Councilmember Marti Emerald
Elaine Valdez, Council Representative for Councilmember Lori Zapf
Gayle Havens, Reservoir Keeper for Lake Murray

Guests

Nadia Moshirian, Representative for Supervisor Pam Slater-Price
Sue Richardson, City of Santee Park and Recreation Department
Mark Carpenter, KTUA consultant for MTRP Master Plan Update
Kim Wiley, San Diego Mountain Bike Association

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marti Emerald at 12:25 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/EMERALD) to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2010 meeting. Motion passed unanimously

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES NONE

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT Chairperson Emerald welcomed everyone to the meeting

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE/FOUNDATION REPORT

Dorothy Leonard reported on the following:

- MTRP CAC Emergency Response/Trails ad hoc subcommittee met with representatives from the Open Space Division, including MTRP, as well as Fire and Police departments. The CAC supports the staff recommendation.
- CAC supports Item 103, a recommendation to transfer restricted funds from the distributable balance of \$1,134.00 (2010 earnings less San Diego Foundation management fee of .05%) to the MTRP Foundation.
- Donations to complete the funding of the new water exhibit in the Visitor Center exhibit area have been secured and the target date for completion of the new exhibit is July 2011.
- Sempra/SDG&E has awarded the MTRP Foundation an additional \$15,000 to extend the Foundation's environmental education program.
- Plans and funding for the ninth annual Explore Mission Trails Day are moving forward. This year the event will be on Saturday, May 21.
- CAC recently took a tour of the San Diego County Water Authority projects including visiting the recently revegetated areas.

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

A. City of San Diego Water Department

Gayle Havens, Reservoir Keeper for Lake Murray reported the following:

- The fish are spawning throughout the lake.
- On April 30 over 100 volunteers helped paint a variety of items at the lake. The Friends of Lake Murray donated \$300 for the paint.
- The Request for Proposals has been completed to provide services at Lake Murray to include handling fishing licenses, boats, and snack bar. It should be up and running for the summer. It will be a different operation for each lake.
- Staff has been working to remove brush adjacent to the service road and along some of the trails.
- The flasher who was arrested at Lake Murray has been sentenced. He was put on an ankle monitor, and he is now on three years probation. He can not go near any park and lake.
- Still using the envelope system to sell fishing licenses. The damaged pay station may not be replaced because it costs \$10,000 to purchase and \$10,000 to repair.
- The sink hole at Padre Bay has reappeared. It was blown out because of the excessive runoff due to the heavy rains.

B. City of Santee Community Services Department

Sue Richardson with the Community Services Department reported the following:

- Update on Park West Trail – the project is almost complete.
- Park Pavilion at the trail head to be installed next week. New interpretive signs have been ordered. Marker signs are being installed. Trail connects from Carlton Hills Blvd. to the golf course. Santee will be participating in EMTD.
- River Park Foundation volunteers for Santee were awarded the volunteers of the year.

C. Park Staff/Ranger's Report

- San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) had an issue of “mowing” the sides of the road. They mowed and did not clean-up. It looked far worse than it was. The citizen who reported it, called Turko, and it was blown out of proportion. SDCWA accepted responsibility and they are now on a short leash for any future trimming.
- SDG&E is in the park regarding work for the Sunrise Powerlink. They will be replacing wooden poles with steel poles. New lines will be strung to handle more power on the lines. MTRP will benefit by having SDG&E work on projects in the park.
- FEMA was here today to review damage from the recent heavy rains. They looked at work previously washed away on the backside of Cowles Mtn.
- Kumeyaay Lake has been impacted by the rains causing debris and reeds to build up adjacent to the west end of the lake.
- Staff has been actively working with Fire-Rescue Dept. to improve rescues at MTRP. Nadia Moshirian from Supervisor Pam Slater-Price's office asked about the frequency of needing emergency responses. ANSWER - Senior Ranger Thompson responded at least once a week. Chairperson Marti Emerald asked if FEMA indicated when they might do something. ANSWER - Sr. Ranger Thompson responded - possibly within a few weeks, however he believes it will be longer.

COMMUNICATIONS There were no non-agenda public comments

ACTION ITEMS

101. Appointment of MTRP CAC representative and alternate from Tierrasanta Community Council MTRP CAC chair reported that the individual re-appointed by the Tierrasanta Community Council has not attended an MTRP CAC meeting since January 2010. Councilmember Emerald stated she will ask Tierrasanta Community Council to clarify the representative and alternate.
102. Climbers Loop and Cowles Mountain Trail Sign Program. Presented by Sr. Ranger Thompson/ and Deputy Fire Chief Malbrough
Ranger Thompson provided an overview of what has been developed and showed a sample of the signs. The signs will be identified with codes indicating the location of the sign. Fire-Rescue will immediately know where the person is when the code or GPS coordinates are given to the 911 dispatcher. The new sign system will initially be installed on the Climbers Loop trail. For the Cowles Mountain trail, signs will be installed after repair work is completed in the trail corridor. Staff had planned to use the repairs as a training exercise for Fire-Rescue. A helicopter airlift is required to move the equipment and repair material. It is still possible Fire-Rescue will be able to work on this project. Staff has worked closely with Fire-Rescue to work out the new sign program.

Ken Malbrough, Deputy Fire Chief for Operations, stated their goal is to respond and assist the victim as quickly as possible. Working with MTRP staff a great plan was developed

and the sign program ties in with other sign programs in the State. Staff are still working to resolve the use of the helicopter.

Chairperson Emerald asked if anyone is able to provide the cost to rescue individuals at Mission Trails and particularly on Cowles Mountain? ANSWER: Deputy Chief Marlborough will obtain those figures. Chairperson Emerald stated there is a move on the City Council to charge victims for an emergency response if they do something dangerous or stupid.

Councilmember Zapf asked where the money comes from to repair the trail. ANSWER: Senior Ranger Thompson responded funding is through a Capital Improvement Project account and most of the cost is for labor. It is a large enough chunk of money so that part may be able to be used to pay for the fuel or a private contractor. Chairperson Emerald asked how much is in the CIP fund? ANSWER: Senior Ranger Thompson stated it is from the Mission Bay Fund and there is approximately \$400,000. Chairperson Emerald commented "Let's get a group together and figure out how we get this momentum moving." ANSWER: Chris Zirkle responded that it is actually underway.

MOTION It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/EMERALD) to support the sign program as presented. Motion Passed unanimously

103. Mission Trails Regional Park Endowment Fund with San Diego Foundation:

Dorothy Leonard explained that the request is to transfer the distributable balance of \$1,134.00 (2010 earnings less San Diego Foundation management fee of .05%) to the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation. Funds will only be spent upon direction of the MTRP CAC and Task Force.

MOTION It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/EMERALD) to approve transfer of the distributable balance of \$1,134.00 (2010 earnings less San Diego Foundation management fee of .05%) to the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. CIP Project Updates

a. MTRP Master Plan and Resource Management Plan – Mark Carpenter with KTU&A
The results of the first public workshop were handed out to Task Force members. Mark explained how the workshop was conducted and that all comments are in the report. Since the January workshop, he has met with the MTRP CAC ad hoc subcommittee to discuss primary concerns such as traffic and parking. The second workshop will be March 31 at which time two plans will be reviewed and a preferred alternative developed. One of the major issues is to review existing conditions on the ground and follow current guidelines to resolve the issues/concerns. The accompanying Natural Resource Master Plan is a key element in resolving issues/concerns. By the next Task Force meeting we should be working towards a final document.

b. Old Mission Dam Maintenance Project – Jeannette DeAngelis

Jeanette provided a power point presentation to recap the mitigation of the property adjacent to the San Diego River by the Carlton Oaks Golf Course. The final project began on February 14 and was completed March 17. There will be a five year monitoring period which will require an agreement with the new golf course owners to provide access to the restoration area through the golf course. This needs to be written in to any agreement regarding sale of the golf course property.

- c. Equestrian Staging Area Comfort Station – Senior Ranger Thompson reported for Ali Darvishi

The project is in the second cycle of review. Specs are 95% completed. Everything but electrical has passed inspection on the plans.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 PM

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 19, 2011, 12:15 PM to 1:45 PM at Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center, One Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego, CA 92119