

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 19, 2011
MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TASK FORCE**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Task Force was held on Thursday, May 19, 2011, at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

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

Members Absent

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

City of San Diego

Chris Zirkle, Deputy Director, Open Space Division
Steve Haupt, District Manager, Open Space Division
Rick Thompson, Senior Park Ranger Mission Trails Regional Park
Nelson Manville, Water Department
Mary Ann Wallace, Council Representative for Councilmember Emerald
Elaine Valdez, Council Representative for Councilmember Zapf

Guests

Nadia Moshirian, Representative for County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price
Bill Maertz, Community Services Department, City of Santee
Craig Balben, San Diego County Water Authority

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marti Emerald at 12:21 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/EMERALD) to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 17, 2011.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – NONE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Marti Emerald reported she had just come from a meeting with the Mayor regarding revisions to his proposed FY2012 budget made possible by new revenue. There has been a windfall in the sales tax revenue. At least one library in each council district will remain

open full time. They Mayor's budget shows no extra funds for MTRP. She stated that she would strongly fight for staff at MTRP. She is also concerned with the potential closing of the campground. She reported that at the Budget Committee hearing Dorothy Leonard made a strong case for keeping the campground open. Her office has been promoting Explore Mission Trails Day to be held this Saturday.

CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE/FOUNDATION REPORT

Dorothy Leonard reported the following:

- The CAC voted to take a position on the budget regarding keeping Visitor Center open 56 hours a week instead of the initially proposed 20 hour listed in the Mayor's budget. *Chris Zirkle commented on behalf of City Park and Recreation Department and stated the Visitor Center will be open 56 hours a week because Rangers are on duty seven days a week and can serve as supervisors to volunteers if necessary.*
- The CAC also supported having the campground remain open two days a week. She presented the figures as compiled by Don Steele and stated the figures were presented as part of document given at the budget hearing. *Chris Zirkle stated he had no information available as an update to the documentation presented by Dorothy at the Park and Recreation budget hearing. Lorie Zapf commented she just received an overview of the budget from the Mayor and no details of the campground were presented. She stated the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) has been stronger than anticipated and everyone is still working on the budget.*
- MTRP Foundation has applied for \$36,500 in TOT funds and those have remained in the budget.
- The CAC members are planning a field trip on Sunday June 5 at 10AM. During the last field trip they were not able to get to the San Diego River to view the San Diego County Water Authority wetlands restoration site. They will be meeting at the Jackson Drive parking lot and we will hike to view the mitigation project on the other side of the river. They also plan to visit the four sites the consultant has proposed for a possible bridge crossing of the river. All are welcome to participate.
- The flyer for the annual Explore Mission Trails Day (EMTD) event was distributed.
- Foundation staff and volunteers help maintain the visitor center and yesterday Wilson, Leonard and Steele did a lot of cleaning in preparation for EMTD.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Water Department's Lake Murray

Nelson Manville reported the following:

- The concession, including boat rentals and dock duties, is being run by Rocky Mountain Recreation Company.
- April 30th was the annual Mormon Church "Helping Hands" day through California. "Liven up Lake Murray" was one of the projects. Over 227 people of all ages washed and painted tables, weeded planters, and giving the lake a face lift. Paint was purchased by "Friends of Lake Murray" for the tables. City of La Mesa Councilmember Ernest Ewin declared the day of work a great service to the city and thanked the volunteers for their service.

- The sink hole in Padre Bay, initially repaired last year on a temporary basis, reappeared because of the heavy December rains. It has now been repaired.
- Loose ends are being rapped up on the Lake Murray Trunk Sewer Project. There is some ground water running across the lake road for which a long-term solution is being sought.
- The water level is coming up and fishing is great. Spawning fish are everywhere with thriving baby bass and bluegill. Baby ducks as well as baby great horned owls have been seen.

B. City of Santee Community Services Department

Bill Maertz reported the following:

- The Santee Park and Recreation Department will be represented at EMTD.
- A new one-half mile section of the San Diego River Trail recently opened.
- The golf course has closed a part of the trail because of the excess use and people walking on the course which became a safety issue. A protective screen will be required to reopen a portion of the trail.
- The River Conservancy voted to purchase the Walker Property. This will take the San Diego River Trail from Lakeside to the golf course.

C. Park Staff/Ranger's Report

Senior Ranger Rick Thompson reported the following:

- Even with shortage of staff, a significant amount of trail restoration is being accomplished with the assistance of crews from the Urban Corp, at no cost to the City.
- FEMA visited several impacted areas within the park related to recent major storms.
- Staff is preparing for EMTD.
- Staff has been working closely with crews from the Urban Corps in restoring the lower portion of the Cowles Mountain Trails and that portion of the project has been completed. Under the direction of staff, the Urban Corps crews have been learning vital skills in trail restoration and maintenance. Restoration of the upper portion of the Cowles Mountain Trail involves transporting materials with up the mountain with the use of a helicopter. Completion of the upper portion of the trail is scheduled to be this fall, before the winter rains begin.

COMMUNICATIONS There was no non-agenda public comment.

ACTION ITEMS There were no action items.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) update on projects in MTRP

- Craig Balben handed out an update of major projects in MTRP.
- A new water crossing has been constructed at the Jackson Drive (San Diego River Trail) river crossing for light weight emergency vehicles.
- SDCWA removed one of the two vent stacks. The second one will be removed at the completion of several projects.

- The SDCWA Board has voted to delay \$150 million in projects. Projects in MTRP will begin again in 2014. In July of this year they begin a new two year budget cycle.

302. CIP Project updates

a. MTRP Master Plan and Resource Management Plan

Leonard reported for Jeff Harkness that the next community outreach workshop will be at 6 pm on June 9 at the Visitor Center. Following the June 9 meeting, the consultants from KTUA will develop a Preliminary Master Plan to be presented later in the year.

b. Old Mission Dam Preservation Project

Rick Thompson reported for Jeanette DeAngelis that there are no changes in the status of this project

c. Equestrian Staging Area Comfort Station

Rick Thompson reported for Ali Darvishi that he has the final plans and all permits are moving forward. The timeline is to advertise for bids later in May and open the bids the end of June. The plan is to have the comfort station completed by EMTD in May of 2012.

303. Impact of proposed budget reductions to MTRP in Mayor's FY2012 Budget

- It was noted Chris Zirkle had provided an update earlier in the meeting as a follow up to the Chair's budget update.
- The Chair indicated she is waiting for the updated information from Staff and will be including her comments in her budget memo.
- The Chair asked the representatives from the City of La Mesa and Santee to determine if their respective cities can contribute to maintaining the Kumeyaay Lake Campground.

304. Trail rehabilitation and signage projects

Senior Ranger Rick Thompson reported the following:

- The Kwaay Paay trail restoration along with the Climbers Loop trail has been completed. Test signs on Climbers Loop trail will be installed shortly and staff will then be testing the program with the fire department.
- Cannot use Fire/Life Rescue helicopter to transport materials to the upper portion of Cowles Mountain but has a local helicopter firm ready to go. Environmental staff has determined most of the trail is not impacting bird nesting areas so trail restoration work may proceed. The lower one-third of the Cowles Mountain trail did impact bird nesting.
- Showed a power point presentation illustrating the work being done on the Climbers Loop trail, Kwaay Paay trails, and Cowles Mountain trail. The new signage plan was also illustrated. Thompson emphasized the timeline is subject to change particularly relating to heat and rain.

AJOURNMENT

The Task Force meeting was adjourned at 1:42 PM

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Task Force will be held Thursday, July 21, 2011, 12:15PM.