

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 21, 2011
MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TASK FORCE**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Task Force was held on Thursday, July 21, 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
Nancy Acevedo, Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee Vice-Chair

Members Absent

Supervisor Pam Slater, County of San Diego
Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County of San Diego
Councilmember Rob McNelis, City of Santee
Dorothy Leonard, MTRP CAC Chair

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
Mel Naidas, Park Ranger, Mission Trails Regional Park
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
Mark Carpenter, Consultant for Mission Trails Master Plan Update
Kim Wiley, San Diego Mountain Bike Association

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marti Emerald at 12:16 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION It was moved and seconded (STERLING/EMERALD) to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 19, 2011.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – NONE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Emerald reported on the new signage program installed on Climbers Loop and that the training exercise with Mission Trails Regional Park and Fire Department staff was very successful.

CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE/FOUNDATION REPORT

Nancy Acevedo reported the following on behalf of Dorothy Leonard:

- The Citizens Action Committee had a discussion regarding the location of a new bridge over the San Diego River at the Jackson Drive Crossing. There were initially four locations for consideration and that has been narrowed down to two.
- The Foundation's monthly concert series is booked through December.
- Year to date the attendance at the Visitor Center is up 19% over 2010.
- The Sempra Energy Foundation Education Program at Mission Trails with Education Program Instructor Alicia Berg has reached 2,500 children and 400 adults in the last 18 months.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Water Department's Lake Murray

Printed report from Reservoir Keeper Gayle Haven:

- Lake crew, with the help from the WST (Water System Tec), has been working very hard to get the fire breaks completed.
- People go crazy with the thought of the fireworks coupled with the fire season upon us. High, dry brush receives a lot of attention in the form of complaints from home owners, and is high priority for lake staff to clear.
- To date staff has cleared the condo areas facing the lake, the easement on Kiowa all the way to Sunset Park, and Alvarado Bay. All the daisies are gone. Houses running along Laport all the way to Jackson, and the east side of Baltimore, will be the next priority.
- Fireworks went off as planned and it was a great show. The park was fully staffed with five lake employees for the day and one City Lake Ranger Diver on station in the afternoon to help with any problems.
- Lake Murray staff cleared the site for the fireworks and provided the outhouses and the Kiwanis provided a great fireworks show. A 40 yard dumpster was donated to support trash from both sides of the lake (Park and Recreation side and Water Department side). They also provided the security guards at the fireworks site to control traffic for pedestrians. SDPD officers were on site. To my knowledge everything went smoothly. La Mesa police did traffic control on Lake Murray Blvd. and Kiowa Drive.
- The hard work of clean-up efforts from Kiwanis members was extensive. They scoured the shoreline on foot and by boat to insure nothing was left behind. Lake Murray was cleaned by city staff by early afternoon the next day.
- Fishing is great, the water level is good and business for the new concession stand is picking up. It is open for business Thursday, Friday and Sunday from 6 AM to 6 PM, and Saturday from 5:30 AM to 6 PM.)

Members Zapf and Emerald asked if there are special rates for City of San Diego residents for renting/launching boats and if it has been considered.

Zapf asked if Lake Murray was periodically stocked with fish. Their questions will be relayed to Reservoir Keeper Havens.

- The next goal, after the fire breaks are completed, is clearing the lake road by cutting back the over growth.
- There is a male exposing himself to females on the upper jogging path. He is described as a white male, fair skin, 18-30 year old, 5'4"-5'10" tall, with a normal to chubby build and neck-long straight brown hair. He normally wears a t-shirt and knee length athletic shorts. Undercover officers have been at the lake multiple times with no sighting. The bushes in the area most used by this individual have been cut back to try and discourage this behavior.
- Nelson Manville has retired.

B. City of Santee Community Services Department

Bill Maertz reported the following:

- There was a car fire on SR52 on Tuesday. The Santee and City of San Diego Fire Departments responded. The fire spread into Mission Trails and burned several acres.
- In Santee, special rates for residents are referred to as Resident Discounts.

C. Park Staff/Ranger's Report

Steve Haupt reported for the Senior Ranger

- Senior Ranger Rick Thompson is retiring as of the first week of September. Ranger Mel Naidas will be the acting Sr. Ranger.

Chair Emerald stated she would like to have a celebration in honor of Rick's retirement at the next Task Force meeting.

Open Space Division Staff report on FY 2012 budget for MTRP by Chris Zirkle

- The Open Space Division took a hit overall. Recreation centers were restored. We did not impact the Center Directors at Mission Trails or at Tecolote. We did close the campground and therefore the park lost a ranger. Campground will be for day use only and we will enhance the information regarding day use of the campground. Day use will be 7 days a week.

Chair Emerald asked if we were looking at any grant funding.

ANS: Chris stated there are very few grants that pay for actual operation and maintenance of a facility. We need a full time ranger and a one-half time Center Director.

Chris was asked if outsourcing was being considered.

ANS: Yes, outsourcing is being considered under managed competition. The Mayor's office is handling all managed competition and Mr. Hill in the Mayor's office has responded that there are two reasons why he believes it won't work at the campground. These include: (1) The managed competition process approved by the City Council does not allow the Mayor to launch a competition unless an efficiency study of some type has been conducted regarding the functions contemplated for competition. We are not aware of a qualifying study having been conducted yet, so that would need to be performed. Our Business Office staff, which would be responsible for that study, is now fully engaged on other managed competition projects and efficiency studies. (2) In our initial competitions we are focusing on larger functions, as the opportunity for significant cost savings are greater. That's important to us,

both to justify the time and cost of conducting the competition, as well as to help address the City's projected budget gap in Fiscal Year 2013.

COMMUNICATIONS There was no non-agenda public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Approval of MTRP CAC representatives from Tierrasanta Community Council: Betty Ogilvie, representative and Donovan Geiger, Alternate.

MOTION It was moved and seconded (ACEVEDO/EMERALD) to approve Betty Ogilvie as MTRP CAC representative and Donovan Geiger as alternate for the Tierrasanta Community Council. Motion passed unanimously

INFORMATION ITEMS

302. CIP Project updates

- a. MTRP Master Plan and Resource Management Plan

Mark Carpenter from KTUA reported the following:

A field trip was held at the bottom of Jackson Drive adjacent to the San Diego River regarding the bridge alignment. The crossing points were narrowed down to two locations and one that would be able to handle light vehicles in an emergency. We are also looking at a better Arizona Crossing at the Jackson Drive crossing. A second trip was held to walk the possible San Diego River Trail from the southwest portion of the park up to Jackson Drive. That trail development is moving forward and will be incorporated into the MTRP Master Plan. A third community outreach meeting was held at MTRP on June 9. The climbing community is concerned that not all the rock climbing areas are being included and asked that the areas cut out are documented as to why they were eliminated. It is hoped that by the next time the Task Force meets we will have held a community scoping meeting for the Master Plan. We hope to go to a public review draft of the Master Plan in the spring of 2012.

Chair Emerald asked if this just dealt with the MTRP portion of the River.

ANS: Mark said yes. KTUA and city staff are working with the adjoining property owners.

Chair Emerald asked if the two bridges fit into the Master Plan.

ANS: Yes, this is something that is being considered by the MTRP CAC even before completion of the Master Plan update.

- b. Old Mission Dam Preservation Project

Steve Haupt reported for Jeanette DeAngelis

We are waiting on funding for the permits, but some restoration is on-going and will be completed in August.

Chair Emerald asked why it has taken so long.

ANS: Chris said it has taken an extended period of time to secure the proper permits from all the governmental agencies. The agencies stated they will not approve an on-going dredging permit until such time as the proper mitigation is in place.

- c. Equestrian Staging Area Comfort Station

Steve Haupt reported for Ali Darvishi

The bid opening date is scheduled for Aug. 18.

Chair Emerald requested confirmation on the construction time.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting Adjourned at 12:58 PM

NEXT MEETING

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