

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JANUARY 19, 2012 MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TASK FORCE

## TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force was held on Thursday, January 19, 2012 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  
Dorothy Leonard, Chair of Citizens Advisory Committee

### Members Absent

Supervisor Pam Slater, County of San Diego  
Supervisor Diane Jacob, County of San Diego  
Councilmember Rob McNelis, City of Santee

### City of San Diego

Chris Zirkle, Deputy Director Open Space Division  
Steve Haupt, Manager Open Space Division  
Matt Sanford, Senior Ranger Mission Trails Regional Park

Gayle Havens, City of San Diego, City Lakes

Mary Ann Wallace, office of Councilmember Marti Emerald  
Shirley Owen, office of Councilmember Lori Zapf

### City of Santee

Bill Maertz, Director of Community Services

### Guests

Cailin Hunsaker, County of San Diego Parks & Recreation  
Cheryl Goddard, County of San Diego Parks & Recreation  
Mark Carpenter, KTU+A  
Phil Connor, Sunset Gardens HOA

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chair Marti Emerald at 1:05 pm

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (Sterling/Leonard) to approve the minutes of the meeting of. Motion carried.

## REQUEST FOR CONTINUENCES – NONE

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - NONE

## MTRP Citizens Advisory Committee Report

*Dorothy Leonard reported the following for the CAC meeting held on January 3, 2012:*

- Please take a look at the annual Trail Guide report which was prepared by volunteers and shows statistics and the growth of the program.
- Eric Bowlby of the San Diego Canyonlands gave a presentation on the Parkland Dedication Initiative. The initiative wants to change open space land in City from designated to dedicated. CAC's recommendation to Open Space is to support the proposal to dedicate land within MTRP, including the proposed master plan expansion areas (East Elliot and West Sycamore), that is City owned and administered by the Park & Recreation Dept., excluding the land owned by the City Water Dept. Councilmember Emerald asked if the purchase of the Water Dept. property is still negotiable. Deputy Director Zirkle answered that the City Attorney opined that Water Dept. land would be devalued if dedicated, and that the enterprise fund would be responsible for that decrease in value.
- There was a presentation by ECOtaility, who have contracted with the City to install electric vehicle charging stations around the City at various parks, including the MTRP Visitor Center and possibly at Lake Murray. CAC concerns are that there aren't enough parking spaces available during busy events, so to do away with any parking spaces is a concern. CAC supports the installation of 2 EV spaces at the Visitor Center in the beginning, to monitor how they're being used, and to allow regular vehicles to park in the spaces when not being used by an EV vehicle.
- There was an update from the Quail Brush Cogeneration Project representatives about a California Energy Commission site visit public meeting at the Visitor Center on January 21<sup>st</sup>. CAC ultimately will be asked to take a position since the site is within the Mission Trails Design District. There were people from the City of Santee that are concerned about air pollution generated from the plant.

## MTRP Foundation Report

*Dorothy Leonard reported the following:*

- The Foundation received a \$25k Eco Ambassador grant from SDG&E, and an additional \$10k for coming in second place during recent online voting. The Foundation lost to Project Wildlife by only 8 votes. In total, the Foundation now has \$35k from the SDG&E

Eco Ambassador program and will be used to help fund educational programs in partnership with San Diego County YMCA's.

- Working with park staff and the Facility Operations Committee, the Foundation is taking an inventory of all the monument signs in the park. The Foundation recently paid for a couple of them to be refurbished and replaced. Of all the signs inventoried, four of them are in deplorable condition. The Executive Director of the Foundation will have someone visit the four worst signs to see if they need to be replaced or if there is any hope in repairing them. The Foundation Board would like to setup a rotation where every two years the signs get repainted so that they stay better preserved. If the worst signs need to be replaced then additional funding may be needed. Councilmember Emerald asked if the signs that need repainting could be done by volunteers. Dorothy Leonard replied that a professional would use additional paint and materials to ensure the long-term preservation of each sign, and they also have the correct colors for the park's logo, etc.

### STAFF REPORTS

#### A. Water Department's Lake Murray Report – *Gayle Havens reported the following:*

- SDCWA have been conducting repairs to the fiber optics in the water lines. They just finished the second of three scheduled shut downs for these repairs, so the water level is starting to rise again. The water level will be brought up in March in preparation for the third shutdown, which will be from March 17 – 27<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Emerald asked if problems with the fiber optics were found during the shutdowns. Gayle Havens responded that there obviously is a problem, and that it should be resolved by the end of the scheduled shutdowns. The contact person for this project is Tad Brenton, with SDCWA, 619-572-9567.
- CA Department of Fish & Game will be studying the infestation of quagga mussels in City reservoirs. More information about the mussels can be found at: [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov). Signs have been posted, and reading material will be available to the public to make people aware of the importance of not transferring the mussels to lakes that aren't infested. Still learning how the mussels affect CA waters, but more information is found on the DF&G website.
- 2200 pounds of rainbow trout were recently stocked. Many large catches have already been reported.
- New signs were installed on the lake road to encourage speeding bicyclists to slow down. The SD municipal code was added to assist with writing citations. One more sign will be installed.
- Eagle Scouts have been doing a great job. They have been rebuilding brick outhouses around the lake, with materials donated by La Mesa Lumber.

#### B. City of Santee Community Services Department – *Bill Maertz reported the following:*

- Both the San Diego River Conservancy Board and the City of Santee sent letters to the Real Estate & Assets Division of City of San Diego regarding the Carlton Oaks

Golf Course lease. Sale of the golf course has not gone through and the City of SD Real Estate Division has directed them to lease the property. SD River Conservancy Board and the City of Santee are concerned that a trail easement be included in the lease negotiation, and that trail alignment be looked at so the SD River Trail can be completed through the City of Santee. Councilmember Emerald requested that the letters be forwarded to her office so that they could write some letters as well, and stated that they haven't heard what the status is from the Mayor's office regarding the Carlton Oaks lease.

C. Park Staff/ Ranger's Report – *Matt Sanford reported the following:*

- Urban Corps spent the last two weeks of December removing vegetation from the east side of the OMD to help protect the historical dam, and to assist with future dredging near the dam. Mostly cattails were removed. Park staff will be working with a qualified herbicide applicator to spray the areas where the vegetation was removed so it doesn't grow back as fast.
- Construction of the Equestrian Staging Area comfort station continues a little behind schedule due to rain and muddy conditions at the worksite. Park staff have been assisting as needed.
- The flag poles at the Visitor Center and Campground were recently repaired. The ropes and snap hooks needed replacing.
- The park map sign at the top of Cowles Mountain was replaced by GMW's Carmelo and Tom recently. The previous sign was vandalized.
- Trail Guide training is underway with 32 volunteers signed up. The training lasts 10 weeks, and the graduation ceremony will be taking place March 31<sup>st</sup>, 9 am, in the Visitor Center classrooms and amphitheater. The names of the trail guide leadership, and those who graduate from the training, will be provided to Councilmember Emeralds' office for commendations.
- The MTRP Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is February 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30 pm, at the Visitor Center. Names of all the award winners will be provided to Councilmember Emerald's office for commendations.
- Project Wildlife, working with park staff, released 6 raccoons into the park recently. The raccoons were found abandoned as babies, raised for about 6 months by Project Wildlife staff, and released near the grasslands and Kumeyaay Lake.

COMMUNICATIONS – None

ACTION ITEMS

101. CAC Appointments/Reappointments – *Chair, Marti Emerald*

- a) Dorothy Leonard – At-large member
- b) Richard Gadler – City of El Cajon
- c) Dale Peterson – Navajo Community Planners, Inc.

- d) County of San Diego Park & Recreation Committee – Postponed appointment for 1 month and will bring appointment to next meeting.
  - e) City of San Diego Park & Recreation board – Will be determined in February or March
  - f) City of Santee – In the process of making a new appointment due to the resignation of Gene Hatton
- Dorothy Leonard stated that agencies will nominate representatives to the CAC, but MTRP Task Force needs to approve. Nominees can attend the next CAC meeting and sit at the table and have a voice, but they won't have a vote until approved by the Task Force.

Motion: It was moved and seconded (Zapf/Leonard) to approve the appointments.  
Motion carried.

102. Appointment of CAC Chair and Vice Chair – *Chair, Marti Emerald*

- a) Dorothy Leonard – Chair
- b) Dick Murphy – Vice Chair

Motion: It was moved and seconded (Sterling/Zapf) to approve the appointments.  
Motion carried.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

301. CIP Project Updates:

- a. MTRP Master Plan and Natural Resource Management Plan – *Mark Carpenter, KTU+A*
  - There have been schedule adjustments to the master plan, natural resource management plan, and EIR. Originally wanted to process all three concurrently, but after discussions they determined that it was not possible. The NRMP will need to be done first, followed by the Master Plan.
  - In December, RECON Environmental submitted a draft NRMP to the City for review. Comments about the NRMP were received around the same time KTU+A released a working draft of the master plan.
  - There is an ad-hoc subcommittee of the CAC helping to review the draft master plan. Comments are expected by the CAC subcommittee and City departments by the next CAC meeting in March. A public review of both documents will follow, then a scoping meeting of the EIR, which will likely take place in April.
  - A final EIR is expected by spring 2013.
  - There was a 9-12 month delay, but hopefully everything is back on track.
  - A NRMP for MTRP has never been done, and the last master plan update was done in 1985.
  - Councilmember Emerald requested to be notified if there are any more hiccups with both documents as they move forward.

- Dorothy Leonard asked why the Park & Recreation Board is scheduled to review the MTRP Master Plan update. Dorothy stated that the documents should go from the CAC to the Task Force, to the Council sub-committee, then onto City Council. The Park & Recreation board has never reviewed anything that has come out of MTRP, but an information item can be presented to them.
  - Councilmember Emerald suggested checking with the Park & Recreation Board to see if this policy has changed, and stated that documents such as this generally go through the community groups before it goes to Council.
  - Deputy Director Zirkle suggested that staff contact Jeff Harkness at DSD to ask him why the Park & Recreation board is reviewing the documents.
  - Mark Carpenter stated that he's not certain when City Council will be able to review the documents.
- b. Equestrian staging Area Comfort Station/Service Building – *Matt Sanford for Resident Engineer Carlos Contreras*
- The contractor has installed the storage tank, the concrete slab has been poured, and block walls have begun to go up.
  - There were some delays to the project timeline due to rain.
  - Dorothy Leonard asked Councilmember Emerald if she wanted to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication once construction is done. Councilmember Emerald answered, "Yes!"
  - Councilmember Zapf asked if there was completion date. Matt Sanford stated that there has been some delay due to rain, but the revised estimated completion date is now March/April.
- c. Old Mission Dam Enhancement Project – *Matt Sanford for Jeannette DeAngelis, City of San Diego Public Works, Engineering Dept.*
- The mitigation site is going very well.
  - Thanks to MTRP park staff and the Urban Corps for moving so fast on their maintenance efforts at the dam.
  - The only change is they have begun working on the long-term permitting effort. A biologist from Dudek will be at the dam in the following weeks to begin updating the biological assessment and wetland delineation.
  - Councilmember Emerald requested that Jeanette attend the March Task Force meeting to provide an update on this process with the consultant and the long-term permitting, and to explain what will happen going forward, especially the time it will take to complete

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Next meeting March 15, 1:00 pm.