

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JULY 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, July 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
Councilmember Rob McNelis, City of Santee
Dorothy Leonard, Chair of Citizens Advisory Committee

Members Absent

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

City of San Diego

Chris Zirkle, Deputy Director, Open Space Division
Steve Haupt, District Manager, Open Space Division
Matt Sanford, Senior Park Ranger, Mission Trails Regional Park
Gayle Havens, Water Department
Chris Pearson, office of Councilmember Marti Emerald
Shirley Owen, office of Councilmember Lori Zapf

County of San Diego

Janice Downs, office of Supervisor Diane Jacob

City of Santee

Bill Maertz, Director of Community Services

Guests

Mark Carpenter, KTU+A	Judi Ravetti	Beth Frice
Kim Wiley, SDMBA	Mia Mortellaro	
Brent Fountain, SDCWA	Stephen Houlahan	
Steve Vanderburg, SDGE	Retha Knight	
Daniel Zaragoza, SDGE	John Pilch	
Laura Thornton, MCAS Miramar	Alyssa Fernandez	

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chair Marti Emerald at 1:00 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (McNelis/Leonard) to approve the minutes of the meeting on July 19, 2012. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUENCES – NONE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – We originally planned to have the MTRP Task Force make a recommendation about the proposed Quail Brush/Cogentrix power plant at today's meeting, but we decided to postpone this topic to the September 20th Task Force meeting in deference to the City of San Diego Planning Commission hearing that was scheduled for earlier in the day. The planning commission voted 4-1 to deny any changes in the land use that would have allowed the process to begin. The applicant has 10 days to appeal this ruling. The appeal will come to the City of San Diego City Council for a vote, but no date has been set yet. The MTRP Task Force will have a hearing on this topic at the September 20th meeting, and the Task Force will offer an advisory vote on this project.

MTRP CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

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

- Recommended staff approval of a 5k fun-run in the park on October 20, 2012 organized by Distancia Events. 25% of the funds raised would be donated to MTRP Foundation.
- Appointed a MTRP CAC ad hoc subcommittee to review the Quail Brush co-generation power plant permit application as it relates to the Mission Trails Design District Guidelines. Once the revised plans for the project are available the ad hoc subcommittee would review the project and make recommendations to the CAC. The CAC recommendations could be forwarded to the Task Force.

MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT

Dorothy Leonard reported the following:

- The new water exhibit in the Visitor Center is taking a little longer than expected to complete. Once finished we will have an evening event to dedicate it.
- The San Diego Unified School District has been working with the Foundation Education Coordinator and Executive Director to develop an environmental education program at MTRP.
- The YMCA's of San Diego County have been coming to MTRP as part of their summer camp program.

STAFF REPORTS

- A. Water Department's Lake Murray Report – *Gayle Havens reported the following:*
- Staff have been working on fire breaks around the houses of Lake Murray. All the fire breaks have been completed.
 - We're going to start using community groups to assist staff with large projects around the lake. Eighty-nine volunteers from the San Diego River Park Foundation recently came out for three hours to paint tables, work on planters, and pick up trash.
 - The park entrance sign was repainted by Kit Signs recently, and looks really good. The MTRP Foundation paid for all the MTRP signs to be repainted and/or repaired.

- The lake was very busy on the 4th of July, even without fireworks this year. Fortunately everything went smoothly and it was an enjoyable day for everyone that came out.
 - 1000 pounds of catfish from the CA Fish & Game was stocked in the lake recently.
- B. City of Santee Community Services Department – *Bill Maertz reported the following:*
- The San Diego River Conservancy board voted to provide SANDAG with \$500,000 to study trail alignment along the San Diego River Trail, and \$300,000 of that is for the corridor through Carlton Oaks Park. We're getting closer to providing the residents of Santee a trail connection to MTRP.
- C. Park Staff/ Ranger's Report – *Matt Sanford reported the following:*
- The West Sycamore trails construction is coming along. Brookfield Estates have completed the majority of the trails, and recently installed four kiosks and several trail markers. We're still waiting on SDG&E to vacate the area on top, and once they do the contractor will return to build the park staging area and entrance sign. The contractor will also return later this year to hydroseed several areas.
 - The East Fortuna Comfort Station contractor is finishing up the final punch list items. There were some ADA revisions needed which caused a bit of a delay on the opening, but we anticipate that it will open next week.

COMMUNICATIONS

- John Pilch reported about a number of community events taking place this summer including a Farmer's Market at Pershing Middle School, a free concert in Allied Gardens put on by the Tifereth Israel Community Orchestra, and a playground that was recently built at Lake Murray.
- Beth Frice spoke in opposition to the proposed Quail Brush power plant project in relation to the MTRP Design District guidelines.
- Stephen Houlahan reported that "Save Mission Trails" is now a non-profit, incorporated entity.

ACTION ITEMS – NONE

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. Update on efforts by the County of San Diego to acquire land for the Stowe Trail from MTRP to Sycamore Canyon Preserve – *Janice Downs reported the following for Supervisor Dianne Jacob:* No updates at this time.
302. San Diego County Water Authority projects in MTRP – *Brent Fountain reported the following:*
- The Lake Murray control valve project has been rescheduled. SDCWA staff will return in six months with the new schedule for this project.
 - The contract for the pipe relining project has been awarded to LH Woods & Sons, and recently received their notice to proceed. Brush clearing, grubbing, and

installing sound walls will begin mid-August, with the pipe relining scheduled to begin in October.

- We're having a project open house at the San Carlos Library on July 25th, from 5-7PM.

303. SDG&E weather station in MTRP – *Steve Vanderburg reported the following:*

- SDG&E will be installing a weather station to an existing wooden pole on the Fortuna Saddle. This information is used by SDG&E, and many other agencies including SDFD, to monitor current weather conditions in and around the park. We're also discussing installing a weather station atop Cowles Mountain.

304. MTRP Master Plan & Natural Resource Management Plan – *Mark Carpenter reported the following:*

- There was a request to incorporate data from other regional efforts about site specific monitoring and regional monitoring in MTRP, into the Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP). The project sub consultant, RECON Environmental, has been working on integrating this information into a second draft of the NRMP. This information will also be integrated into the Master Plan Update (MPU), and City staff will have the opportunity to review these drafts to ensure the two plans really do work together with this integrated information.
- We're anticipating that a public scoping meeting for the EIR will likely take place in October.
- Assuming everything goes according to plan, we can go through the screen check EIR in the Fall/early Spring, and if that goes according to plan we can release the public draft of the EIR in April/May 2013. Our intent is to release the EIR, the NRMP, and the MPU in draft form at the same time.

Public comments:

- Beth Frice asked if the current version of the EIR will be used when making a decision about the proposed Quail Brush power plant.
- Kim Wiley expressed concerns over the MCAS Miramar enforcement of the base property lines, and if rerouting some of the popular existing trails in the East Elliott area can be done sooner rather than later to avoid the base property. Mark Carpenter stated that KTU+A is master planning over publicly and privately owned property in the East Elliott area, and he would have to look at the specific trail alignments to see if they are all in the publicly owned parcels or not.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.

NEXT MEETING: September 20, 1:00 pm.