

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2012
MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TASK FORCE**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force was held on Thursday, November 15, 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 MTRP Citizens Advisory Committee

Members Absent

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
Steve Haupt, District Manager, Open Space Division
Matt Sanford, Senior Park Ranger, Mission Trails Regional Park
Chris Pearson, office of Councilmember Marti Emerald
Shirley Owen, office of Councilmember Lori Zapf
Jeanette DeAngelis, Public Works Department

City of Santee

Bill Maertz, Director of Community Services

Guests

Craig Balben, SDCWA
Brent Fountain, SDCWA
Jason Kraus, SDCWA
John Pilch, San Carlos Recreation Council and MTRP CAC
Pauline Kedward
Sandy Kuntz

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Councilmember Lori Zapf at 1:05PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

REQUEST FOR CONTINUENCES – None.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – None.

MTRP CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Dorothy Leonard reported the following for the CAC meeting held on September 4, 2012:

- Supported staff recommendation to approve the application for a Military Day at MTRP on November 3, 2012. The event, sponsored by the Sierra Club in collaboration with San Diego Children and Nature, was held between 10AM and 2PM at the Equestrian Staging Area.
- Approved a recommendation to the Task Force to create a CIP to construct the covered picnic area at the Equestrian Staging Area as identified in the Site Development Permit, utilizing Antenna Funds up to \$150,000 for the project.

Dorothy Leonard reported the following for the CAC meeting held on November 6, 2012:

- Supported staff recommendation to approve two 5K and 15K runs in the park. The first, organized by Generic Events, will be held on February 3, 2013, and the second, organized by Dirt Devil Racing, will be held on August 11, 2013. Both events will be staged out of the Equestrian Staging Area.
- Heard a presentation from Ali Darvishi, Project Officer, City of San Diego Public Works – Engineer Department, regarding options for constructing a covered group picnic shelter at the Equestrian Staging Area at a cost not to exceed \$150,000. One concept was presented followed by CAC discussion of other possible options which may exceed the budget or require a smaller facility. This is item 101 on the Task Force agenda. The CAC recommends that the Task Force approve moving forward with the project.
- Recommended approval of the FY2013/2014 MTRP Project Funding Priorities and Future Needs List with one minor change. This is item 103 on the Task Force Agenda.
- Recommended approval of the transfer of \$1,702.59 from the Mission Trails Regional Park Endowment Fund with San Diego Foundation to MTRP Foundation for use on a project to be identified at a later date and approved by the Task Force. The distributable balance is earnings less a San Diego Foundation management fee of 5%. This is item 104 on the Task Force agenda.
- Heard a presentation by Jim Winter, Project Officer, Administrative Services Division, Park and Recreation Department, regarding the FY2012 Regional Park Fund recommendations. There are no new projects for MTRP in the FY2012 recommendations, but MTRP is receiving funding for trail work and the Old Mission Dam project as approved in prior years. The CAC requested that the construction of a proposed suspension or truss bridge across the San Diego River from the San Diego River Crossing trail and the upgrading of the Oak Grove loop trail to an “all weather” trail be included on the future project list. Both of these projects are on the MTRP Project Funding Priorities and Future Needs List and are included in the Draft MTRP Master Plan update.

- Heard a presentation by Pardee Development on the proposed Castlerock Development in the East Elliott planning area and adjacent to Santee Lakes. This proposed development is within the Mission Trails Design District and must meet the Design District Guidelines. It will come back to the CAC at a later date for action as it relates to the Design District Guidelines.

MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT

Dorothy Leonard reported the following:

- The water exhibit should be completed by the end of the year.
- Working with MTRP staff and volunteer trail guides, we have started the process of updating and redesigning the exhibits about birds and fire. The intent is to include information about birds, arthropods, amphibians and mammals that reside in the park, which can be accessed from a touch screen mounted on the wall. Information about fire would be a static wall display. Once a budget has been finalized the Foundation will be seeking grant funding for the project.
- A successful pilot environmental education program for 6th grade students attending year-round schools in SDUSD was held over the summer. The district was looking for an opportunity to provide an outdoor education experience for the students since the long-standing Outdoor Education Program at Camp Cuyamaca was canceled due to budget cuts. The Foundation recently received a \$25,000 grant from SDG&E to continue the program through 2013.
- The environmental education program with YMCA's of SD County was held over the summer with funds from a separate SDG&E Grant. Since funds were not needed for bus transportation we will be able to extend the program during the upcoming winter and spring breaks.

STAFF REPORTS

- A. Water Department's Lake Murray Report – *Matt Sanford for Gayle Havens, Lake Murray Reservoir Keeper:*
 - Just completed stocking 2200 lbs. of trout, and the lake level is good.
 - The next shutdown of the lake for a draw down is scheduled for the middle of January.
- B. City of Santee Community Services Department – *Bill Maertz reported the following:*
 - The Walker property, which is 107 acres along the San Diego River and on the border of Santee and Lakeside, has been acquired for \$2.2 million. The closing date is December 7th, and the purchase was entirely funded through grants. Connectivity to MTRP from the Lakeside Conservancy property through Santee will now be provided.
 - The San Diego River Conservancy has given a \$500,000 grant to SANDAG for preliminary engineering for the trail section through the Carlton Oaks Golf Course towards MTRP.
 - The Santee Town Center development project was approved. A condition of the project is to build a trail along the San Diego River through the Town Center.
- C. Park Staff/ Ranger's Report – *Matt Sanford reported the following:*
 - Park staff have been very busy with volunteer work crews starting back up:

- The Park Beautification crew, led by GMW Tom, picked up trash around the Cowles Staging Area, and along Golfcrest Drive.
 - The Habitat Crew, led by Ranger Mika, performed maintenance work around several sensitive species of plants found in the park. Mostly weed pulling and repairing fencing around the plants.
 - The Trail Improvement Crew, led by Ranger Mel, worked on the Visitor Center Loop Trail.
 - Members of the San Diego Mountain Biking Association worked on the “E-ticket” trail on the west side of Fortuna Mountain. (Note: “E-ticket” is not an official trail name but is the name used by the mountain bike community for a section of a trail in the Fortuna area.) The work concentrated on restoring excessively eroded and worn trail sections, and improving drainage. A total of 47 hours was spent on this trail, and they will be returning to restore vegetation alongside this trail.
 - Jerry Bierman, a new volunteer to MTRP, recently organized a group of 5-6 volunteers and worked on a steep trail section near SR52 and Shepherd’s Pond.
- The annual Arbor Day Celebration will be held on Saturday, December 1 at the Campground - 9AM, meeting at the day-use parking lot. Volunteers will be planting 10 native trees and a variety of native plants; also spreading wood chips around the plantings and in the campground.
 - The Barker Way Service Road was refurbished recently:
 - Superior Ready Mix did a great job repairing the road surface, filling in deep long ruts, and refurbishing the drainage outlets that help take water off the road.
 - BIG thanks to the MTRP Foundation for paying for the labor and equipment needed, and to Foundation Executive Director Jay Wilson for all of his assistance with this project.
 - Also BIG thanks to Neil Mohr and the folks at the Sycamore Landfill for removing a large chunk of concrete and an old park gate that was unearthed during this project.
 - We have some left over money with this project to do some touch-up repairs later this winter if needed.
 - Repairs to the Kumeyaay Lake Bridge were completed recently. The scope of work consisted of selective demolition and rubbish handling, drilling holes to inject and pump high-density polyurethane grout to fill all holes and voids within the various materials that comprise the structure between the pipes, in order to improve bearing capacity.
 - City and Foundation Staff, in coordination with SDFD, participated in a Thermo-Gel and emergency preparedness training recently. Thermo Gel, when sprayed onto structures of plants, helps to protect from wildfires. Good opportunity for new staff to review hose setup and spraying procedures, as well as the coordination with SDFD and park staff when a fire or emergency is happening in the park.

- A local college student offered to build a MTRP smartphone app several months ago, for free as a resume builder. Jay and I have met with her several times to go over the content and design and we're very pleased with the work she's done and excited for the final result. She's still working on it and we will be meeting with her again after Thanksgiving.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Pauline Kedward asked why the proposed Quail Brush power plant project was not added to this meeting's agenda. Councilmember Zapf stated that the San Diego City Council voted against changing the zoning from open space to industrial. The project is now up to the State of California Energy Commission (CEC). Councilmember McNelis asked that this project be added to the next MTRP Task Force meeting agenda so that the group can take an official position and send a letter to the CEC. Chris Zirkle stated that if you would like to add this project to the next agenda, then you could make that request at this meeting, or send the future chair a request to do so. Councilmember Zapf stated that she will make that request, but the City Attorney's office may advise against it. Sandy Kuntz urged the MTRP Task Force to take a stand against the proposed Quail Brush power plant project by sending a letter of opposition to the CEC.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (MCNELIS/STERLING) to add the proposed Quail Brush power plant project to the January 17, 2013 MTRP Task Force meeting agenda, unless the San Diego City Attorney's office requires this group to pull it. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS –

101. MTRP CAC recommendation to construct the covered picnic area at the Equestrian Staging Area as identified in the Site Development Permit, utilizing \$150,000 of the MTRP Antenna Funds for the project – Dorothy Leonard

- A 2,300 square-foot covered group picnic shelter is included in the Site Development Permit for the ESA.
- The concept presented to the MTRP CAC is for a 2,088 square-foot shelter with a steel roof and posts sited on a concrete pad.
- Estimated of cost of \$150,000 includes:
 - 4 inch concrete slab.
 - Prefab structure.
 - Concrete walk from new pad to existing site walkway for ADA accessibility.
 - Electrical conduits and wiring from existing source for lights under the roof and electrical outlets in posts.
 - City soft costs (approximately 20%).
- Once a CIP is approved by Council the project would take 16 to 18 months to complete.
- The CAC approved in concept the proposal for a covered picnic shelter at the Equestrian Staging Area, authorize City staff to establish a CIP, and approve funding of \$150,000 from the MTRP Antenna Fund. Once the CIP is established MTRP staff and CAC representatives would work with Public Works/Engineering to design the project. CAC members would

like to consider suggestions made by CAC member Roger Utt which would create a more unique structure complementary to the recently completed comfort station. These recommendations might result in an increased cost which could result in a smaller structure in order to stay with the budget of \$150,000. An alternative to decreasing the size would be to increase the budget using available dollars in the Antenna Fund.

- Councilmember Zapf asked if there will be any picnic tables underneath the proposed shade structure.
- Chris Zirkle and Sr. Ranger Sanford expressed concerns about vandalism and other maintenance issues related to picnic tables.
- Chris Zirkle asked if it was the CAC's recommendation to have picnic tables under the shade structure included within the project.
- Dorothy Leonard stated that the CAC recommended not to have picnic tables under the shade structure.
- Chris Zirkle stated that the Task Force can further refine the CAC recommendation or vote for/against the picnic tables under the proposed shade structure

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (STERLING/ZAPF) to approve the MTRP CAC recommendation to construction a covered picnic shelter at the Equestrian Staging Area, authorize City staff to establish a CIP, and approve funding of \$150,000 from the MTRP Antenna Fund. Motion carried.

102. 2013 MTRP Task Force Meeting Schedule – Councilmember Lori Zapf

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (MCNELIS/STERLING) to approve the 2013 MTRP Task Force Meeting Schedule. Motion carried.

103. MTRP FY2013/2014 Project Funding Priorities and Future Needs List – Dorothy Leonard

- The CAC voted to change the proposal to provide facilities for family and group picnicking at the Big Rock Park trailhead in the City of Santee from a Priority 2 to a Priority 3. Bill Maertz stated that the City of Santee has long term plans to create a grand entrance to the east side of MTRP, and suggested that the proposal for facilities at Big Rock Park be removed until there is more information available about their plans. Dorothy Leonard recommended that this proposal be pulled for now until the City of Santee can provide more information, and to make sure their plans for this area are included in the Master Plan update.
- Jeanette DeAngelis stated that the Old Mission Dam dredging is scheduled to begin in late 2013, and that there is currently no money set aside for this project. She recommended that the OMD dredging project be added to this funding list. Dorothy Leonard stated that periodic siltation removal to protect the Old Mission Dam is included on the list, and stated that there is money in the Regency Hills Community Endowment Fund that can be used in MTRP. She suggested that they check on the current balance, and report back at the January Task Force meeting.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (EMERALD/MCNELIS) to remove the proposal to provide facilities for family and group picnicking at the Big Rock Park trailhead until the City of Santee can provide more information about their plans for this area, and to approve the MTRP FY2013/2014 Project Funding Priorities and Future Needs List.

104. MTRP Endowment Fund with the San Diego Foundation: Transfer of the distributable balance of \$1702.59 (Earnings less San Diego Foundation management fee of 5%) to the MTRP Foundation – Dorothy Leonard

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/MCNELIS) to approve the transfer of the distributable balance of \$1,702.59 (earnings less San Diego Foundation management fee of 5%) from The San Diego Foundation MTRP Endowment Fund to the MTRP Foundation. Motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. San Diego County Water Authority Relining Project – *Brent Fountain, SDCWA*
- The project began a few months back, and we're in the process of relining pipelines in the park with new steel liners to improve their reliability.
 - We'll be restriping sections of Jackson Drive, and installing delineators and concrete barricades around the portals to begin work along this street. The work will take about two weeks, and we will be restriping Jackson Drive back to its original course after the work is completed.
 - Sound walls will not be installed around the portals on Jackson Drive.
 - We're still on track to finish work on the MTRP portals by early 2013. The entire project will be finished by Summer 2013.
302. CIP Project Updates:
- a. MTRP Master Plan & Natural Resource Management Plan – *Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Developmental Services Department*
 - No report.
 - b. Old Mission Dam Dredging/Maintenance Project – *Jeanette DeAngelis, City of San Diego Public Works Department*
 - The agency permits have been submitted, the NEPA environmental document – an environmental assessment – has been written. The regional board has another 30 days to issue permission or not based upon our permission completion date and CA Fish & Game has issued an extension to our existing permit based upon our request.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 PM.

NEXT MEETING: January 17, 2013 at 1:00 pm.