

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAY 16, 2013 MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TASK FORCE

## TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force was held on Thursday, May 16, 2013 at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center.

## ATTENDANCE

### Members Present

Councilmember Scott Sherman, City of San Diego  
Supervisor Dave Roberts, County of San Diego  
Councilmember Rob McNelis, City of Santee  
Dorothy Leonard, Chair of Citizens Advisory Committee

### Members Absent

Supervisor Diane Jacob, County of San Diego  
Councilmember Mark Kersey, City of San Diego  
Councilmember Ruth Sterling, City of La Mesa

### 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, Public Utilities Department  
Keli Balo, Public Utilities Department  
Nabeel Qawasmi, Public Utilities Department  
Jeanette DeAngelis, Engineering and Capital Projects  
Jonathan Staab, office of Councilmember Scott Sherman

### County of San Diego

Evan Bollinger, office of County Supervisor Dave Roberts

### City of Santee

Bill Maertz, Director of Community Services

### Guests

Jim Andrecht  
John Pilch

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Councilmember Sherman at 1:15PM.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Task Force recognized all of the Urban Corps staff, park staff, and the volunteers that assisted in the Cowles Mountain Trail Restoration Project.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/ROBERTS) to approve the minutes of the meeting on March 21, 2013. Motion carried.

### REQUEST FOR CONTINUENCES – NONE

### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

*Councilmember Scott Sherman reported the following:*

- Explore Mission Trails Day is this Saturday. I'll be there at the beginning to help kick things off, and am looking forward to it.
- Additional staff for Mission Trails Regional Park is being proposed in the Mayor's FY14 budget, but the status of the Kumeyaay Lake Campground reopening is still up in the air.
- We're working on getting the speed bumps along Father Junipero Serra Trail repainted. A biker injured herself after riding over on these speed bumps recently.
- We're working on some ideas to ease the parking along Golfcrest Drive, near the Cowles Mountain Staging Area. We should receive a traffic study in June that is looking at the feasibility of installing angled parking along Golfcrest Drive.

### MTRP CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

*Dorothy Leonard reported the following for the CAC meeting held on March 21, 2013:*

- Recommended approval to the MTRP Task Force that the Castlerock project (#10046 in the Mission Trails Design District) proceed with water coming from the Padre Dam Water District utilizing purple pipe.

### MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT

*Dorothy Leonard reported the following:*

- Working on final preparations for the annual Explore Mission Trails Day – May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Hosted lunch before the Task Force meeting for the Urban Corps members, park staff, and volunteers that assisted in the Cowles Mountain Trail Restoration Project.

### STAFF REPORTS

A. Water Department's Lake Murray Report – *Gayle Havens, Lake Murray Reservoir Keeper:*

- There was a Bladder Cancer Awareness walk around the lake on May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The San Diego River Park Foundation had a Youth Day on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

- 35 people from the San Pasqual Academy recently painted some of the memorial tables around the lake.
  - Generations on the Move are having a 5k fundraising walk around the lake on May 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Patriots Run 10k & 5k run/walk will be held on May 25<sup>th</sup>. There are over 450 people signed up for this race. We are going to put a 200 person cap on these run/walk events in the future.
  - Fishing has been good. We just put in 300lbs. of channel catfish. The water temperature is in the 70's, and we've stopped stocking trout.
  - SDCWA finished up their work around the lake, and the water level is very good now. We're very happy with their cleanup efforts.
  - The San Diego Fly Fishermen donated a gazebo.
  - Staff have been working on the fire breaks around the lake.
- B. City of Santee Community Services Department – *Bill Maertz reported the following:*
- With the Cowles Mountain Restoration Project underway, we observed an increase in traffic at the Big Rock and Mesa Road trailheads. We used a water truck to spray down the dirt road leading to the Mesa Road trailhead in order to suppress the dust. We're looking at some long term plans for improving the east entrance to Cowles Mountain.
  - I met with the new director of the San Diego River Conservancy, Kevin McKernan, recently and showed him some of the opportunities and constraints for the San Diego River Trail through the City of Santee.
- C. Park Staff/ Ranger's Report – *Matt Sanford reported the following:*
- The last day of the Cowles Mountain Trail Restoration Project is Friday May, 17<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all of the Urban Corps crew members and volunteers that assisted on this project. Thanks also to Ranger Mel for his outstanding work on the project.
  - Park staff and volunteers made an effort to educate the public about the other interesting peaks and trailheads around Mission Trails while the Cowles Mountain trail restoration project was underway. Many Cowles only hikers were unaware that Mission Trails consists of many more miles of trails and peaks that can be climbed. We're hoping this outreach will help reduce the traffic on the popular Cowles Mountain Trail.
  - Thanks to Neil Mohr and Gabe from the Sycamore Landfill for donating, and cutting down to size, a large supply of rebar for the Cowles Trail project. We used this rebar to help secure steps and fencing rails.
  - Park staff are gearing up for this weekend's Explore Mission Trails Day. Thanks again to Neil and Gabe at the Sycamore Landfill for helping to spread wood chips around the Equestrian Staging Area in preparation for EMTD.

COMMUNICATIONS - None

Mission Gorge Trunk Sewer Project – Keli Balo & Nabeel Qawasmi, Public Utilities Department

- There is a large 36" trunk sewer pipe that runs through the park. A section of this pipe at the Jackson river crossing is currently exposed. This pipe is encased in concrete and rock, and has been undermined by erosion over time. Approximately 280 feet of this pipe has been undermined and some sections are now exposed.
- Large cranes will be used to place 1 ton, ½ ton, ¼ ton, and 6" minus rip rap under the pipe. This rip rap will be encased in concrete.
- An inflatable portable dam and pump will be used to divert the river water around the work site.
- Existing roadways will be used. No new roadways or paths will be created.
- If all permits are secured in time, work should begin this fall after the bird nesting season. If all permits are not secured in time, then the project might be delayed until next fall. Work should last three days to a week. They are proposing to work 24 hours a day.
- There will be closures to the public around the immediate work area. The Visitor Center Loop Trail will remain open, but the public will not be able to cross the river while the project is taking place.

ACTION ITEMS101. Castlerock Project (# 10046/SCH # 2004061029 in the Mission Trails Design District) – Jimmy Ayala, Pardee Homes

- Castlerock is a 203-acre property located across the street from West Hills High School and near Mast Blvd. It will include a mix of up to 430 single family homes, and the project will be consistent with the MTRP Design District Guidelines.
- Approximately 95 acres of the site will be dedicated as permanently protected open space. Wetlands found on the property will be restored and protected.
- There will be a four acre park on the northern end of the property that will be landscaped with drought tolerant plants, and which will provide 17 off-street parking spaces. Pedestrian and bicycle access to MTRP will be provided.
- A brush management zone will be maintained around the property that will consist of transitional native landscaping.
- Any runoff on the property will be collected in brow ditches, stored in detention basins, and filtered before being released.
- Sensitive habitats located on this property, such as vernal pools, will not be intruded upon and will be preserved, protected, and maintained in perpetuity.
- If the development stays in the City of San Diego then purple pipe will not be provided right away, but if the property is annexed to the City of Santee then purple pipe water would be provided right away.
- Councilmember McNelis asked:
  - If the HOA will be responsible for maintaining the slopes around the homes. Jimmy Ayala stated that the HOA will be responsible for this.

- What the purpose is of the existing SDGE building currently located on the Pardee property. Jimmy Ayala stated that it is a SDGE substation.
- If the HOA will be responsible for maintaining the brow ditches around the property, and who will ensure that they are regularly maintained. Jimmy Ayala stated that the CC&R's dictate that the HOA must maintain the brow ditches, and must set aside money to maintain them.
- Supervisor Roberts suggested that Pardee pre-wire the homes with EV charging stations.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (ROBERTS/LEONARD) to approve the Castlerock project (# 10046/SCH # 2004061029) as it relates to the Mission Trails Design District guidelines. Motion carried with Councilmembers Sherman and McNelis abstaining.

102. CAC Reappointments – *Councilmember Scott Sherman*

- At-large members:
  - Nancy Acevedo
  - Dale Shockley
- MCAS Miramar
  - David Boyer
- San Carlos Area Council
  - John Pilch
  - April Boling (alternate)

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/ROBERTS) to approve the CAC reappointments. Motion carried.

103. Mayors Proposed FY2014 Budget as it relates to the Open Space Division and Mission Trails Regional Park – *Chris Zirkle, Open Space Division*

- Last Fall was the first time the Open Space Division was not asked to submit a budget with reductions or closings.
- The Mayor approved four new Park Ranger positions and a pesticide applicator that we're targeting for Mission Trails, one Ranger for another park, and a drafting aide for the Division.
- The Council did not support a midyear budget addition to reopen the Kumeyaay Lake Campground. For some reason the campground reopening was not included in the Mayor's FY2014 budget, but the Mayor is likely to make more changes to the budget before the end of the month.

MOTION: No action taken.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. Old Mission Dam Dredging/Maintenance Project – *Jeanette DeAngelis, Engineering & Capital Projects, and Chris Zirkle, Deputy Director Open Space Division*

- All of the permits for this dredging have been secured, and they are 5 year permits. The project has now been turned over to the Park & Recreation Department.
  - We're still overseeing the mitigation site along the San Diego River, and it's going well.
  - There is a narrow construction window to get this project done, and it must occur after the bird nesting season.
  - This is a Public Works project and there is a certain protocol with regards to the engineering drawings and the contract bidding process for these types of projects. The City does not currently have a design build firm on board, so the project will have to go out to bid.
  - There are some changes that are needed to the engineering drawings. They are minor and have to do with the amount of sediment to be removed, and that the sewer pipeline no longer needs to be encased. Both of these changes should result in cost reductions.
302. MTRP Master Plan and Resource Management Plan – *Matt Sanford for Jeff Harkness, Developmental Services Department*
- Staff have prepared and submitted the pre-public drafts of the Master Plan Update and the Natural Resource Management Plan to the resource agencies, the CAC ad hoc Subcommittee, and other project partners.
  - The agencies have requested a meeting that is tentatively scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Master Plan Update. As such, the comments are not expected back before May 24<sup>th</sup>. Upon receipt of the comments at the end of this review, a timeline for holding the EIR scoping meeting will be determined.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

#### NEXT MEETING

July 18, 2013 at 1:00 pm.