

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2013 MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TASK FORCE

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force was held on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Councilmember Scott Sherman, City of San Diego
Councilmember Mark Kersey, City of San Diego
Kristine Alessio, Vice-Mayor City of La Mesa
Dorothy Leonard, Chair of Citizens Advisory Committee

Members Absent

Supervisor Dave Roberts, County of San Diego
Supervisor Diane Jacob, County of San Diego
Councilmember Rob McNelis, City of Santee

City of San Diego

Matt Sanford, Senior Park Ranger, Mission Trails Regional Park
Steve Haupt, District Manager, Open Space Division
Liz Saidkhanian, office of Councilmember Scott Sherman
Elizabeth Spillane, office of Councilmember Mark Kersey
Christine Axtmann, Park Ranger, Mission Trails Regional Park

County of San Diego

Evan Bollinger, office of Supervisor Dave Roberts

City of Santee

Bill Maertz, Director of Community Services

Guests

Kim Wiley	Gail Sevrens	Brandi Klemstine
Jeff Almondovar	Robert Hubbard	Chris Hatch
Pamela Haehn	Dave Viera	David Bybee
Pauline Kedward	Terry Gaughen	Dustin Sharp
Kevin Loomis	Frank Landis	Gardner Grady
Justin Amador	Bill Sefton	
Doug Johnson	Van Collingsworth	
Dom Dias	Rich Thesing	

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Councilmember Sherman at 1:30PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/KERSEY) to approve the minutes of the meeting on September 19, 2013. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUENCES – NONE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Councilmember Scott Sherman reported the following:

- Recently had a productive meeting with Kim Wiley and Gardner Grady, members of the San Diego Mountain Biking Association, about the unauthorized trails in the East Elliott area. We'll be meeting every other month to update them on what's taking place.
- We also met with State Assemblyman Brian Jones to update him on the unauthorized trails in East Elliott.

MTRP CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Dorothy Leonard reported the following for the CAC meeting held on September, 3 2013:

- Supported the Dailard Elementary School 5k walk/run to be held on March 16, 2014 which has been approved by Senior Ranger Sanford.
- Recommendation to support item 104 on the Task Force agenda which is to approve the MTRP FY2014/2015 Project Funding Priorities and Future Needs List.

MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT

Dorothy Leonard reported the following:

- Working with City staff the Foundation has purchased and set-up new computers and monitors for the four new rangers that are coming to Mission Trails. The Foundation owns and maintains all city staff computers and contracts with an IT person to maintain the computers and the computer system at the Visitor Center and campground.
- Working with City staff, co-sponsored another successful Arbor Day with trees planted at the Equestrian Staging Area.
- Held our annual Holiday Party to thank the MTRP volunteers and donors for their continued support.

STAFF REPORTS

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

- The water level is good right now, and should stay where it's at for a while.
 - The CA Department of Fish & Wildlife stocked 400 pounds of Rainbow Trout recently and 200 pounds of these fish are tagged for a study the agency is doing to see how many people are actually taking the fish.
 - The pelicans returned to the Lake recently and are a popular attraction for photographers.
- B. City of Santee Community Services Department – *Bill Maertz reported the following:*
- We're working with the San Diego River Park Foundation, and with a \$137,000 grant from SANDAG, to create a park watch program. Park docents and volunteer patrol members will patrol the river park to provide information, report graffiti, and perform minor repairs. This is a pilot program and we're currently recruiting volunteers. The River Park Foundation will be hiring a staff person to run the program.
- C. Park Staff/ Ranger's Report – *Matt Sanford reported the following:*
- We had a great Arbor Day celebration this past Saturday at the East Fortuna Equestrian Staging Area. Thirty volunteers showed up, including Boy Scout troops 950 and 959.
 - Conditional offers of employment were made to 5 new Park Rangers, and all accepted. One Ranger, Chris Axtmann, has already started and we're excited to have her on board. The other 4 Rangers will be starting the 2nd week of January, and will attend the January Task Force meeting for introductions.
 - During the 2nd to last week of October, park staff worked with 2 crews from the San Diego County Urban Corps on the remaining trail work that could not be completed this past May due to the nesting noise restrictions. Park staff also continue to pick up trash along Golfcrest Drive, near the Cowles Staging Area, and we recently installed several signs along Golfcrest reminding people about the Quiet Hours (10pm to 7am), to place trash/recycling in the proper containers, and to respect the nearby residents.
 - The Habitat Crew meets the 2nd Saturday of the month, 8am – VC flagpole. The Trail Improvement Crew meets the 3rd Saturday of the month, 8am – VC flagpole. The Park Beautification Crew meets the 4th Saturday of each month, 8am – VC flagpole.
- D. Open Space Division Staff Report
- No report.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Van Collingsworth briefed the Task Force on the status of designating SR52 as a State Scenic Highway. The public comment period should be opening soon, and he urged supporters to provide comments to CALTRANS about this project.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Amending the MTRP Citizens' Advisory Committee Operating Rules to include representation from the Scripps Ranch community of the City of San Diego – *Chairman Sherman*

- Councilmember Kersey thanked Chairman Sherman for his work on including the Scripps Ranch community on the MTRP Citizens' Advisory Committee.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/KERSEY) to amend the MTRP Citizens' Advisory Committee Operating Rules to include representation from the Scripps Ranch community of the City of San Diego. Motion carried.

102. CAC Appointments/Reappointments – *Chairman Sherman*

- Tierrasanta Community Council – Betty Ogilvie, Rich Thesing alternate
- City of Santee – Frank Bathrick
- City of La Mesa – *pending appointment by La Mesa City Council*

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/KERSEY) to approve Betty Ogilvie (Rich Thesing alternate), and Frank Bathrick as members of the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizen's Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

103. 2014 MTRP Task Force Meeting Schedule – *Chairman Sherman*

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/KERSEY) to approve the 2014 MTRP Task Force Meeting Schedule. Motion carried.

104. MTRP FY2014/2015 Project Funding Priorities and Future Needs List – *CAC Chair Dorothy Leonard*

- Chairman Sherman stated that Interim Mayor Todd Gloria recently said that reopening the Kumeyaay Lake Campground is one of his top priorities. If all goes well with the mid-year budget allocation than the campground will likely reopen sometime next year. He added that they are also working on obtaining the funds needed for the energy efficient lighting at the Visitor Center.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (KERSEY/ALESSIO) to approve the MTRP FY2014/2015 Project Funding Priorities and Future Needs List. Motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. MTRP Master Plan Update (MPU) and Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) – Matt Sanford for Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego, and Mark Carpenter, KTU+A
- The draft MTRP Master Plan and NRMP are now available on the MTRP website.
 - Prior to Thanksgiving the project was submitted to the Development Services Department for a public project assessment and an initial environmental review. It is anticipated that an initial determination and a Notice of Preparation for an Environmental Impact Review will be completed at the end of February and the Notice of Preparation available in early March.
302. Status of Creation of a CIP for the Administration Building and Shade Structure at the Equestrian Staging Area – CAC Chair Dorothy Leonard
- Establishing a CIP for a project like this can be done through the budget process each year in July, or through the 1472 Council Action process. A request to start a new CIP for this project was received from the Park & Recreation Dept. and was routed through the 1472 Council Action Process.
 - We're trying to get on the December or January City Council meeting docket to approve the creation of this CIP.
303. East Elliott Unauthorized Trails – Matt Sanford, Sr. Ranger MTRP, and Steve Haupt, District Manager Open Space Division
- On approximately November 11, park staff began installing signage at the access points to trails created after 2010, underneath the Spring and Oak Canyon bridges, at the Equestrian Staging Area, and other staging areas and trailheads near East Elliott. Native brush was also installed at the access points to these trails to deter their usage.
 - Park Rangers have been observable on-site and have conversed with many recreationalists to explain what changes are in effect and the importance of following the posted signs. While the majority of comments received have been positive and supportive of the work underway, Park Rangers continue to observe several signs and their posts being torn down within days of installation and new trails detouring around the native brush placed at the access points to trails created after 2010. Often times these signs and posts are never located, and Park Rangers have been spending a substantial amount of time and resources reinstalling them and moving brush back into place.
- Public Comment:*
- Terry Gaughen stated the he has spent a lot of time working on trails in MTRP, and is frustrated to see trail shortcuts and illegally constructed trails around the park. He added that many hours of labor goes into repairing trails and fencing, and replacing signs.

- Dustin Sharp stated that until the City of San Diego provides legal trail alternatives, they're going to continue see illegal trail building and illegal trail use.
- Van Collingsworth stated that the unauthorized trails in East Elliott should be rehabbed as quickly as possible, and that the Master Plan and Resource Management Plan should be completed as quickly as possible.
- Kevin Loomis suggested that recreationalists and the government agencies work together as a partnership, and added that the path we're currently on is not working.
- Frank Landis stated that many unauthorized trails have caused damage to vernal pools and other sensitive areas, and suggested that more environmental education be done, in concurrence with enforcement efforts, to help educate recreationalists about the sensitive plants in East Elliott.

304. Old Mission Dam Dredging & Maintenance Project Update – *Steve Haupt, District Manager Open Space Division*

- We're still waiting on the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) permit. USACE is trying to put the 2008 mitigation requirements into this permit.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.

NEXT MEETING

January 16, 2013 at 1:00 pm.