

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JANUARY 16, 2014 MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TASK FORCE

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force was held on Thursday, January 16, 2014 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 Mark Kersey, City of San Diego
Kristine Alessio, Vice-Mayor City of La Mesa
Dorothy Leonard, Chair of MTRP Citizens Advisory Committee

Members Absent

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
Gayle Havens, Lake Murray Reservoir Keeper
Liz Saidkhanian, office of Councilmember Scott Sherman

County of San Diego

Evan Bollinger, office of Supervisor Dave Roberts

City of Santee

Bill Maertz, Director of Community Services

Guests

Kim Wiley, San Diego Mountain Biking Association
Pauline Kedward
Kevin Loomis, San Diego Mountain Biking Association
Frank Landis, California Native Plant Society of San Diego
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/ROBERTS) to approve the minutes of the meeting on December 12, 2013. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUENCES – NONE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Councilmember Scott Sherman reported the following:

- We recently met with Kim Wiley and Robert Craddick from the San Diego Mountain Biking Association about the unauthorized trails in the East Elliott area, and will be meeting with them on a regular basis about this issue. We're trying to work on a legal trail solution in East Elliott.
- I've been meeting with interim Mayor Gloria on a regular basis and still have his assurances that we will have the funding needed to reopen the Kumeyaay Lake Campground and the lighting upgrades at the Visitor Center during the mid-year budget allocation.
- We're trying to come up with solutions to the Cowles Mountain parking issues.

MTRP CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

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

- The CAC recommended approval of the transfer of the distributable balance of \$1,035.77 from the San Diego Foundation to the MTRP Foundation.

MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT

Dorothy Leonard reported the following:

- The annual MTRP Volunteer Recognition and Awards Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 1st at 5:30pm. This event is cohosted by the City Park & Recreation Department, and the MTRP Foundation.

STAFF REPORTS

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

- The CA Department of Fish & Wildlife stocked 400 pounds of Rainbow Trout recently, and 200 pounds of these fish are tagged to study their longevity, and to see how many people are actually taking the fish.
- The water level is good, and the fishing has been great lately.

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

- The San Diego River Park Foundation partnered with Takeda Pharmaceuticals, a local biotech company, and will plant 2,000 native trees along the San Diego River through Santee.

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

- 4 of the new Park Rangers have started working and we're already seeing a positive impact on operations in the park. The final Ranger begins on the 18th. All will be attending the March Task Force meeting for introductions.
- The annual Trail Guide Training orientation was this past Saturday, and there are close to 30 people signed up for this year's training. The training lasts 10 weeks and covers the natural, cultural and historical features of the park and interpretive techniques for leading groups on nature walks.
- The volunteer Trail Improvement Crew meets this Saturday, 8am at the Visitor Center flagpole and will be working on the Climber's Loop Trails, and the Oak Grove Loop Trail. The Park Beautification Crew meets on the 25th, 8am at the Visitor Center flagpole.
- Our annual Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Dinner will be taking place Saturday, February 1, 5:30pm at the Visitor Center.

D. Open Space Division Staff Report

- No report.

COMMUNICATIONS

ACTION ITEMS

101. CAC Appointments & Reappointments – *Chairman Sherman*

- City of La Mesa – Johnny Gonzales
- Scripps Ranch Civic Association – Jim McGinn

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (ALESSIO/LEONARD) to approve Johnny Gonzales to the MTRP CAC as the City of La Mesa representative, and Jim McGinn as the Scripps Ranch Civic Association representative. Motion carried.

102. Mission Trails Regional Park Endowment Fund with the San Diego Foundation: Transfer of the distributable balance of \$1,035.77 (Earnings less San Diego Foundation management fee of .05%) to the MTRP Foundation – *Dorothy Leonard*

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/ROBERTS) to approve the transfer of the distributable balance of \$1,035.77 (Earnings less San Diego Foundation management fee of .05%) from the San Diego Foundation to the MTRP Foundation . 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 project was submitted prior to Thanksgiving to the Development Services Department for a public assessment and an initial environmental review.
 - It is anticipated that an initial determination and a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for an Environmental Impact Review will be completed at the end of February, and the NOP 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
- The new legislative calendar was received after the CAC last met. All items that go to Council must first be heard by a Council Committee. The project will need to be first heard by the Council Infrastructure Committee. Because of the holidays, the first this committee will meet will be in February. As such it is anticipated that Council action for this project will not happen until the later part of February. Staff had previously reported that it was anticipated this item would be at Council in January.
303. East Elliott Unauthorized Trails – Chris Zirkle, Deputy Director Open Space Division; Matt Sanford, Sr. Park Ranger MTRP
- Chris Zirkle reported that the Open Space Division put together some facts regarding the unauthorized trails in response to the press release for the “mass meet up” ride on 1/11/14.
 - Matt Sanford reported that around the beginning of November park staff began posting signs at the access points to trails created from 2010 to 2013. Since then Park Rangers have been present in the East Elliott area talking to recreationalists about the changes in effect. Park Rangers have also been repairing and replacing vandalized and stolen signs on a weekly basis.
 - Chris Zirkle added that if or when we need to move to the next step of enforcement, the presence of these signs is very important.

Public Comment:

- Frank Landis stated that he went up Spring Canyon to check on several populations of Willowy Monardella, an endangered native plant, and although none appeared to have been ridden over there are several plants that are very close to some unauthorized trails.
- Kevin Loomis suggested that all agencies and user groups get together to discuss what can be done to keep some of the unauthorized trails in East Elliott accessible while the Master Plan Update progresses.
- Kim Wiley stated that it would be very helpful if there were maps made available to the public showing which unauthorized trails have been blocked off and which have not. Chris Zirkle stated that currently there are no authorized trails north of SR52,

and that many of the unauthorized trails in this area cross over private and federal property. The City cannot advertise these trails as authorized for that reason.

304. Old Mission Dam Dredging & Maintenance Project Update – *Chris Zirkle, Deputy Director Open Space Division*

- The final permit needed for this project is from the US Army Corps of Engineers and Jeanette DeAngelis has been having ongoing discussions with them about this. We're very close to securing this permit and hope to have an update soon.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM.

NEXT MEETING

March 20, 2014 at 1:00 pm.