

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAY 15, 2014 MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TASK FORCE

## TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force was held on Thursday, May 15, 2014 at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center.

## ATTENDANCE

### Members Present

Councilmember Scott Sherman, City of San Diego  
Kristine Alessio, Vice-Mayor City of La Mesa  
Dorothy Leonard, Chair of MTRP Citizens Advisory Committee  
Councilmember Rob McNelis, City of Santee

### Members Absent

Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County of San Diego  
Supervisor Dave Roberts, County of San Diego  
Councilmember Mark Kersey, City of San Diego

### City of San Diego

Andy Quinn, Senior Park Ranger, Mission Trails Regional Park  
Steve Haupt, District Manager, Open Space Division  
Chris Zirkle, Deputy Director, Open Space Division  
Liz Saidkhanian, office of Councilmember Scott Sherman

### County of San Diego

Evan Bollinger, office of Supervisor Dave Roberts

### City of Santee

Sue Richardson, Recreation Services Manager

### Guests

Kim Wiley, San Diego Mountain Biking Association  
Dustin Sharp, San Diego Mountain Biking Association  
Ben Stone, San Diego Mountain Biking Association  
Kevin Loomis, San Diego Mountain Biking Association  
Rich Thesing

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Councilmember Sherman at 1:04 P.M.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/ALESSIO) to approve the minutes of the meeting on March 20, 2014. Motion carried. Rob McNelis abstained.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUENCES – NONECHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

*Councilmember Scott Sherman reported the following:*

- Everything looks good for our campground opening on June 13, 2014. We're looking to do a ribbon cutting and an evening barbeque event.
- The \$60K allocated in the budget to upgrade the lighting fixtures at the MTRP Visitor Center as part of the energy efficient upgrades to the entire facility is currently being implemented.
- Fire danger is very high, so be very careful.

MTRP CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

*Dorothy Leonard reported the following for the CAC meeting held on May 6, 2014:*

- Welcomed Rob Chavez the representative from the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board and Jay Wilson the representative from Navajo Community Planners to the committee. The new representative from the City of La Mesa, Johnny Gonzales did not attend. He has now missed the two meetings since his appointment.
- Heard a presentation on the City of San Diego's proposal to utilize land within MTRP to meet neighborhood park equivalency requirements as it relates to the Grantville Amendment to the Navajo Community Plan.

MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT

*Dorothy Leonard reported the following:*

- Working with MTRP staff on the May 17<sup>th</sup> Explore Mission Trails Day.
- Submitted applications for City of San Diego Special Promotion Program funds and County of San Diego Community Enhancement funds. \$45,000 to the City and \$5,000 to the County.
- Funded a top to bottom cleaning of all the public spaces in the Visitor Center. Still to be completed are the windows, the concrete floor and the staff offices. Funds for cleaning come from visitor center rental fees collected by the Foundation.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Water Department's Lake Murray Report

- No report.

B. City of Santee Community Services Department – *Sue Richardson reported the following:*

- On May 1-2, approximately 5 acres of the San Diego River trail at Mast Park West was burned adjacent to Carlton Oaks Golf Course. Santee Fire, with help from other agencies including San Diego air support, were able to keep it contained to the river bed area.

- The City of Santee hosted Santree Fest on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. The event included a fun run in partnership with the Lakeside River Conservancy and a number of exhibits and booths from partner agencies.
- The City of Santee will be participating with a booth for the Explore MTRP event on May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The City of Santee is at 90% design for the Walker Preserve stretch of the San Diego River Trail. Expect to go out to bid this summer and have constructed by late Fall.

C. Park Staff/ Ranger's Report – *Andy Quinn reported the following:*

Special Events

- In regards to Explore Mission Trails Day, we're making final adjustments and we're ready to go. Thanks to Dorothy Leonard and Ranger Rebecca Smart for their detailed information in regards to the planning of the event.
- REI's 5K Trail Run took place on Saturday, May 3 from 6:00am to 2:00pm. They had 75 participants, one of them being myself. I want to thank Ranger Mel Naidas and his crew of volunteers for assisting with REI staff and making it a successful event.

East Elliott

- Park staff continues to replace native brush on unauthorized trails created from 2010 to 2013. We're working on a restoration plan to restore damaged areas along with assistance from our Senior Planner's and Open Space City Biologist to be conducted in the fall of this year. It's best all of this is done right before the rainy season

MTRP

- With the temperatures rising, we've been assisting the SDFD mostly at Cowles Mountain with injuries to hikers, dehydration and heat related illnesses. In West Fortuna, a hiker's dog died due to a heat related illness. The owners of the dog decided to walk their dog at noon and the dog couldn't quite handle the heat. The owners tried to carry the dog out of the park, but were too late. Ranger Levi Dean made contact and transported all party members out of the park in his City Vehicle. Ranger staff continues making contacts with hikers and dog owners reminding them to stay hydrated and walk their dogs preferably in the cooler hours of the day.

D. Open Space Division Staff Report – *Chris Zirkle reported the following:*

- In the Bernardo fire in District 5, we had about 500 acres of land burned.
- Also in District 5, the City Council approved the Natural Resources Management Plan for Black Mountain Open Space Park. We'll be getting ready to build new trails and have a plan to restore areas as well.
- In District 1, the mitigated negative declaration for the Carmel Mountain and Del Mar Mesa Natural Resource Management Plan has come up for public review so we look forward to getting back to that approval process with the planning commission hearing.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

## ACTION ITEMS

### 101. CAC Appointments & Reappointments – *Chairman Sherman*

- City of El Cajon – nominee still pending
- County of San Diego Parks Advisory Committee – re-appointment of Roger Utt

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (LEONARD/MCNELIS) to approve the re-appointment of Roger Utt to represent the County of San Diego Parks Advisory Committee. Motion carried

### 102. Amendment to the MTRP CAC Operating Rules to replace one At-Large member with a User Group representative to be appointed by the Task Force Chair.

- Kim Wiley (San Diego Mountain Bike Association member) stated he's interested in working in that capacity and has professional experience. He has done trail work and has been a liaison with MTRP since 2008.
- Kevin Loomis (San Diego Mountain Bike Association member) stated their seeing a good change with communication amongst all the agencies. They're reaching out to a lot of their riders to make them aware of what's taking place so that they're part of the process and solutions, versus the problems. Mr. Loomis strongly recommends Kim Wiley as a user group representative.
- Ben Stone (San Diego Mountain Bike Association member) agrees that Kim Wiley is the best choice. Mr. Stone stated Mr. Wiley has so much professional experience and knows MTRP very well.
- Dorothy Leonard stated there needs to be a process to create operating rules for user group representatives from the Task Force. Chairman Sherman hoped it would be done by July. Chairman Sherman stated user groups usually bring a different perspective to the table.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/ALESSIO) to approve the Amendment to the MTRP CAC Operating Rules to replace one At-Large member with a User Group representative to be appointed by the Task Force Chair; the Task Force chair to create a process for selecting the representative. Motion carried.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### 301. FY2014/2015 Proposed Budget as it impacts the Open Space Division and Mission Trails Regional Park - *Chris Zirkle Deputy Director, Open Space Division, Park and Recreation Dept.*

- The continuation of the mid-year budget for funding to reopen the campground was approved. Another Park Ranger position was added for the Open Space Division based on acreage we acquired elsewhere in the City. We added an addition to our Brush Management contract to correct an underfunding that has been in the budget for a number of years.

### 302. Transfer of remaining West Sycamore acreage from private ownership to City of San Diego - *Chris Zirkle Deputy Director, Open Space Division, Park and Recreation Dept.*

- The last 50 acres was held up because it was a potential for hazardous materials to be on site. The site was cleared for possible hazmat concerns. When SDG&E scarified their staging sites, rubble was uncovered and has been removed. SDG&E will continue to monitor and maintain the revegetation site. We have given the clearance to Real Estate Assets to acquire that property.
303. Old Mission Dam Dredging/Maintenance project update – *Steve Haupt, District Manager, Open Space reported on behalf of Jeannette DeAngelis, City of San Diego Public Works Department.*
- The Corps is still trying to figure out how to adhere to their 2008 mitigation rule within the confines of local municipality regulations and policies.
  - We're negotiating the final conditions of the new permit under the 2008 mitigation rule involving the long term maintenance, management and monitoring for the mitigation site, which is the site adjacent to Carlton Oaks. The 2008 mitigation rule has become a regional topic between many municipalities and the US Army Corp of Engineers as it relates to long-term conservation measures and financial assurances. These items are difficult for municipalities to strictly adhere to. It is hoped that within the next couple of months, the permit will be completed.
304. East Elliott trail restoration and closures – *Chris Zirkle, Deputy Director Open Space Division*
- Vandalism occurred on US Marine Corp Miramar property. The widening of a trail and filling outer slopes with cobble was identified.
  - Vandalism occurred on private party. Holes were dug to create fill materials and jumps on a trail.
  - A wooden memorial cross that was placed on private property was destroyed.
  - None of this vandalism occurred on property managed by Open Space, but it did give rise to some comments from the property owners during the master plan hearing process. Some of the property owners have difficulty understanding how a trails plan differs from a trail guide/brochure.
  - The City has no obligation to prevent trespass on private party and has no liability to the damage that might occur based on that trespass. This is a significant issue not just in Open Space, but with tens of thousands of private property owners who are our neighbors. Park patrons may trespass on those private properties at any time. It's up to those individual property owners to defend their own property from trespass just like it's up to the City to defend its property as well.
  - Good job to Sr. Ranger Quinn and the Park Rangers for continuing to re-brush unauthorized trails on city property and monitoring/patrolling the area on a continued basis.

*Public Comment:*

- Ben Stone who represents the SDMBA advocacy committee received approval to reach out to the San Diego Native Plant Society to have them educate their (SDMBA) members about the dangers of the native species in the park. He wanted to reiterate that they don't have a place to go if we get closed down in East Elliott.

305. Status of creation of a CIP for administration building and shade structure at Equestrian Staging area – *Steve Haupt reported on behalf of Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Planning, Neighborhood and Economic Development Dept.*
- The project has been transferred to Public Works Department, Engineering and Capital Projects Section for processing. This will begin once Financial Management transfers the funds to the project.
306. MTRP Master Plan and Resource Management Plan- *Steve Haupt reported on behalf of Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Planning, Neighborhood and Economic Development Dept./Mark Carpenter, KTU+A*
- City staff held a Scoping Meeting for the Preparation of a Programmatic EIR at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center on April 17th. This was attended by over 50 individuals.
  - The comment period for the NOP ended on May 2nd. Staff will be reviewing comments as it starts the creation of the Environmental document. It is anticipated that the Environmental process will take about a year. The goal is to have approval of the document by the end of July 2015.
307. Reopening of Kumeyaay Lake Campground for overnight weekend camping – *Steve Haupt, District Manager, Open Space Division, Park and Recreation Dept.*
- We're opening the campgrounds on June 13. The online registration is doing well. Working on getting the new Ranger hired.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 PM.

#### NEXT MEETING

Thursday, July 17, 2014 at 1:00 pm.