

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2014 MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TASK FORCE

## TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force was held on Thursday, September 18, 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  
Supervisor Dave Roberts, County of San Diego

### Members Absent

Supervisor Diane Jacob, County of San Diego  
Councilmember Mark Kersey, City of San Diego  
Councilmember Rob McNelis, City of Santee

### 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  
Gayle Havens, Water Department, Lake Murray

### County of San Diego

Evan Bollinger, office of Supervisor Dave Roberts

### City of Santee

Bill Maertz, Director, Department of Community Services

### Guests

Ben Stone, San Diego Mountain Biking Association  
Julie Aeilts, City of San Diego Park Ranger, Mission Trails Regional Park  
Rich Thesing

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Councilmember Sherman at 1:03 P.M.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/ALESSIO) to approve the minutes of the meeting on May 15, 2014. Motion carried.

## REQUEST FOR CONTINUENCES – NONE

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

*Councilmember Scott Sherman reported the following:*

- Everyone seems very happy about the campground being open.
- His staff worked along with the SD Fire Department on informing the public about fire safety/brush management, explaining what they can and can't do.

#### MTRP CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

*Dorothy Leonard reported the following for the CAC meeting held on September 2, 2014:*

- Supported Senior Ranger's recommendation to approve the XTERRA Mission Gorge Trail Run on February 1, 2015. This will be 7th year that this run has been held in MTRP.
- Took support positions on items 102 and 103 on this Task Force agenda.

#### MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT – *Dorothy Leonard reported the following:*

- Roland Roberge, the Foundation's Administrative Assistant for the past 14 years, is retiring. The position has been changed to Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper and Maggie Holloway began on Monday, September 15th.
- Working with City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department staff and San Diego Unified School District staff, it is anticipated that an agreement can be reached to provide an overnight camping experience at the Kumeyaay Lake Campground for some of the districts 6th grade students. The Foundation would pay for the camp sites from SDG&E environmental education program grant funds. Overnight camping would be on a Thursday night.

#### STAFF REPORTS

- A. Water Department's Lake Murray Report – *Gayle Havens reported the following:*
- The fish are very active now with more oxygen pumped in the water. The fishing has been good, but the park has been pretty empty with the high heat.
  - A thank you to the MTRP Foundation for facilitating the replacement of stairs from Baltimore Drive to Lake Murray which were paid from Friends of Lake Murray donations managed by MTRP Foundation.
  - I love a Clean San Diego is on Saturday, 9/20. There are 150 people signed up.
  - Some of the lawn areas are dying off and they're thinking about coming up with new ideas to save water.
  - Still having homeless problems.
- B. City of Santee Community Services Department – *Bill Maertz reported the following:*
- Tonight, the San Diego River Park Foundation is having their Anniversary party at Carlton Oaks Golf course.
  - SANDAG has included in their plan the trail in Mast Park, through Carlton Oaks to Mission Trails, which is fully funded for \$10 million dollars. We'll be rolling out public outreach in October to look at trail alignments.
- C. Park Staff/ Sr. Ranger's Report – *Andy Quinn reported the following:*

- Welcomed and introduced Julie Aeilts, new Mission Trails Campground Park Ranger Aide.
- **MTRP Fire Facts: July 13, 2014**
  1. The initial fire was spotted on the hillside of Kwaay Paay peak by a park guest on Sunday afternoon at about 2:15pm. No park guests were harmed and no structures were damaged in the fire. Due to the high heat over the weekend, the park had fewer guests than usual. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.
  2. It burned 95 acres on Kwaay Paay (one of the five major peaks in Mission Trails Regional Park).
  3. It was declared 100% contained on Monday afternoon
  4. The South Climbers Loop Trail will be closed until further notice

On Thursday, August 28, 2014 at 8:45pm, we had another smaller fire 40 feet by 10 feet at Cowles Mountain off Navajo and Golfcrest. Fire Investigator Patrick Buckley arrived on scene. At this time, the cause is unknown.

- **Rescues**

We're continuing to assist SDFD with rescues on Cowles Mountain. We're planning to place a 'heat stress advisory' blurb on our MTRP website. (It has been an all too regular occurrence on our trails, especially Cowles Mountain). Even when not in "summer season" our temps have been high and humid pretty much the entire year, and too many pets (and a few people) are in need of immediate rescue, as well as pets dying due to heat stress. We've placed 'heat warning signage' at all of our trailheads.
- **West Sycamore**

We're officially open. G4S Security is opening the entry gate at 8am and closing at 7pm. Trash receptacles have been placed. Grading is complete for the trailer placement, the next step is electrical. We should be getting porta-potties soon. Ranger staff has done an excellent job removing weeds, old concrete, installing new signs and enforcing rules/regulations. We still have a lot of work ahead of us.

#### D. Open Space Division Staff Report

No report

#### COMMUNICATIONS

None

#### ACTION ITEMS

101. CAC Appointments & Reappointments – *Chairman Sherman*
  - City of El Cajon – Richard Gadler

- City of La Mesa – Craig Maxwell, representative; Carol Lockwood, alternate
- MTRP User Group – Kim Wiley, SDMBA

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (LEONARD/ALESSIO) to approve the re-appointment of Richard Gadler to represent the City of El Cajon, the appointment of Craig Maxwell to represent the City of La Mesa and Carol Lockwood as an alternate, and Kim Wiley (SDMBA) to represent MTRP User Group. Motion carried

102. Navajo Community Plan Amendment – Proposed Park Equivalencies within MTRP: Bike Skills Area, Deerfield Canyon Nature Park and the San Diego River Pathway – Report and recommendation from the MTRP CAC ad hoc subcommittee- Robin Shifflet, Development Project Manager, City of San Diego Planning Department
1. Deerfield Bike Skills Area of approximately 12 acres.
  2. Deerfield Canyon Nature Park of approximately 2 acres.
  3. San Diego River Pathway improvements of approximately 7 acres.

Ben Stone with SDMBA reported being in favor of the Deerfield Bike Skills Area. He thinks everyone will be very excited when it's completed.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/ALESSIO) to approve the three proposed park equivalencies for the Navajo Community Plan Amendment located in Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP); equivalencies to move forward to City Council. Motion carried

103. Naming three unnamed trails and renaming two quarries and the two main Fortuna entrances shown in the Draft MTRP Master Plan Update - Dorothy Leonard, Chair, MTRP CAC

The CAC recommendations include:

1. The "Equestrian Multi-use Staging Area" be renamed the "East Fortuna Staging Area" to reflect its location in the park.
2. The "Clairemont Mesa Boulevard Staging Area" be renamed the "West Fortuna Staging Area" to better reflect its location in the park. However, the sign at the entrance to the staging area which reads "MTRP Tierrasanta Entrance" would remain in place.
3. The quarry tentatively named in the draft master plan update as the "Jackson Drive Quarry" be named the "Southwest Boundary Quarry" to better reflect its location in the park.
4. The quarry tentatively named in the draft master plan update as the "Southwest Boundary Quarry" be named the "Visitors Center Loop Quarry" because of its proximity to the Visitors Center Loop Trail.
5. The unnamed trail noted as R10 in the draft master plan update be named the "Suycott Valley South Trail" because of its location.
6. The "Suycott Wash South Trail" be renamed the "Suycott Valley North Trail" to better reflect its location.

7. The unnamed trail noted as R24 in the draft master plan be named the Suycott Valley Bypass Trail” because of its location.
8. The unnamed trail noted as R26 in the draft master plan be named the “Shepherd Ridge Trail” to reflect its location.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/ROBERTS) to approve the recommendation from the CAC to (1) rename the two main Fortuna entrances as stated in items 1 and 2 above, (2) name two quarries as stated in items 3 and 4 above, and (3) rename one trail and name three unnamed trails as stated in items 5 through 8 above, as shown in the Draft MTRP Master Plan Update. Motion carried.

104. MTRP Task Force meeting – Discussion and possible action to change meeting time in order to improve meeting attendance – *Chairman Sherman*  
The meeting time and location will remain the same.

#### INFORMATION ITEMS

301. Update on opening of West Sycamore area of MTRP – *Chris Zirkle Deputy Director, Open space division, Park and Recreation Dept.*
- There is no confirmed date at this time. We’re working on it.
302. Old Mission Dam Dredging/Maintenance project update – *Andy Quinn for Jeannette DeAngelis, City of San Diego Public Works Dept.*
- An alternative compliance for government agencies for meeting the Corps 2008 mitigation rule funding and management in perpetuity requirements has been developed. The proposal has been accepted by the Corps permitting staff and is under internal review. We are hopeful the measures will be accepted and the permit will be issued soon. The mitigation site is coming along very well and has met its third year success criteria.
303. East Elliott trail restoration and closures – *Chris Zirkle, Open Space Division, P&R Dept.*
- Usage of the area is down. Re-brushing of unauthorized trails is down.
  - Mr. Zarour is an individual who owns property in East Elliott. A dirt road runs across into his property that many park users have used. Just west, is an actual street right of way. On a number of occasions, staff has opened the gate for Mr. Zarour to get to his property with 48 hour notice. Mr. Zarour asked me to check with the Real Estate Assets Department to see if he was entitled to a set of keys to that gate. Unfortunately, Real Estate Assets Department advised me that not only should we not give him keys but we should also be giving him a Right of Entry permit. Mr. Zarour rejected a number of conditions in the Right of Entry Permit, some of which were non-negotiable. He rejected the Right of Entry Permit conditions that would require proper coordination with ranger staff. Mr. Zarour posted his property using signs and fencing. For the time being, it’s affecting ranger patrols and I highly doubt it will affect any emergency responders.

304. Status of planning for administration building and shade structure at Equestrian Staging Area – *Andy Quinn for Jason Grani, Project Manager, Public Works, Engineering and Capital Projects Dept.*
- Has have been in touch with an As-Needed Architectural Firm: Davy Architecture, and has provided them with the scope of work and the GDP and Site Development permit. We have talked about the project and I am currently awaiting a proposal from them. Will be scheduling a meeting with them soon to go over any questions they may have. Is hoping to cut the award of the consultant contract time down, which should cut the design time down too, but for now will keep the schedule as is. Once the consultant is on board will schedule a kickoff will get a design schedule and mile stones from them at that time.
305. MTRP Master Plan and Resource Management Plan – *Andy Quinn for Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Planning, Neighborhood and Economic Development Dept. / Mark Carpenter, KTU + A*
- Meeting with the Wildlife Agencies to address comments provided as part of a preliminary review of the Draft MPU and during the Notice of Preparation comment period is being rescheduled upon receiving first screen check comments from City Staff. It had previously been reported that we would meet in September, but now feel it was better to meet once we knew the initial concerns of the City Departments first.
  - Staff and the consultant submitted the first screen check of the Environmental Document the first week of August. We are anticipating receiving comments the later part of September.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 PM.

#### NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 1:00 pm.