

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 6, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members Present**

Dorothy Leonard, Chair, Member at Large  
David Boyer, USMC Miramar  
Jay Wilson, Navajo Community Planners  
Frank Bathrick, City of Santee  
Rich Thesing, Tierrasanta Community Council (alternate)  
John Pilch, San Carlos Area Council  
Paul Ganster, San Diego State University  
Dick Murphy, Vice Chair, Special Member  
Kim Wiley, User Group Representative, SDMBA  
Craig Maxwell, City of La Mesa  
Richard Gadler, City of El Cajon  
Mike Pent, Special Member  
Nancy Acevedo, Member at Large  
Roger Utt, County of San Diego Parks & Recreation Committee

**Members Absent/Excused**

Jim McGinn, Scripps Ranch Civic Association  
Betty Ogilvie, Tierrasanta Community Council  
Robert Chavez, City of San Diego Park & Recreation Board  
Carol Lockwood, City of La Mesa (alternate)

**City of San Diego**

Andy Quinn, Park and Recreation Department  
Steve Haupt, Park and Recreation Department  
Liz Saidkhanian, Councilmember Sherman's office  
Jason Grani, Project Manager

**Guests**

Ben Stone, SDMBA  
Jerry Bierman

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by CAC Chair Dorothy Leonard.

**ROLL CALL**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (Gadler/Wilson) to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 28, 2014. The motion passed with David Boyer and Roger Utt abstaining.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – *Dorothy Leonard, Chair***

The Task Force meeting was canceled due to lack of a quorum. The items referred to them by the CAC will be on their January 15 meeting agenda.

**STAFF/RANGERS REPORT – Sr. Park Ranger Andy Quinn**

- On December 17, we had our official red ribbon cutting ceremony at the West Sycamore area of the Park. The area is officially open.
- Our office furniture has arrived at West Sycamore. Once we have electricity, we'll be moving in computers and installing an alarm system.
- Our first group of Americorps members completed their stay, departing Mission Trails on Friday, December 20. Ranger staff set up a dinner and slide show presentation for them with Councilmember Sherman providing certificates of appreciation for each member. Sr. Ranger Quinn distributed certificates to the Americorps members.

Tasks completed by staff, volunteers and Americorps include:

- 1) Dug 2,500 feet of trench for installation of 100 rolls of straw wattles at Kwaay Paay burned areas.
  - 2) Filled and placed over 500 sediment bags supporting the wattles.
  - 3) Scarified approximately 45,000 square feet of burned areas for seed planting on Kwaay Paay that was approved by the Open Space Division Biologist.
  - 4) Laid 30,000 square feet of jute net in seeded areas of Kwaay Paay.
  - 5) Installed 20 pressure treated wood stairs.
  - 6) Planted, bermed, wood chipped and watered 265 native plants.
- We'll be working with a second group from Americorps, beginning January 15 to March 20 (10 weeks). Twelve members of the Americorps will be assisting park rangers and volunteers to restore and maintain Cowles Mountain and Pyles Peak trails. Work projects include:
    - 1) Cowles will involve installing wood stairs, two wood retaining walls, re-doing the jute netting, planting native vegetation in needed areas and closing off unauthorized/non-designated trails along the Cowles Mountain trail.
    - 2) Pyles will involve converting the old railroad tie water bars to rolling grade dips, cutting back brush, de-berming and out-sloping sections of trail and adding wood steps on various switchbacks.

**WATER DEPARTMENT'S LAKE MURRAY REPORT – Andy Quinn for Gayle Havens, Reservoir Keeper**

- Department of Fish and Game has been stocking the lake with Rainbow Trout for the last two months, not a lot being caught. Some decent bass, bluegill and catfish have been reported as caught.
- Water levels are staying pretty stable. Water quality is good.
- Encountering a lot of graffiti throughout the area. One of the outhouses has been tipped over. In the most recent month we have had an individual playing with the fecal matter in the outhouses. Police were notified and responded to our complaint finding a man covered in fecal matter. He received a warning and the man returned on New Year's Day only to do it again. If there are any complaints on this issue we are currently working on how to address the problem.
- There is an Eagle Scout project planned for the last outhouse roof to be replaced. This will complete the roof repairs on all seven outhouses throughout the lake. A portion of the funds to complete this project will be provided out of the Friends of Lake Murray account with the MTRP Foundation.

- Our staff is continuing to clear the lake road brush to provide a safe clearing around blind corners and narrow portions of the service road.
- Speeding bicycles are still a constant problem and we receive many complaints on this issue from the public. Our new speed limit signs have been posted, but seem to be ignored. We are discussing our options and different solutions for this issue.
- The homeless camps in the canyon behind the dam have been a constant issue since the occupants move their camps weekly after being confronted by the San Diego Police. We are working on posting a 72 hour notice and then will have Environmental Services remove the debris.

#### **MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT** – *Jay Wilson, MTRP Foundation Executive Director*

- New website is up. We are still going through some hic-ups in the transfer of some data.
- Through a grant from REI, the MTRP Foundation purchased I-Pad Air Tablets for all nine Rangers including hard cover cases and keyboards.
- The photo contest is being moved back to the spring – March through May. The display in the Gallery will be in September.
- The education field trip program, funded by a 2014 SDG&E Environmental Champions Grant for schools and youth organizations outside of the San Diego Unified School District, has generated approximately 80 field trips for the current school year, serving about 3,400 students.
- Monthly Boy Scout Merit Badge classes will begin again in February.
- The art exhibition program for 2015 is underway as is the concert series.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS** (Non-agenda public comment)

- CAC member Dick Gadler gave a 15-20 minute power point presentation with an overview of Mission Trails Regional Park to the City of El Cajon City Council which was very well received.
- CAC member John Pilch reported the following regarding the lack of adequate parking for Cowles Mountain hikers and the impact on the surrounding neighborhood. The San Carlos Area Council, at the request of Navajo Community Planners (NCPI), voted to recommend that the red curbing along Golfcrest Drive not be removed. The San Carlos Area Council presented the recommendation to NCPI. Because of the large number of people who spoke to the concern at the NCPI meeting, the planning committee voted to have the red curbing removed. The recommendation was forwarded to “traffic” to remove the red curbing along Golfcrest on the opposite side of the mountain which will provide an additional 17 parking spaces. At the NCPI meeting Community Relations Police Officer Mcelroy (SDPD) informed the group that crime, residential burglaries and vehicle break-ins are up especially at Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center, Cowles Mountain trail-head at Navajo and Golfcrest, and at the Cowles Mountain Barker Way trail-head.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

101. Request from MTRP Foundation Board of Directors to amend the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation, Inc. and City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department Visitor & Interpretive Center Special Event Rules and Regulations by eliminating the restriction prohibiting rental of

the Visitor and Interpretive Center for “private parties (e.g., birthday parties, bar mitzvahs, weddings, baptism, memorial services)”. – Park and Recreation Department staff recommendation

*District Manager Steve Haupt reported for Deputy Director Chris Zirkle:* The Park and Recreation Department supports the Foundation’s recommendation to expand the categories of groups permitted to use the Visitor Center by amending the Visitor Center Special Event Rules and Regulations which would eliminating the restriction prohibiting rental of the Visitor and Interpretive Center for “private parties (e.g., birthday parties, bar mitzvahs, weddings, baptism, memorial services)”. According to section 2 of the July, 2003 agreement between the Foundation and the City, “All uses of park facilities and catered events shall conform to the use criteria approved by the Foundation and the Task Force. Such activities shall be subject to approval of the Park and Recreation Director or the designated representative”.

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Pent/Gadler) to recommend to the Task Force approval of the proposed amendments to the Special Event Rules and Regulations for the Visitor & Interpretive Center subject to a one year review. The motion passed with Boyer abstaining.

102. Recommendation to rename the North Perimeter Trail with the adoption of the MTRP Master Plan Update – *Dick Murphy, Chair, MTRP Trail Naming ad hoc subcommittee*

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Murphy/Ganster) to recommend to the Task Force approval of renaming the North Perimeter Trail the North Fortuna Perimeter Trail with the adoption of the MTRP Master Plan Update. The motion passed with Boyer abstaining.

## WORKSHOP

201. East Fortuna Staging Area Administration Building (Community Support Facility) – *Jason Grani, Project Manager, Public Works, Engineering and Capital Projects Dept.*

- The City is in the process of hiring the firm of Davy Architecture for the project. The contract is for \$300,000 for design and construction management. The approved Site Development Permit includes a 5,000 square foot administration building. To save costs, it was decided to design the project to 4,999 square feet which will save over \$100,000 in costs. The plans are still up for negotiations. According to the site development permit, the covered area is 2,300 square feet. We can’t go bigger than that without amending the Site Development Permit. Mr. Grani suggested the MTRP CAC appoint an ad hoc subcommittee to work with City staff on the plans.
- A lengthy discussion took place about many possibilities for facility use and design. The chair appointed the following ad hoc subcommittee to work with City staff on the project: Frank Bathrick (chair), Roger Utt, Dick Murphy, Paul Ganster, Kim Wiley, and Nancy Acevedo with Senior Ranger Andy Quinn and Open Space Division District Manager Steve Haupt representing park staff.
- Mr. Grani stated that it will probably take about a year to get the actual building permit ready with plans and specifications. An estimate of the construction cost is \$2.5 million. If we had all the funds, ground breaking could start in two years.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**301. MTRP Antenna Fund revenue sources – *Lane MacKenzie, Real Estate Assets Department*

A new antenna is coming in conjunction with the County Sheriff's Department and the FBI in July. The lease would provide an additional \$700 a month into the Mission Trails Antenna Fund. The lease will be on a year to year basis. CAC members raised question as to why this proposal had not been presented to the MTRP CAC for review and comment as had other facility leases. Liz Saidkhanian from Councilmember Sherman's office will contact Robert Zolessy from Real Estate Assets for more information. The chair requested that this item be on the March CAC meeting agenda.

302. Status of East Elliott land acquisition – *Lane Mackenzie, Real Estate Assets Department*

In December, San Diego City Council approved the expenditure of approximately \$1.3 million dollars from Habitat Acquisition Funds for land acquisition (approximately 30 acres) in the future East Elliott area of the Park. Two parcels are in escrow with willing sellers. They encompass the existing access road north of 52 into East Elliott. Negotiations continue on the third parcel. There is a dedicated road running (Spring Canyon Road) north/south through Spring Canyon, dedicated in 1973 by the Navy, however the physical access is a dirt road and is not the same alignment as the dedicated road. The property the City is acquiring includes the dirt road running through Spring Canyon.

303. Old Mission Dam Dredging/Maintenance project update – *Steve Haupt reported for Jeannette DeAngelis, City of San Diego Public Works Department-*

The Army Corps of Engineers permit for the project was finally approved by the South Coast Branch Chief, Therese Bradford. There are still one or two more higher level reviews. Getting past the Branch Chief has been very time consuming and challenging, so Jeannette is feeling more confident we are really getting closer to permit approval.

304. MTRP Master Plan and Resource Management Plan – *Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Planning, Neighborhoods and Economic Development Dept. / Mark Carpenter, KTU+A – Andy Quinn reported for Jeff Harkness*

Staff is working with the Resource Agencies on the proposed trails identified in the Draft MPU and NRMP. Field trips with the Resource Agencies are scheduled for January to review several trail locations. A follow up meeting in February with the Resource Agencies is tentatively scheduled. Staff will report back in March to the CAC on the outcome of the meetings and a revised project schedule.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

The next CAC meeting will be Tuesday, March 3, 2015, at 6:30 PM.