

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 3, 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
Dick Murphy, Vice Chair, Special Member
Kim Wiley, User Group Representative, SDMBA
Mike Pent, Special Member
Roger Utt, County of San Diego Parks & Recreation Committee
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)

Members Absent/Excused

Craig Maxwell, City of La Mesa
Nancy Acevedo, Member at Large
Richard Gadler, City of El Cajon
Paul Ganster, San Diego State University

City of San Diego

Andy Quinn, Park and Recreation Department
Chris Zirkle, Park and Recreation Department

Guests

Ben Stone, SDMBA
Jerry Bierman
Victor Runco
Alyson Wright
Randall Sjoblom

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 (Bathrick/Pilch) to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 6, 2015. The motion passed with David Boyer and Robert Chavez abstaining.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Dorothy Leonard, ChairFebruary 15, 2015 Task Force meeting

- Approved the MTRP FY2015/2016 Project Funding Priorities and Future Needs List as recommended by the CAC.
- Approved the request from the MTRP Foundation Board of Directors to amend the Special Event Rules and Regulations for the use of the Visitor Center by eliminating the restriction prohibiting rental of the visitor center for “private parties (e.g., birthday parties, bar mitzvahs, weddings, baptism, memorial services) subject to a one year review – as recommended by the CAC.
- Approved the CAC recommendation to rename the North Perimeter Trail to the North Fortuna Perimeter Trail with the adoption of the MTRP Master Plan Update.
- Approved the following CAC reappointments: Nancy Acevedo, at-large and Dr. Paul Ganster, SDSU representative. Pending for approval at the March meeting are representatives from MCAS Miramar, Tierrasanta Community Council and San Carlos Area Council.

Cowles Mountain Communication Facility

Received a Notice of Right to Appeal an Environmental Determination for a lease agreement with the FBI for a telecommunications site at the Cowles Mountain Communication Center in MTRP. Discussed the project with Robert Zolezzi from the City of San Diego Real Estates Assets Department. The FBI has been using rack space on the County side of the facility through the Sheriff's Department. The pending agreement would move the FBI equipment to the City side of the facility and would exchange an old microwave dish on the City tower with a new dish. The lease would be for five years at \$700 per month with an annual three percent increase.

STAFF/RANGERS REPORT – Sr. Park Ranger Andy Quinn

- City of San Diego Waste Water Control Division will be fixing ruts in the road and improving drainage at Cowles Mountain Barker's Service Road from February 11 to March 1. Barker's service road will be closed Monday - Saturday from 7:00 am to 5:00pm, but hikers can still use Barker's trail to access the summit.
- On December 17 we had our official red ribbon cutting ceremony at the West Sycamore area of the park which is now officially open to the public.
- The first group of Americorps members completed their stay, departing Mission Trails on Friday, December 20. Ranger staff set up a dinner/slide show for them with Councilmember Sherman providing certificates of appreciation for each member.
- Staff are currently working with a second group from Americorps, beginning January 15 and working until March 20 (10 weeks). Eleven members of the Americorps will be assisting park rangers and volunteers to restore/maintain Cowles Mountain and Pyles Peak trails.

WATER DEPARTMENT'S LAKE MURRAY REPORT – No Report**MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT – Jay Wilson, MTRP Foundation Executive Director**

- The Foundation's most recent newsletter in front of you as well as the city's Activities calendar for March and their spring Program flyer.

- REI Grant - The day after the January CAC meeting REI arrived for a photo shoot with the rangers and their new tablets, funded by an REI Grant. REI then presented the Foundation with a \$20,000 check for restoration of the Kwaaypay fire damaged area. REI contacted the Foundation on December 19 and asked us to submit for some funding because corporate had left over funds. We requested \$8,000. Because the city had already committed funds for most of the fire restoration, REI allowed the funds to be used for other related projects as follows:
 - \$8,000 for restoration of the 95 acres on Kwaaypay (completes the project)
 - \$3,000 for installation of antenna, computer, software and monitor for the wild land fire detection system to be installed on Cowles Mountain and at SDSU. The system will notify ranger staff, fire and police within one minute of detecting a fire and provide the GPS coordinates.
 - \$6,000 to purchase and/or propagate native plants for re-vegetation and fire prevention on Cowles mountain and other areas within the park.
- The Foundation's education grant from SDG&E's Environmental Champions program for school field trips has generated 103 fieldtrips for the current school year. Nearly 5,000 students.
- The 6th Grade one night camping experience for the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) is inching closer to reality. Today I attended a meeting with city and school district representatives regarding the final agreement. We may actually have a school group from a year around school camping by the end of June.
- There are two Boy Scout merit badge classes this month and the Girl Scouts should finally be on board starting the end of April, after cookie sales.
- The fourth annual Art in the Park fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, October 10 from 6 to 9 p.m. We are looking for silent auction items and if you have a source for door prizes, please let Jay know.

COMMUNICATIONS (Non-agenda public comment)

- John Pilch reported the San Carlos Area Council meets on March 4, 2015, at the library on Jackson Drive at 6:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Councilmember Scott Sherman. The meeting is open to the public and free to attend. The library will be closed this Saturday until Friday, April 3. They're working on ADA retro-fits. The closest branch to return books is the Benjamin Library on Zion Avenue.

ACTION ITEMS

Sr. Ranger Quinn reported a new policy in regards to fees being paid to the Foundation for any Ground Use Permits at Mission Trails Regional Park. In the past, the Foundation was asking for a voluntary donation. The Park and Recreation Department Fee Schedule states: Commercial, fundraising and promotional activities must pay to the Recreation Council an additional \$10.00 per hour (youth activities) or \$15.00 per hour (for adult activities). This will now be implemented in Mission Trails.

101. Dirt Devil Racing 15K and 21K, August 16, 2015 – *Victor Runco*

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (Pilch/Pent) to recommend staff approval of the Dirt Devil Racing event on August 16, 2015. The motion passed with Boyer abstaining.

102. Miles for Music 5K, May 30, 2015 – *Randall Sjoblom (Lewis Instrumental Music Association)*

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (Murphy/Wilson) to recommend staff approval of the Miles for Music 5K on May 30, 2015. The motion passed with Boyer abstaining.

103. REI 5K, June 13, 2015 – *Alyson Wright*

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (Pilch/Bathrick) to recommend staff approval of the REI 5K on June 13, 2015. The motion passed with Boyer abstaining.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. Use of Cowles Mountain lease revenue for periodic grading of the Cowles Mountain service road – *Chris Zirkle, Deputy Director, Open Space Division*

- Park and Recreation Deputy Director, Chris Zirkle distributed the City of San Diego Memorandum dated, March 3, 2015, Funding Maintenance/Repair of the Cowles Mountain (Barker Way) Access Road to the Board, CAC members and guests.
- Mr. Zirkle is considering having the lessee's fund maintenance of the Barker Way service access road. He has vetted the issue through the City Attorney's office and found that the Joint Exercises of Power Agreement (JEPA) and the resolution the City Council adopted dictating how those monies will be used, both facilitate this arrangement.
- The policy issue is that the lessees are only going to pay fair market rent so that if they incur costs to maintain the service road, there would be an in kind reduction in the cash flow to the antenna fund that goes to capital projects.
- Nothing is going to happen immediately. The item was brought before the CAC to get their thoughts on the diversion of money from capital projects to maintenance oriented work. It is recommended that the work be done every other year. The key is to keep the money from becoming public money, at which point it becomes a Public Works contract. The main point being, when the work is needed, the work would be funded by the lessees.
- Mr. Zirkle appreciated the opportunity to discuss the feasibility of it, and didn't want to specify what the lease terms might be in the future because we want to make it as convenient for the lessee's as possible. The simplest way to do it may be to tag one lessee with it.

The following are responses from the CAC:

- Roger Utt stated, each of the lessee's sets up a fund of 10% of their lease payout per month. A lot of times you have partnerships and you run into extra capital costs where people contribute the money to take care of different situations. It comes out of a reserved account like a Home Owners Association. So they set aside funds for maintenance of their overall community.
- Dick Murphy stated, there's no adamant opposition to the idea, and that he would be open to Mr. Zirkle bringing back a more specific proposal. He thinks the suggestion of some sort of a reserved fund might be a way to do this. He is not saying no. Mr. Murphy stated, there's no objection and let's see what the terms are in the next lease. The suggestion of some sort of reserve fund might be a way to do it. There are some real benefits to this as long as it doesn't reduce the antenna fund too much. When the leases come up for renewal, and in addition to the rent, there would be a clause in there that they have an

obligation to maintain the road. If you have multiple lessees, someone is going to have to set up some sort of fund amongst the lessee's to do that.

302. East Fortuna Staging Area Administration Building (Community Support Facility) – *Andy Quinn reported for Jason Grani, Project Manager, Public Works, Engineering and Capital Projects Department.*

Should have the Purchase Order and Notice to Proceed (NTP) by the end of this week. Once he gets the NTP, he will schedule a kick off meeting with the CA ad-hoc subcommittee, hopefully within the next couple of weeks, depending on availability of everyone.

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

Still waiting on comments from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Division Chief.

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*

The City's consultant has provided staff with a revised trails plan based on input generated during the site visits with the agencies. Staff is currently reviewing these and is setting up a meeting this month with the agencies to present the revised plans and responses to the latest round of agency comments.

Ben Stone (San Diego Mountain Bike Association) stated he really likes being on the trails. The trails are what makes the park what it is, as well as all the volunteers who put in their time. His goal is to work to get a trails plan. Riders are going to ride around fire roads. He wants a trail plan to work which includes, mountain bikers, hikers, equestrians and trail runners. If the next version of plans looks like he thinks it will, we're going to see a significant amount of backlash. He just asks that we have some time to get the best trails plan together.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

The next CAC meeting will be Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at 6:30 PM.