

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 5, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members Present**

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  
Roger Utt, County of San Diego Parks & Recreation Committee  
Betty Ogilvie, Tierrasanta Community Council  
Robert Chavez, City of San Diego Park & Recreation Board  
Craig Maxwell, City of La Mesa  
Nancy Acevedo, Member at Large  
Paul Ganster, San Diego State University

**Members Absent/Excused**

Mike Pent, Special Member  
Dorothy Leonard, Chair, Member at Large  
Jim McGinn, Scripps Ranch Civic Association  
Richard Gadler, City of El Cajon

**City of San Diego**

Andy Quinn, Park and Recreation Department  
Steve Haupt, Park and Recreation Department  
Levi Dean, Park and Recreation Department  
Liz Saidkhanian, Council District 7

**Guests**

John Bitterly, The Planning Consortium, Inc.  
Dennis Brown, SDPD RSVP  
Ben Stone, SDMBA

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by CAC Vice Chair Dick Murphy.

**ROLL CALL**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (Bathrick/Pilch) to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 3, 2015. The motion passed with David Boyer abstaining.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** – *Dick Murphy, Vice Chair*

No report.

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

- A porta-potty was placed at Barker Service Road. It's being serviced twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Ranger staff and volunteers are preparing for Explore Mission Trails Day to be held on Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- On April 25 the 5K Children for Children event was held with 75 participants.
- On April 25, for I love a Clean San Diego, MTRP Ranger staff worked with 103 volunteers removing deadfall and debris from the shoreline of the San Diego River.
- We'll be hiring a Center Director I for the Kumeyaay Lake Campground. Interviews begin this week.

**WATER DEPARTMENT'S LAKE MURRAY REPORT**– *Sr. Park Ranger Andy Quinn reported for Gayle Havins*

- Water levels are good and they are trying to keep Murray filled to 90 to 91 feet; a perfect operating level.
- Fishing for Large Mouth Bass has been great; couple double digit being caught. Great spawn this year.
- Canadian geese are populating. Have two gaggle of geese (gaggle is the baby geese). The Great Blue Heron is nesting again this year in the park area.
- Working very hard on cleaning up the illegal homeless camps in the canyon behind Murray Dam. Already had one major cleanup. Worked with Code Compliance Officers and an Alpha crew a couple of weeks ago. SDPD also has a special unit that works the San Diego River area helping clear out people in the canyon.
- Walked the canyon again May 1, 2015, with Code Compliance Officers and found more camp sites. Adelante Ave., Colorado Ave. and Airoso Ave. are their points of entry. The public that live in this area are very frustrated. Please call SDPD as this is San Diego property if you have problem with the homeless in the canyon. Lock your cars at night and don't leave valuables out. SDPD or La Mesa arrested a few of the people getting in to unlocked cars. Have had purses stolen from cars in the parking lot. Feel free to contact Gayle at Lake Murray at (619) 668-2078
- Will be starting fire breaks this month and clearing more of the lake road for safety.

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

- The day after the January CAC meeting REI arrived for a photo shoot with the rangers and their new tablets funded through an REI grant. REI then presented the Foundation with a \$20,000 grant for restoration of fire damaged areas to be used as follows: \$8,000 for restoration of the 95 acres that burned on Kwaay Paay last July (completes the project); \$3,000 for restoration of 110 acres burned in 2013 (completes the project); \$3,000 for installation of antenna, computer, software and monitor as MTRP's part of the wildland fire detection system to be installed on Cowles mountain and at SDSU; \$6,000 for purchase and/or propagation of 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 SDUSD is inching closer to reality. There may actually be a school group from a year around school camping by the end of June.
- Held 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)**

- Dennis Brown from Eastern Division SDPD Retired Senior Volunteer Program informed the MTRP CAC about the RSVP program. They provide additional visibility in neighborhoods, contributing to the reduction of crime in San Diego. The RSVP's are uniformed volunteers who supplement the police department by performing many important non-confrontational and educational duties as well as providing an extra set of "eyes and ears" for the department. This program is comprised of over 400 men and women who are dedicated volunteers representing communities throughout the greater San Diego area. East of 125, north of 52, Mission Valley, College area, Kearny Mesa/Serra Mesa, Del Cerro, Tierrasanta, and San Carlos are areas they cover. Membership requirements are, 50 years or older, semi or fully retired, valid California driver's license and available to patrol a minimum of 2 -3 days a month. Mr. Brown is recruiting until June 5 for the next academy which begins in August.
- John Pilch reported the San Carlos Area Council meeting is tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. On the agenda is the potential development of the Cleveland Elementary School site and a new possible pipeline/sewer line at Jackson Drive. The San Carlos Recreation Council is meeting on Wednesday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the San Carlos Recreation Center. Included on the agenda is the second community meeting about the joint use proposal between the San Diego Unified School District and San Diego Park and Recreation Department.
- Kim Wiley is an employee of Helix Environmental. If any questions come up, it could be a conflict of interest. Mr. Wiley is also a former employee of KTU+A and wants them to do well.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

101. American Tower – Sycamore, Neighborhood Use Permit/Neighborhood Development Permit application for an existing wireless communication in East Elliott (Project No. 403368) – *John Bitterly, The Planning Consortium, Inc.*

John Bitterly reported this project is the same project that was approved by the Planning Commission a few years ago. Both Navajo and the MTRP CAC reviewed the project and recommended approval. American Tower received clearance to pull their building permit, but they let it expire so they are having to go back through the process to get a valid discretionary permit and building permit. Mr. Bitterly is working alongside Karen Lynch, City of San Diego Development Services, Project Management. The scope of the work includes the replacement of a 25' steel monopole with a 35' steel self-support tower. An 8-foot high wrought iron fence with stone pilasters would replace the existing 8-foot high chain link fence. Landscaping measures have been proposed to include various species of native plant/vegetation to surround the compound. Mr. Bitterly read from a letter dated September, 20, 2011 written by

Dorothy Leonard, Chair, MTRP CAC. Enclosed in the letter were approved copies of the color scheme proposed for the project. As requested by the MTRP CAC, colors were approved by the MTRP Senior Ranger (acting Senior Ranger Mel Naidas) and CAC member Shannon O'Dunn. Mr. Bitterly distributed the site plan to review.

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Utt/Pilch) to confirm with staff that the antenna site can co-locate more than three carriers on one site. Provide a perimeter landscaping treatment that is less linear and more natural in appearance that may extend beyond the site boundary emphasizing plant screening of the visual approaches to the east and west of the site. The motion passed with Boyer abstaining.

102. Mission Trails Regional Park Endowment Fund with The San Diego Foundation: Transfer of the distributable balance of \$1,355.02 (2014 earnings less San Diego Foundation management fee of .05%) to MTRP Foundation. – *Vice Chair Murphy reported for Dorothy Leonard*

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Acevedo/Bathrick) to recommend Task Force approval of the transfer of the distributable balance of \$1,355.02 to MTRP Foundation. The motion passed with Boyer abstaining.

103. Kumeyaay Lake Campground – Support for opening the campground an additional two nights per week in the City of San Diego budget FY2016 – *Vice Chair Murphy reported for Dorothy Leonard*

Liz Saidkhanian is waiting for a cost estimate. Currently with the two nights we have open, it's not cost recoverable. It's going to be a bigger deficit opening it an additional two nights. Steve Haupt responded if two additional nights were added, we would need the other half of the Center Director salary and an addition to another Park Ranger. A rough estimate for a Park Ranger would be \$80K and the other half for a Center Director is \$35K to \$40K. Sr. Park Ranger Andy Quinn reported the campground attendance fluctuates. Senior Ranger Quinn has not received any inquiries in regards to adding an additional two nights.

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Murphy/Acevedo) to support expanding an additional two nights per week at the Kumeyaay Lake Campgrounds as soon as it is financially feasible. Motion passed with Boyer abstaining.

104. Naming of two unnamed trails on Cowles Mountain – *Ranger Levi Dean*

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Murphy/Pilch) to approve the naming of two unnamed trails on Cowles Mountain to Barker Spur West and Barker Spur East. Motion was passed with Boyer abstaining.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

301. MTRP Trail Signs update – *Ranger Levi Dean*

Ranger trail sign committee which includes Ranger Miller, Ranger Dean, Ranger Dominguez and several volunteer patrol members have been doing an extensive study of all current signage in the park. The volunteers have been a huge help on assisting the committee. The process will be long term and may take up to a year to complete. The signs will look similar (white lettering with brown background) to what we already have and be simplified. The signs will be ordered through the City of San Diego sign shop and will be consistent with other Open Space parks. There's no City of San Diego standard in regards to the actual verbiage of the sign. Staff has received many complaints from park users about the current signage in the

park. Dick Murphy suggested that when the sign design is ready, to come back and show the CAC what they look like.

302. East Fortuna Staging Area Administration Building (Community Support Facility) – Report from CAC ad hoc subcommittee – *Frank Bathrick*  
The kickoff meeting was held on March 23rd when Davy Architecture was introduced and preliminary discussions were held regarding the intended use of the building. There were numerous changes requested from the original preliminary design. Based upon these requests Davy Architecture was instructed to provide these new concepts and layouts for review at the next meeting which was held yesterday, May 4th. During the May 4th meeting, Davy Architecture presented new preliminary drawings which addressed most of the requests and changes from the kickoff meeting discussions. It is a work in progress and the next review meeting is tentatively scheduled for the end of this month.
303. Mayor's FY2014/2015 Budget as it impacts the Open Space Division and Mission Trails Regional Park – *Steve Haupt, District Manager, Open Space Division, Park and Recreation Dept.*  
Open Space has a roughly \$10 million budget. The division was only permitted to ask for four percent in budget additions for FY2016. What was requested was mainly for brush management. There was \$167,600 for brush management, an additional \$88,500 for Otay Valley brush management, addition of a staff biologist, \$79,000 for MSCP monitoring and \$400,000 for Old Mission Dam dredging. They were not able to ask for an additional two nights for the Kumeyaay Lake Campgrounds without exceeding the four percent cap.
304. Old Mission Dam Dredging/Maintenance project update – *Steve Haupt*  
City received the Army Corps permit. Will now work with Public Works to get a contract for the silt removal.
305. MTRP Master Plan and Resource Management Plan – *Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Planning, Neighborhoods and Economic Development Dept. / Mark Carpenter, KTU+A*
- Staff was unable to get a meeting scheduled with the required agency staff to discuss a revised trails map before today, May 5th. Another meeting is in the process of being arranged with the agencies, city staff and representatives from the mountain bike community to discuss trail alternatives. We are hoping to get this meeting scheduled by the end of this month.
  - The contract with KTU&A is set to expire on July 31, 2015. A 1472 for Council Action to extend the contract for two years is currently routing through the City's review process prior to going to Council.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

The next CAC meeting will be Tuesday, July 7, at 6:30 PM.