

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2015 MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TASK FORCE

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force was held on Thursday, November 19, 2015 at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Councilmember Scott Sherman, City of San Diego
Councilmember Kristine Alessio, City of La Mesa
Councilmember Ronn Hall, City of Santee
Dorothy Leonard, Chair of MTRP Citizens Advisory Committee

Members Absent

Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County of San Diego
Councilmember Chris Cate, City of San Diego
Supervisor Dave Roberts, County 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, City of San Diego

City of Santee

Bill Maertz, Director of Community Services

Guests

Rich Thesing
Kevin Loomis, SDMBA
Connor Culligan, AECOM
Dan Lee, AECOM
David Goldgraben, SDGE
Jason Kapchinske, SDGE

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Councilmember Sherman at 10:03 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/ALESSIO) to approve the minutes of the meeting on September 17, 2015. Motion carried unanimously

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES – NONE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Scott Sherman thanked City staff and all involved in regards to the 5 Peak Challenge. It was a very successful event and hopefully people will understand there are more trails other than Cowles Mountain.

MTRP CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Dorothy Leonard reported the following:

- Approved the Senior Ranger's recommendation to support the Miles for Music 5K trail run on May 7, 2016.
- Supported solar panels at the Visitor Center and appointed an ad hoc subcommittee to work with City staff to identify locations other than over the central landscaped area in the parking lot. (Item 101 on today's agenda.)
- Heard a presentation from Jim Winter with the Park and Recreation Department regarding allocation of FY2016 Regional Park Improvement Funds and the status of funding for the new administration building at the East Fortuna Staging Area (aka Mission Trails Field Station). \$1 million is allocated from the fund for FY19.
- Approved a recommendation to the Task Force to rename the East Fortuna Staging Area administration building the Mission Trails Field Station. (Item 103 on today's agenda.)

MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT

Dorothy Leonard reported the following:

- The annual Mission Trails Arbor Day will be held on Saturday, December 5th, 9AM at Kumeyaay Lake Campground.
- Work is progressing on two new exhibits at the visitor center.
 - A Rock Cycle exhibit should be completed by the end of 2015. This exhibit is being created with the assistance of SDSU Geology Professor emeritus Pat Abbott, fellow geologist Shannon O'Dunn, and MTRP Ranger Levi Dean. It includes a 5 foot X 5 foot Rock Cycle panel mounted on the wall and sample rocks mounted on a table top.
 - The 2nd exhibit, to be completed spring 2016, is one on wildland fires. The working group for this exhibit consists of recently retired San Diego County Cal Fire Chief Kelly Zombro, Professor Pat Abbott, and MTRP Ranger Araceli Dominguez. Many thanks to Councilmembers Sherman and Cate for funding this project through a City a San Diego Community Projects, Programs and Services grant. This exhibit will focus on Embers, the hidden threat, and will include a wall mounted display, a streaming video, an updated Wildfire brochure, and other information pieces for the public.

STAFF REPORTS

- A. Water Department's Lake Murray Report – No Report
- B. City of Santee Community Services Department – No Report
- C. Park Staff/ Sr. Ranger's Report – *Andy Quinn reported the following:*
 - Thank you to the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation for their assistance at the 5 Peak Challenge launch. Thank you to Kristine Alessio, Dianne Jacob and Scott Sherman for attending as well.
 - Cowles Mountain continues to be very busy.
 - On a weekly basis, Ranger staff continues to assist SDFD with rescues on Cowles Mountain.

- Vehicle break-ins are up especially at Navajo/Golfcrest. We're planning to patrol more on foot and bikes, as well as assistance from volunteer patrols. The RSVP's from SDPD Eastern Division are assisting as well.

D. Open Space Division Staff Report – No report

COMMUNICATIONS

None

ACTION ITEMS

101. Solar at Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center – *Darren Greenhalgh, P.E., Environmental Services Department*

- Recently the San Diego City Council approved a contract with Sunn Edison to provide 6.6 megawatts of solar power throughout the City. The City completed an assessment of over 100 sites and picked the 26 best sites, one of them being Mission Trails Regional Park.
- We attempted to get 76 kilowatts, proposing putting something in the Visitor Center parking lot between the upper and lower levels.
- We met with the Citizen's Advisory Committee which approved the concept, but wanted to have a subcommittee look at other alternatives. We're in the process of setting up and scheduling meetings with the subcommittee so that we can find the proper location that is thoughtfully placed so the architecture and everything about the Visitor Center is maintained.
- We're going to be working with Public Works to make sure they take advantage of the different programs for energy efficiency.

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (HALL/ALESSIO) for the City of San Diego staff and the CAC ad-hoc subcommittee to work together to find alternatives to the original proposal, incorporating charging stations if possible. Motion carried unanimously.

102. MTRP Task Force 2016 Meeting Schedule – *Scott Sherman, Task Force Chair*

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (LEONARD/ALESSIO) to approve the 2016 MTRP Task Force meeting schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

103. MTRP CAC recommendation to rename the East Fortuna Staging Area Administration Building the Mission Trails Field Station – *Dorothy Leonard, CAC Chair*

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (HALL/ALESSIO) to approve renaming the East Fortuna Staging Area Administration Building the Mission Trails Field Station. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. Designs for SDG&E's Mission Trails Gas Access Road Repair – *Dan Lee and David Goldgraben*

- AECOM is planning to begin the project in the summer of 2016.
- Due to federal regulations, the gas transmission pipeline needs to be monitored on a quarterly basis through the existing access road that needs minor repair.

- The project objective is to stabilize the access road in an environmentally sensitive manner. The subject access road is located immediately south of State Route 52 in the Mission Trails Park within the City of San Diego. The access road traverses steep terrain and well defined drainage courses within the project limits.
- There are no plans of re-routing or widening of the access road, which will stay at 10-12 feet. There are 5 different areas that will be stabilized. This is essentially a public health and safety issue so that SDG&E can maintain this 20 inch high pressure gas line.
- All sites will utilize a mix of concrete ford crossings and water bars. Each feature is an important component in reducing the erosional effects of water at the various sites.
- Concrete ford crossings were chosen to provide a more durable driving surface at each stream crossing and minimize the improvement footprint of the surrounding terrain. This choice will prove to be a durable and long term solution. Rip rap is utilized to provide edge protection and prevent the flow of water from undermining the concrete crossing during major storms. To prevent future erosional rutting along the access road, water bars will be utilized to divert water away from the driving surface

302. Old Mission Dam Dredging/Maintenance project update- *Chris Zirkle, Open Space Division, P&R Dept.*

- The contract went out to bid a month ago. We received three bids on the project.
- We recommended the lowest bidder to excavate the full 860 cubic yards of sediment along with the requisite archeological and biological monitoring consultant services. The purchasing department is currently routing the contract documents.
- We hope to get the job done before the March 15 deadline.
- The contract does authorize the contractor to use primarily the Bushy Hill parking lot for dewatering and the Day Use parking lot if necessary. This clearly depends on how fast they remove the material and how quickly it dries at those locations.

303. East Elliot trail restoration and closures – *Chris Zirkle, Open Space Division, P&R Dept.*

- There hasn't been any new trail building.

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

Staff and the consultant will be meeting with the tracking specialist onsite in the next couple of weeks to confirm the viability of two proposed trail alignments within the MPU to address agency concerns with impacts to wildlife.

Kevin Loomis from the San Diego Mountain Bike Association spoke on item 304. He has been working very closely with the City of San Diego and different agencies to try and find out what is needed in advance before it gets to pen and paper, and so the community can buy in on the concept. East Elliott is the most critical. He's working with Jeff Harkness and different agencies on how to get it all together. The City of San Diego has come up with an alternate proposal trail plan that the community agrees with. Originally CDFW and US Fish and Wildlife didn't want it. The City of San Diego is going to bring in a biologist to prove that we can do this trail in an environmentally sensitive way. He would like to formalize it with the Task Force as the (SDMBA) user group, being able to be with them (City Staff and other agencies) on the ground.

A few days ago, SDMBA met with different park staff to initiate a National Mountain Bike Association Patrol for the City of San Diego. We're working with each individual park to find out what the requirements are.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.