

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MARCH 17, 2016 MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TASK FORCE

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force was held on Thursday, March 17, 2016 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
Dorothy Leonard, Chair of MTRP Citizens Advisory Committee
Supervisor Dave Roberts, County of San Diego
Councilmember Ronn Hall, City of Santee

Members Absent

Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County of San Diego
Councilmember Lorie Zapf, City of San Diego

City of San Diego

Andy Quinn, 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
Rex Narvaez, City of San Diego Public Works

City of Santee

Bill Maertz, Director of Community Services

County of San Diego

Evan Bollinger, for Supervisor Dave Roberts
Maryanne Vancio

Guests

Rich Thesing, Tierrasanta
Kevin Loomis, SDMBA
Brian Elliott, Representative for Scott Peters
Patricia Murphy, Save Mission Trails

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Councilmember Sherman at 10:02 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (ALESSIO/HALL) to approve the January 21, 2015, Task Force minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES – NONE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Scott Sherman asked Sr. Ranger Quinn about the latest update on the 5 Peak Challenge. Sr. Ranger Quinn reported over 1400 participants have participated in the program. Councilmember Sherman thanked Chris Zirkle for attending the mountain biking meeting, and also thanked Kevin Loomis for managing the situation with the mountain biking community.

MTRP CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Dorothy Leonard reported the following:

At the March 1, 2016 meeting the CAC took the following actions:

- Supported a request from Team Parker for Life for a 5k family run/walk on June 25, 2016, a *Run to Cure Pediatric Cancer*. The event will be staged at the East Fortuna Staging Area and follow the traditional route for a 5k event.
- Supported a request from the San Diego Mountain Biking Association for a *Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day* on June 11, 2016. This is an annual event of The International Mountain Biking Association of which the San Diego Mountain Biking Association is a chapter. The event will include a mini bike skills track similar to the one set up for the annual Explore Mission Trails Day, along with mountain bike activities.

MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT

Dorothy Leonard reported the following:

- The new Rock Cycle exhibit has been completed on the first floor of the visitor center exhibit area. Goal is to complete the Wildlife of Mission Trails and Wildfire exhibits by Explore Mission Trails Day on May 21, 2016. Both will be located on the second floor of the exhibit area.
- The first 6th grade overnight camping experience is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, April 28 and 29, for 35 students from Muir Middle School, pending approval of the City of San Diego. There is a hold up on approval by the City due to an issue with the Park and Recreation Department getting approval to select a second camp host. Until that is resolved we cannot move forward with the sixth grade overnight camp program which is funded by the MTRP Foundation and SDUSD.

STAFF REPORTS

- A. Water Department's Lake Murray Report – No Report
- B. City of Santee Community Services Department –*Bill Maertz reported:*
Fanita Ranch development process is moving forward
 - 2,000 acres of open space
 - 20 miles of multiuse trails
 - Adjacent to East Elliott lands and MTRP
 - It's going to be a 2 or 3 year process until final approval

C. Park Staff/ Sr. Ranger's Report – *Sr Ranger Quinn reported:*

- Ranger's Levi Dean and Heidi Gutknecht received the City of San Diego's Director's Award for the 5 Peak Challenge. They also received the Merit Award from the California Trails and Greenways Conference Award Program.
- Xterra special event was a success.
- On February 6, we hosted the Volunteer Recognition awards ceremony in our Visitor Center theater. Thank you to the MTRP Foundation for their continued support.
- Old Mission Dam dredging project is complete.
- Break-ins continue throughout the park.

D. Open Space Division Staff Report – No report

COMMUNICATIONS

Brian Elliott, a representative with congressman Scott Peter's Office introduced himself. Mr. Elliott plans to attend the upcoming Task Force meetings. He spends a lot of time in the park. He's very happy to be here and familiar with what goes on in the park.

Patricia Murphy, a long time park user was concerned with the Jackson River crossing access and the water quality. The access issue keeps park users away from that area. At any given time, there can be up to 10-12 people trying to cross the river which is very dangerous and unsafe. Often times, her shoes get wet.

Dorothy Leonard informed Ms. Murphy that the Master Plan Update has been in process for many years now. The draft Master Plan can be viewed on the website. There are a couple of options being considered for a bridge across the San Diego River at the end of the Jackson Drive San Diego river crossing. Unfortunately, we have to wait until the Master Plan is adopted. Once the Master Plan is adopted, it's a high priority on the list approved by the CAC and the Task Force.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Appoint Frank Bathrick to represent the MTRP CAC and Dorothy Leonard to represent the MTRP Foundation as plans move forward for the construction of the Mission Trails Field Station.

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (HALL/ALLESSIO) to approve the appointment of Frank Bathrick to represent the MTRP CA and Dorothy Leonard to represent the MTRP Foundation as plans move forward for the construction of the Mission Trails Field Station. Motion carried unanimously.

102. MTRP CAC Appointments/Reappointments – *Chairman Sherman*
Navajo Community Planners – Marylyn Reed will be delayed until the next meeting.

No action taken

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. Sewer Group 835 project information for location within Mission Trails Regional Park – *Rex Narvaez & Sheila Gamueda, City of San Diego, Public Works - Engineering Dept.*

Sewer Group 835 will replace the aging and deteriorating sewer mains. The location is near Lake Shore Drive and Jackson Drive near Lake Murray. One tenth of an acre of environmentally sensitive land will be affected (coastal sage scrub). Hiking trails will not be disrupted. There will be a revegetation plan restoring everything back to its original condition. There will be biological monitoring during the construction. Construction is scheduled to begin the end of 2016. The existing main is about 800 feet.

302. Old Mission Dam Dredging/Maintenance project update – *Chris Zirkle, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Dept.*

The work in the field was completed a couple of weeks ago. Staff counted the excavated 870 cubic yards. The work was done before March 15 and the weather was very cooperative. All we have left is the follow up surveys to make sure they follow the contours that were prescribed in the bid to get the reports from the archeologists and biologists, so we can move forward with our post construction permit conditions.

303. MTRP Master Plan and Resource Management Plan update – *Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Planning Dept. / Mark Carpenter, KTU+A*

A professional tracker was hired to review the last version of the proposed trails. As a result of his site visit, the consultant has revised a couple of the trail alignments within the East Elliot area. An Assessment Report has been provided to the City supporting the realignment of trails. Staff will be meeting with the Agencies this Friday to present the realignment of the trails, and will set up appointments to meet with the MTRP MPU CAC ad hoc subcommittee to review a revised draft document as well as the SDMBA representatives to present the proposed trail alignment. As it currently is proposed, it is felt that the plan provides the loops that were important to mountain bikers.

After these meetings we would then inform the CAC of the revisions and utilize the revised MPU to continue with the environmental document process.

We plan on setting up the meetings with the sub-committee and SDMBA in the later part of March or beginning of April.

Kevin Loomis from the San Diego Mountain Bike Association attended a meeting with about 300 people in attendance. It was to bring the mountain biking community together, to let them know this is what's happening, this is what's going on and this is where we're going. The consensus was, we need legal solutions. We've been highly engaged with the military, Jeff Harkness and Mark Carpenter. Castlerock and Fanita both have trails that lead into the military base. The historic Stowe trail is the best and most viable option. Congressman Duncan Hunter is being very proactive on this.

304. Kumeyaay Lake Campground update – Plans to expand number of nights open to the public for overnight camping and status of second camp host and new Center Director. – *Chris Zirkle, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Dept.*

We don't have a budget now to expand the campground days. We'll begin interviews for the Center Director I position in a few weeks. Human Resources department informed our Division to hold off on filling the second camp host position. Union work and liability were the concerns. The concerns have been dealt with. We have a revised camp host agreement out of the attorney's office. We can most likely get the existing camp host to sign it, if they're interested in staying and recruit for a second camp host.

305. East Elliott trail restoration and closures – *Chris Zirkle, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Dept.*

Ranger staff reports no significant or any new vandalism in East Elliot.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 19, at 10:00 a.m.