

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 3, 2016**

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Frank Bathrick, City of Santee
Richard Gadler, City of El Cajon
Dorothy Leonard, Chair, Member at Large
Dick Murphy, Vice Chair, Special Member
Betty Ogilvie, Tierrasanta Community Council
Mike Pent, Special Member
Barbara Perkins, Scripps Ranch Civic Association
Marilyn Reed, Navajo Community Planners
Roger Utt, County of San Diego Parks & Recreation Committee
Kim Wiley, User Group Representative, SDMBA
Carol Lockwood, City of La Mesa alternate
Nancy Acevedo, Member at Large
Paul Ganster, San Diego State University

Members Absent/Excused

David Boyer, USMC Miramar
Robert Chavez, City of San Diego Park & Recreation Board
Craig Maxwell, City of La Mesa

City of San Diego

Andy Quinn, Park and Recreation Department
Steve Haupt, Park and Recreation Department
Jason Grani, Public Works
Jorge Acevedo, Public Works
Jeff Harkness, Planning Department
Mark Carpenter, KTU+A

Guests

Kevin Loomis, SDMBA (alternate)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by CAC Chair Dorothy Leonard.

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (Bathrick/Gadler) to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 1, 2016. The motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – *Dorothy Leonard, Chair*

The MTRP Task force met on March 17th and took the following action:

- Approved the appointment of Frank Bathrick representing the MTRP CAC and Dorothy Leonard representing the MTRP Foundation to provide citizen oversight of the Mission

Trails Field Station construction project, ensuring prudent use of public and private funds identified for the project, and to ensure MTRP Foundation funds are spent only if needed.

MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT – *presented by Betty Ogilvie*

- As of May 2, the MTRP Foundation has hosted 3,460 students this school year through the SDG&E Environmental Champions Grant program.
- May 20 and 21 will be the first San Diego Unified School District 6th grade overnight fieldtrip camping program. Thirty five sixth graders will be participating from John Muir Magnet School. The students provide their own sleeping bag. Tents and air beds have been donated by Lightspeed Outdoors, Inc.
- The 5-Peak Challenge has been a huge success.

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

- On Saturday, March 26, the MTRP Trail guide graduation took place. Thank you to all volunteers, Foundation staff and Ranger Christine Axtmann.
- The installation of new solar panels at the west end comfort station at the Kumeyaay Lake Campgrounds were replaced.
- Preparations for Explore Mission Trails Day continues.
- Ranger staff assisted with the “I love a Clean San Diego” event.

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

- Water is staying at a good operating level.
- Bass fishing is great/spawn this year strong with lots of fry in the water.
- Great Blue Heron have two nests in the tree by the main lawn.
- Working on diversion ditches weed abatement and will start working on fire breaks in the upcoming months.
- Lots of reports of rattlesnakes this season.

COMMUNICATIONS (Non-agenda public comment)

None

ACTION ITEMS

101. Dirt Devil Racing 15K and 21K, August 13, 2016 – *Victor Runco*

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (Pent/Murphy) to support the recommendation of the Senior Ranger to approve the Dirt Devil Racing 15K and 21K event. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. Mission Trails Solar Project Update – *Frank Bathrick, chair, CAC ad hoc subcommittee*

There was a meeting on Monday, March 14, 2016, to review the preliminary proposals for design and locations of the Solar Panels as presented by City Staff.

- The revised proposed location is the parking lot West of Bushy Hill Road. With this location all of the other proposed sites will not be needed except for the new Mission Trails Field Station which will be addressed at a later date.

- When the new Mission Trails Field Station is built there will also be Solar Panels which will be located in the East Fortuna Staging Area.

In this meeting the subcommittee addressed the following items that need to be added and/or evaluated prior to final approval.

- Arrange the two solar panel structures to be parallel and increase the number of panels.
- Provide decomposed granite base course for the parking lot to aid in site drainage.
- Provide a height clearance bar at the entrance of the parking lot.
- Provide elevation drawings of the structure.
- Verify all permits and setback requirements.
- Verify water runoff and drainage as applicable to these structures and site.
- Review all details and colors selections, etc.

The subcommittee will meet in thirty days prior to the next Task Force Meeting to review all of the above items.

302. Mission Trails Field Station project update – *Jason Grani, City of San Diego Public Works, Engineering and Capitol Projects Dept.*

Jason Grani introduced Jorge Acevedo, the new Project Manager for the Field Station. Jorge Acevedo reported:

- The project is on schedule.
- We're coordinating with Cal-Trans in regards to the trenching of dry utilities at Mast Blvd.
- The project is scheduled for design to be completed in October 2016. Then they'll start to advertise the project for construction.

303. Kumeyaay Lake Campground update – Plans to permit overnight camping on Sunday night before a Monday holiday, and status of second camp host and new Center Director – *Steve Haupt, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Dept.*

- Beginning July 4 weekend, overnight camping on Sunday night will begin with check-out on Monday's.
- The second camp host agreement is close to being reviewed and signed by our Chief Officer. Once approved, we'll begin to advertise for our second camp host.
- We held interviews last week for the Center Director I position. We're doing background checks now and expect to make an offer early next week.

304. City of San Diego Proposed FY 2017 Budget for Open Space Division of Park and Recreation Department (General Fund and CIP) – *Steve Haupt*

- Open Space received four new positions: Two Rangers, a pesticide applicator and a Grounds Maintenance Manager.
- For the Mission Trails Field Station, there is \$1.375 million in EGF funds in addition to the Mission Trails Antenna funds, and next year an additional two million is allocated to get us close to the anticipated 6.4 million dollar price tag.

305. MTRP Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan presentation – *District Manager Steve Haupt reported for Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Planning Dept. / Mark Carpenter, KTU+A*

Jeff Harkness reported KTU+A was hired in 2010 to complete the Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management plan that was supposed to be done in 2015. We've had to extend the contract to July 2017. Since we started, we've gone through three public workshops in 2011, produced a draft master plan update and natural resource management plan in 2013 and did a notice of preparation of an environmental document in 2014. The majority of the comments received through the planning efforts and the notice of preparation were through mountain bike and rock climbing user groups, property owners in East Elliott, and property owners adjacent to the park. Since 2013, we've been working with the State and Federal agencies on our plan and issues with the Multiple Habitat Planning area, Multiple Species Conservation Program, conservation, desired recreation and preservation. We had approximately 10 meetings with the agencies. We have now produced a draft master plan that addresses the agencies issues. Our schedule for completing the master plan is to get City Council and County Board of Supervisors approval by June of 2017, putting out the draft environmental document in mid to late October 2016 for public review, then come back to the MTRP Citizens' Advisory Committee and MTRP Task Force as action items that will be publicly noticed in January 2017. Tonight is an information item, and we'll be taking more comments when we go through the actual recommendations and approval process.

Mark Carpenter reported the last two years have been an interesting series of meetings and discussions trying to get ourselves to a point that, as we move the environmental process forward, we're not having substantial comments from the regulatory agencies that we cannot overcome through the process. It was an important delay that we worked ourselves through, and come up with something we felt as a group we could move through the process and get successfully approved. Right now, we don't have a good viable master plan to really hang a lot of the new recommended projects on.

The East Elliott area, which still has a lot of private inholdings, is not an area that the City has full control over. As land is acquired, what's likely to be a level of development from a recreation base, could be supported within that area of the park in the future.

Mr. Carpenter presented slides for each of the areas of the park. In Chapter 6, the implementation section, there is a future conditions map for each of the areas that is color coded based on usage.

Several questions and comments were then presented by community members and the general public.

In closing, Mr. Carpenter reported, we are in EIR mode, working through technical studies for the different elements and trying to work through all the impact analysis. We're closely working with City staff, getting through review cycles, with the goal that in October 2016 we'll have a document to put out for public review.

Announcement: Dorothy Leonard reported that Cal-Trans and the City of San Diego are pleased to announce that state route 52 through Mission Trails Regional Park has been designated as a scenic highway. You can join Councilmember Scott Sherman on Wednesday, May 11 at 1pm for the sign unveiling ceremony at the East Fortuna Staging area.

Dorothy Leonard announced that long time CAC member John Pilch passed this morning from terminal cancer.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned in memory of John Pilch at 7:47 p.m.

The next CAC meeting will be July 5, 2016 at 6:30 PM.