

Minutes of the Meeting of the July 21, 2016 Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force was held on Thursday, July 21, 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
Councilmember Lorie Zapf, City of San Diego
Dorothy Leonard, Chair, MTRP Citizens' Advisory Committee

Members Absent

Councilmember Ronn Hall, City of Santee
Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County of San Diego
Supervisor Dave Roberts, County of San Diego

City of San Diego Staff

Steve Haupt, District Manager, Open Space Division
Heidi Gutknecht, Park Ranger, OCA Senior Ranger
Liz Saidkhanian, Office of Councilmember Sherman
James McGuirk, Office of Councilmember Zapf

City of Santee Staff

Bill Maertz, Director, Community Services Department

County of San Diego Staff

Evan Bollinger, office of Supervisor Dave Roberts

Guests

Richard Thesling, CAC Alternate Member, Tierrasanta Community Council
Susie Murphy, Executive Director, San Diego Mountain Biking Association
Craig Balben, Public Affairs Representative, San Diego County Water Authority
Aaron Trumm, Senior Engineer and Project Manager, San Diego County Water Authority
Octavio Casavantes, Resident Engineer, San Diego County Water Authority

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Councilmember Scott Sherman at 10:10 a.m., who apologized for his tardiness.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on May 19, 2016 were unanimously approved by consent.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES – NONE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Scott Sherman reminded everyone to be sure to check out the new exhibit upstairs on the danger of fire embers, now that fire season is well upon us. He pointed out that there are areas of the park that haven't burned in a long time that are ripe for fire and complimented the fire department for doing an excellent job knocking down the recent local fires.

MTRP CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Dorothy Leonard reported the following:

- Kim Wiley stepped down as the representative for San Diego Mountain Biking Association (SDMBA). Kevin Loomis, SDMBA President is the alternate and will be the voting member until a replacement has been nominated by SDMBA and approved by the Task Force.
- Craig Maxwell has missed three meetings as City of La Mesa CAC representative. (City of La Mesa Councilmember Alessio stated that Craig he is not able to make the 6:30 CAC meetings due to his business responsibilities and that Carol Lookwood, current alternate, will be replacing him after he resigns.)
- CAC approved an amendment to the MTRP Endowment Fund Agreement (#1029) with The San Diego Foundation (originally established on March 5, 1985) which transfers responsibility for account oversight from the MTRP CAC to the MTRP Foundation. These funds average around \$1,300 per year; the original amount donated into the Endowment Fund was \$25,000.
- CAC approved item 102 on today's meeting agenda. Copies of the letters sent to Scott Sherman and Mayor Kevin Faulconer are available. [Copies distributed – Sherman recommended for the CAC to also send a letter to the Councilmember representing the Balboa Park area.]

MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT

Dorothy Leonard reported the following:

- Foundation received a \$25,000 Environmental Champions Grant from SDG&E (for the fourth year) for continued environmental education programs for youth, including the new overnight camping program for SDUSD students.
- Working with Open Space Division Biologist, Betsy Miller, the Foundation submitted a SANDAG environmental grant application in the amount of \$88,000 for propagation of the endangered San Diego Thornmint plant in the West Fortuna area. Grants are to be awarded in January 2017.

STAFF REPORTS

- A. Water Department's Lake Murray Report – *No report*
- B. City of Santee Community Services Dept. – *No report*
- C. Park Staff/Senior Ranger's Report – *Heidi Gutknecht reported the following:*
 - Senior Ranger Andy Quinn accepted a position with the County Department of Parks and Recreation as a District Manager and is no longer with MTRP. I am temporarily

filling in for him, and on my days off, Ranger Rebecca Smart is filling in. The Foundation hosted a going away party for Andy, which went very well and was very well attended.

- MTRP finally got a new Center Director for the campground, Jennifer Sanders, who started on Saturday, July 16th, and will be working 20 hours per week. This will be a huge help and allow Ranger Julie to have more time for her Ranger duties
- The 5-Peak Challenge has been going strong, with over 3,300 people completing it.
- Ranger Levi Dean sent an e-mail requesting that Pokemon Go not put any of its characters in off-trail areas of the park, for habitat preservation and safety purposes.
- Trail Patrol volunteers have been increasing their patrols, since there have been more heat-related illnesses at the park with the recent high temperatures, including dog fatalities; unfortunately, San Diego Fire Rescue will not rescue canines in distress – only humans. However, each MTRP Ranger has in their vehicle a lightweight nylon stretcher for carrying dogs and towels for wetting them down to assist in heat stress emergencies.

D. Open Space Division Staff Report – Steve Haupt reported:

- The vacant Senior Ranger position was posted by Personnel on the City’s website for only 10 days, and many existing City staff members were unaware that the position had been opened up and missed the deadline to apply. As a result, only nine applications for the position were submitted. If we are unable to get a qualified applicant from this pool, we can request for the position to be posted again.
- Thank you to the Foundation for Andy’s going away party – it was really nice.
- Chris Zirkle announced his retirement date – September 16 – his position will be another tough one to fill.

COMMUNICATIONS – NONE

ACTION ITEMS

101. MTRP CAC Appointments/Reappointments – Chairman Sherman

- San Carlos Area Council – Mickey Zeichick representative, Terry Cords, Alternate
- City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board – *pending*

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (LEONARD/ALESSIO) to approve the appointments of Mickey Zeichick as San Carlos Area Council CAC representative and Terry Cords as San Carlos Area Council CAC alternate representative. Motion carried unanimously.

102. MTRP CAC recommendation to obtain additional park land in exchange for permitting SDUSD to continue to use dedicated park land for a high school in Balboa Park, should a proposed San Diego City Charter Amendment be approved – *CAC Chair Dorothy Leonard*

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (ALESSIO/LEONARD) to support the Foundation and MTRP CAC in the above proposal. SHERMAN and ZAPF abstained.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. San Diego County Water Authority FRS (Flow Regulatory Structure) II and Lake Murray Relining updates – *Craig Balben, Public Affairs Representative, SDCWA.*

- Pipeline 4 relining at Lake Murray – The water provided to these agencies is conveyed through large-diameter pipes, commonly referred to as aqueducts. The relining of pipeline 4 is performed underground within existing pipe, with workers and equipment accessing the interior of the pipe through excavated access portals spaced out along the pipeline alignment. Work will begin in late September/early October.
- FRS II – Pipeline vents have been removed. The drought has reduced water delivery usage from consumers resulting in SDCWA working on a new planning study. Will provide an update at next CAC meeting in September 2016.

302. Mission Trails Field Station Project update – *Steve Haupt for Jorge Acevedo, City of San Diego Public Works, Engineering and Capital Projects Dept.*

The Project Management team initiated the building permit review process, as well as the City-wide departments design review, and they have started to receive comments. Once these review processes have been completed, the Project Management team will gather all comments and make revisions to the plans accordingly, in order to finalize the plans. The project is on schedule and is anticipated to be advertised for contractor bids between the months of October and November 2016.

303. Kumeyaay Lake Campground update – *Steve Haupt, City of San Diego Park & Rec. Dept.*

Like Ranger Heidi mentioned, the new Center Director just started, which should help a lot with fielding phone calls and assisting the public. With July 4th falling on a Monday this year, the campground was open for camping the Sunday night before, and was successful. The campground will offer 3-day weekend camping for the remaining Monday holidays. The City approved the hiring of a second Camp Host and interviews are pending.

304. MTRP Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan presentations - *Steve Haupt for Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Planning Dept. and Mark Carpenter, KTU+A*

The second screen check of the supporting draft environmental document for the MTRP MPU and NRMP has been submitted to the City for review and comment. The project is on schedule for public review of the programmatic EIR by the end of October.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, September 15, 10:00 a.m.