

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the March 16, 2017 Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force**

### TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force was held on Thursday, March 16, 2017, at the Mission Trails Regional Park visitor and Interpretive Center.

### ATTENDANCE

#### Members Present

Councilmember Scott Sherman, City of San Diego  
Councilmember Barbara Bry, City of San Diego  
Councilmember Kristine Alessio, City of La Mesa  
Supervisor Kristin Gaspar, County of San Diego  
Dorothy Leonard, Chair, MTRP Citizens' Advisory Committee

#### Members Absent

Councilmember Stephen Houlahan, City of Santee  
Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County of San Diego

#### City of San Diego Staff

Casey Smith, Deputy Director, Open Space Division  
Steve Haupt, District Manager, Open Space Division  
Ryan Robertson, Senior Park Ranger, Mission Trails Regional Park  
Heidi Gutknecht, Park Ranger, Mission Trails Regional Park  
Liz Saidkhanian, Office of Councilmember Sherman  
Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Planning Department

#### City of Santee Staff

Bill Maertz, Director, Community Services Department  
Marlene Best, City Manager

#### County of San Diego Staff

Dallas Pugh

#### Guests

Richard Thesing, CAC Alternate Member, Tierrasanta Community Council  
Jack Zarour, East Elliott property owner  
Kevin Loomis, San Diego Mountain Biking Association  
Stephen Goldfarb, East Elliott property owner  
Mark Carpenter, KTU+A

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Leonard/Alessio) to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2016 meeting 3-0 with Gaspar and Bry abstaining.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES - None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

No report.

MTRP CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT/MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT – *Dorothy Leonard*

- With regard to Action Item 102, the MTRP CAC has recommended approval of placing summit monuments and the Mission Trails Foundation will be voting on providing the funding to create the monuments later today. The MTRP CAC has voted to approve the MTRP MPU and Natural Resource Management Plan and recommends approval by the MTRP Task Force.

STAFF REPORTS

- A. Water Department's Lake Murray Report – *No Report*
- B. City of Santee Community Services Department – *Bill Maertz*
  - The San Diego River Trail planning document has gone out for public review. The City has agreed upon a temporary easement that will allow for public access to the Stowe Trail. A work party will be accessing the area in April with the goal of closing unauthorized trails that will be coordinated with the assistance of SDMBA.
- C. MTRP Senior Ranger Report – *No Report*
- D. Open Space Division Staff Report – *Casey Smith*
  - Three parcels within the East Elliott area are currently in the appraisal process. Once the appraisal is complete, the City can begin the negotiation process for purchase of the parcels. Purchase of the parcels would allow for the continuation of the Stowe Trail into City property.

COMMUNICATIONS - None

ACTION ITEMS

101. MTRP CAC Appointments/Reappointments – *Chairman Sherman*

- Member at Large – Nancy Acevedo
- User Group Representative – Kevin Loomis
- San Carlos Area Council – Mickey Zeichick, member; Terry Cords, alternate
- City of La Mesa – Carol Lockwood
- MCAS Miramar – David Boyer

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Leonard/Alessio) to approve the appointments/reappointments to the MTRP CAC. Motion carried unanimously.

102. Approval to place summit monuments on the following peaks – Pyles, KwaayPaay, South Fortuna, North Fortuna – *Ranger Heidi Gutknecht*

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Gaspar/Alessio) to approve the placing of summit monuments. Motion carried unanimously.

103. MTRP Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan – *Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Planning Department. / Mark Carpenter, KTU+A*

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Jack Zarour, East Elliott Property Owner, informed the Task Force that he had attended the MTRP CAC meeting last week and asked a question regarding why people were being allowed to go North of Highway 52. The response he heard from staff was that staff is not allowed to talk about it. He believes that the City has made it clear that it is going to shove the MPU down the throats of the East Elliott property owners even though they have made it clear that their property is not for sale. He believes that anyone going north of the 52 is trespassing and the City has an obligation to stop people from entering the area. Mr. Zarour believes that the City never reached out to the property owners in the area and that the issue will go to court. He also informed the Task Force that the Judge of the Universe will make the ultimate decision.

Stephen Goldfarb, East Elliott Property Owner, conveyed that his main purpose at the meeting was to deliver a written statement detailing how the property owners have been treated. He believes that major work still needs to be done to the MPU and that it is implausible to have an area and not have a group to work with. Per the MSCP, owners can develop 25% of their property and then give 75% of their remaining property to the City as mitigation. If the City had allowed this to happen, then it would now have contiguous ownership within the area. He believes it is still a solvable problem and he has recommendations to address it in his written statement (statement available upon request).

Kevin Loomis, President SDMB, conveyed his thanks to everyone that has been involved in the MPU process. Today is a culmination of three and a half years of work. He looked at awful things as opportunities and he is thankful that the City listened. He believes that all of the illegal activity has stopped and that things really turned around when everyone began to look at what they had in common rather than focusing on what the conflicts were. He again relayed his thanks and that he is looking forward to the future.

## STAFF COMMENT

Councilmember Sherman expressed his thanks to Jeff and Mark for all their hard work. He relayed that he has been here for 40 years and it has been wonderful to see the expansion. He thanked Kevin Loomis for all of his efforts and acknowledged that any plan is not going to make everyone happy.

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Sherman/Gaspar) to approve the MTRP Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan with the additional recommendation from the Task Force that the San Diego City Council and the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors also approve. Motion carried unanimously.

## ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:56 AM

## NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 18, 2017, 10:00 AM