

Minutes of the Meeting of the January 18, 2018 Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force was held on Thursday, January 18, 2018, at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Councilmember Barbara Bry, San Diego City Council
Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County of San Diego
Supervisor Kristin Gaspar, 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
Liz Saidkhanian, Office of Councilmember Sherman
Steve Hadley, City Council Representative, Council District 1
Bethany Windle, Park Designer, City of San Diego Planning Department
James Chen, Senior Civil Engineer, City of San Diego Environmental Services Department
Lorie Cosio-Azar, Program Manager, City of San Diego Environmental Services Department

Guests

Richard Thesing, CAC Alternate Member, Tierrasanta Community Council
Kevin Loomis, San Diego Mountain Biking Association
Meg Diss, County of San Diego
Pattie La Bouff, Santee Resident
Mark Carpenter, KTU&A
Cynthia Woottan, San Diego Resident
Patricia Murphy
Michele Perchez, Santee Resident
Van Collinsworth, Santee Resident
Gail Sevens, CDFW
Sandy Kuntz, Santee Resident
Linda Roach, Santee Resident
Mark Schulze, San Diego Resident
Patty Mooney, San Diego Resident
Kevin O'Beirne, SDG&E/Sempra Utilities

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Councilmember Scott Sherman at 10:02 A.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: The minutes of the November 16, 2017 meeting were approved by unanimous consent

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES - None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Councilmember Sherman

- None

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

- At the January CAC meeting, the proposed AT&T tower design was approved with a recommendation from the CAC ad-hoc sub-committee that worked with AT&T on the design. The tower is being proposed to be constructed on SDG&E property adjacent to the Pardee development.
- A new habitat interpretive exhibit has been completed and installed at the Visitor Center
- The Foundation's annual possible allotment of City of San Diego TOT funds has been decreased from a maximum of \$45,000.00 to \$35,000.00. The Foundation will be looking into other ways of making up the difference.

STAFF REPORTS

Water Department's Lake Murray Report – *No Report*

City of Santee Community Services Department – *No Report*

MTRP Senior Ranger Report – Ryan Robertson

- The West Sycamore CIP project is moving forward. Development Services Department is handling the design phase in house.
- Trail counters have been installed at the main Cowles Mountain staging area.
- Camper exit surveys are now being utilized at the campground. The survey includes a question about additional days of operation.

Open Space Division Staff Report – Casey Smith

- Three private party owned parcels were needed to complete the Stowe Trail connection between the Pardee development and Miramar Air station. Two of the parcels have been purchased. The owner of the third parcel may be willing to sell. Purchase negotiations are currently underway. Biological surveys and the trail permitting processes have been started.

COMMUNICATIONS – None

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. City/County JPA agreement update – *Casey Smith*

- The County is currently reviewing the proposed draft agreement.

302. Mission Trails Field Station project update- *Steve Haupt for Jorge Acevedo*

- The project went out to bid on January 16th and will be open for a minimum of 30 days. If there are significant questions from the bidders that could potentially affect the cost of the project, we would extend those 30 days to possibly 45 days to ensure that all the bidders acknowledge the additional information. From that point, it could take 3-5 months for the contractors to submit insurance Documents etc. It is anticipated that ground breaking would be in June 2018, and the facility would open in June 2019.

303. MTRP Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan- *Bethany Windle*

- The City's contract with KTU&A has come to an end but Mark Carpenter will still be assisting. KTU&A will essentially become a subcontractor for the other environmental agency the City does have a contract with. The approximately 400 comments that were received are still being worked through and responded to. Most of the time on the project is currently being spent with the wildlife agencies. Some agreements have been made and a new East Elliott alignment is currently being routed for review. A new alignment through Little Sycamore is also being worked on. It is anticipated that the plan will go to City Council in early summer.

ACTION ITEMS

101. SDG&E Pipeline Safety and Reliability Project – *Kevin O'Beirne, SDG&E/Sempra Utilities*

Information on the proposed pipeline with the primary and alternate installation routes/locations was given out for review. It is anticipated that the PUC will be hearing the proposal/making decisions in one year. SDG&E's preferred routing does not impact Mission Trails Regional Park. MCAS Miramar did ask that SDG&E look into alternate routes. One of the alternate routes would impact the park.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Cynthia Woottan asked several questions as listed below. Answers provided by Kevin O'Beirne also listed.
 - Why can't the pipeline be routed along Interstate 15?
Cal-Trans will not allow that option due to the potential impacts to that major traffic corridor.
 - Why can't the pipeline be routed next to Interstate 15?
That option would create significant environmental impacts. SDG&E's preferred route minimizes environmental impacts by keeping the line on major streets.
 - Why can't the pipeline be routed next to the existing line that SDG&E is proposing to reduce the flow in?
SDG&E only has a 20 foot easement along much of the route of that line. Private homes and businesses would have to be taken by SDG&E for the line to follow that route.
- Van Collinsworth pointed out that natural gas demand in our region is diminishing. Why does SDG&E need to replace a 16' line with a 36' line? It is because it gets them within 3.2 miles of Mexico. SDG&E wants to take gas from Texas and the Mid-west, bring it through San Diego, get it to Mexico, and then export it to Asia. They are going to blow up our environment in the process. We need to move to other energy sources. I ask that you oppose any route of this line. As a firefighter, the largest fire I fought was the Wheeler fire that burned 130,000 acres. We are seeing these major fires now annually. The bigger picture is that we need to look at what this type of proposal does to the world.

Task Force Member questions and answers from Kevin O'Beirne listed below.

- Councilmember Alessio:
 - Is there any reason that Miramar objects to the SDG&E preferred route that goes through Miramar?
They look at this from an operations perspective. They just asked that other options be looked into.
- Councilmember Sherman:
 - Would it help to speak to our Federally Elected Officials?
Yes, all 5 officials have endorsed the SDG&E preferred route. SDG&E is also planning on having meetings with the military.
- Councilmember Houlahan stated that he had strong feelings about the line not running through Mission Trails. He suggested that the Task Force should draft a letter of opposition to the line running through Mission Trails and provide it to the PUC.

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (Leonard/Houlahan) that the Task Force send the suggested letter to the PUC and give the Task Force Chair the authority to resubmit a revised letter on behalf of the Task Force at any future appropriate time. Motion passed unanimously.

102. MTRP Solar Project – *James Chen and Lorie Cosio-Azar, Environmental Services Dept.*

James Chen provided copies of the latest layout for the proposed solar array installation in the day use lot. There is currently no start date set due to the need for bird nesting monitoring/reporting.

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (Sherman/Houlahan) to support the CAC recommendations on the solar installation and recommend that the contractor work with the City on tree replacement. Motion carried unanimously.

103. Task Force operating rules – *Casey Smith, Deputy Director, P&R Dept. Open Space Division*

A meeting was held last week and the process is moving forward. A draft should be ready for review in the next couple of months. No action taken.

104. MTRP CAC Appointments/Reappointments – *Task Force Chair Scott Sherman*

- Declaring the position of City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Board vacant. The current appointee is no longer a member of the Board.

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (Leonard/Alessio) to approve declaring the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Board Member position on the MTRP CAC vacant. Motion carried unanimously

- Reappointment of Dorothy Leonard as Member-at-large

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (Sherman/Alessio) to approve the reappointment as listed. Motion carried unanimously.

- Reappointment of Dorothy Leonard as Chair and Dick Murphy as Vice Chair.

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (Houlahan/Alessio) to approve the reappointments as listed. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:04 AM

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 15, 2018, 10:00 AM