

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2021**

**TIME AND PLACE**

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, via zoom.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members Present**

Rob Hutsel, Co of SD Parks and Recreation Committee  
Dorothy Leonard, Chair, Member at Large  
David Lipson, San Diego State University  
Kevin Loomis MTRP User Group  
Dick Murphy, Vice Chair, Special Member  
Marilyn Reed, Navajo Community Planners  
Kin Searcy, Scripps Ranch Civic Association  
Gary Strawn, City of Santee  
Mickey Zeichick, San Carlos Area Council  
Carol Lockwood, City of La Mesa (alternate)  
Demitrios Sparacino, City of El Cajon  
Ryan Hartegan, MTRP User Group (alternate)  
Glenn Farber, San Carlos Area Council (alternate)  
Richard Thesing, Tierrasanta Community Council (alternate)  
Marcella Bothwell, City of San Diego P&R Board (alternate)

**Members absent/Excused**

Betty Ogilvie, Tierrasanta Community Council  
Gary Strawn, City of Santee  
Mike Pent, Special Member  
Lane Mackenzie, MTRP Foundation  
Nancy Acevedo, Member at Large  
David Boyer, USMC Miramar  
Michele Greenberg-McClung, City of La Mesa  
Noli Zosa, City of San Diego P&R Board

**City of San Diego**

Steve Haupt, District Manager, Open Space Division, Parks and Recreation Department  
Ryan Robertson, Senior Park Ranger, Parks and Recreation Department  
Jennifer Canales, Center Director I, Parks and Recreation Department

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:31 PM by CAC Chair Dorothy Leonard.

**ROLL CALL**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (THESING/SEARCY) to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 6, 2021. The motion passed unanimously

**CHAIR'S REPORT** – None**RANGER REPORT** – Ryan Robertson

- Since reopening the campground, we have been operating at a 95% full capacity
- We are waiting on a finalized Park Ranger list from the personnel department. Once we have a completed list, the process can be started to fill the vacant Mission Trails position
- A property on the Tierrasanta side of the park is currently owned by the San Diego Unified School District. That property is currently in the process of being deeded over to the City of San Diego and will become a part of Mission Trails Regional Park.

**STAFF REPORT-** Steve Haupt

- I wanted to acknowledge and thank Dorothy Leonard for securing the replacement Park Ranger Position for Mission Trails Regional Park.

**WATER DEPARTMENT'S LAKE MURRAY REPORT** - None**FOUNDATION REPORT-** Jennifer Morrissey

- Tomorrow will be the first day of returning to being open full time again at the Visitor Center.
- We have just received a grant of \$50,000.00 primarily for youth and wildlife education.
- The Foundation met with staff from the San Diego Foundation who has been working with the Lenail Family on the Bridge for Max project. It was a great meeting and the Foundation is looking forward to collaborating and raising more funds for the bridge.

**COMMUNICATIONS-** None**ACTION ITEMS**

101. Appointment of an ad hoc subcommittee of the MTRP CAC to work with City staff to implement MTRP MPU Implementation priority 5.1.2 #16 to "Develop an overall tree planting plan to be used in conjunction with the tree planting guidelines to guide annual Arbor Day plantings, as well as other donations or volunteer efforts." – *Dorothy Leonard*

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (MURPHY/HUTSEL) to approve the appointments for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee. Dorothy Leonard as Chair, Dick Murphy as Vice chair, Marylin Reed, David Lipson, and Lane McKenzie to the committee. The motion passed unanimously with David Lipson Abstaining.

**WORKSHOP ITEMS- None****INFORMATION ITEMS****301. SANDAG and Caltrans Coast, Canyons, and Trails Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan – *Rene Loya, Consultant Project Manager***

- A presentation was given with information about the Coast, Canyons, and Trails Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan. This specific plan extends from la Jolla to Santee and El Cajon, and parts of unincorporated San Diego County and includes paths through Mission Trails Regional Park. The Environmental Impact Report is currently open to the public for comment.

**302. San Diego River Crossing Bridge project update – *Ryan Robertson***

- Nothing to report, other than that we are anticipating an update from Council Office later this Month.
- PUBLIC COMMENT – Doug Livingston  
“I noticed that the River crossing has now been closed and has a temporary sign up that closes the crossing”. He asked why the sign has been put up, and if that means he will be crossing it illegally now that the sign is in place. He states that if that is the case, you would be doing the park a grave injustice by only allowing seasonal crossing two months of the year. Mr. Livingston would like to see a different approach. Signage should indicate that visitors are assuming all potential risk involved in crossing the river and then open it up to the public.

Ryan Robertson clarified that the actual trail through that area and across the river is, and always has been, to the East of the location Mr. Livingston is referring to. The area Mr. Livingston is talking about is a sewer pipe encased in concrete and is under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Department. That department is mandated to maintain access there for their staff in the event of an emergency and for annual inspections.

The City Attorney's Office has advised the Parks and Recreation Department to place the new signage informing the public that the concrete encased sewer line is not a trail to better educate the public.

**303. Report from MTRP MPU Implementation Priorities Ad Hoc Subcommittee – *Dorothy Leonard***

- We met on September 2nd and are meeting again on the 23rd of this month. This two-step process begins by developing criteria that we would use as we decide what are the projects that need to be on the top of the priority list. Public safety, public accessibility, operational efficiency, the extent of public use, environmental preservation, resource protection, geographic diversity within the park, project gap fillers, funding leverage potential, and cultural and archaeological considerations are the criteria approved as

we look at a list of priority projects. Our goal is to present in November with a list of 10 implementation priorities which will need city funds, government grants, and or, public funding.

304. Funding for Old Mission Dam dredging project – *Ryan Robertson*

- Currently there is no identified funding source for this project.
- A discussion was held about drafting a letter signed by the CAC members regarding the need for funding. The letter could then be sent to various entities as a request for funding.

305. Volunteer Program Update – *Ryan Robertson*

- Staff is still spending a significant amount of time working towards getting volunteers back in the park. We are making process, but we have been informed by the Volunteer Office that prior to getting our Trail Patrol up and running again, we will need to obtain permission to run that volunteer program from the Labor Relations Division of Human Resources.

306. West Sycamore Staging Area Project – *Ryan Robertson*

- Nothing new to report. We have been promised that staff from Engineering and Capital Projects will be in attendance in the November meeting to provide an update on the project.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM

Next meeting, November 2, 2021