

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

**TIME AND PLACE**

The regular meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members Present**

Jesse Brown, City of La Mesa  
Rick Gulley, City of SD Parks and Recreation Committee  
Rob Hutsel, County of SD Parks and Recreation Committee  
Dorothy Leonard, Chair, Member at Large  
David Lipson, SDSU  
Kevin Loomis, MTRP user group  
Lane MacKenzie, MTRP Foundation  
Kin Searcy, Scripps Ranch Civic Association  
Gary Strawn, City of Santee  
Richard Thesing, Tierrasanta Community Council  
Mickey Zeichick, San Carlos Area Council  
Ryan Hartegan, MTRP User Group (alternate)

**Members Absent/Excuse**

Nancy Acevedo, Member at Large  
David Boyer, MCAS Miramar  
Dick Murphy, Vice Chair, Special Member  
Mike Pent, Special Member  
Marilyn Reed, Navajo Community Planners

**City of San Diego**

Ed Christensen, Open Space Division District Manager, Parks and Recreation Department  
Julie Aeilts, OCA Senior Park Ranger, Parks and Recreation Department

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by CAC Chair Dorothy Leonard.

**ROLL CALL**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (MacKenzie/ Searcy) to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 11, 2023. The motion passed unanimously with Thesing and Brown abstaining.

**CHAIR'S REPORT** – Dorothy Leonard

- No report.

**STAFF/RANGER'S REPORT** – Julie Aeilts

- New park ranger hire Jesus Fuentes has joined the MTRP team, with years of experience in land management and habitat restoration.

- Ranger-led field trips have resumed with the start of the academic year, but at limited capacity due to staffing shortages.
- Kumeyaay Lake Campground has had a busy summer, with most weekends fully booked and the addition of more campfire programming.
- The KLC bridge has been temporary pulled from the lake due to the storm/ hurricane Hilary. Staff used the opportunity to make repairs and perform maintenance on the bridge. The MTRP Foundation has funded most of the hardware and material for the project.
- Arbor Day: Park staff is working to repair and monitor irrigation issues; hand watering trees or using slow-release water bags where needed. One location being considered for Arbor Day 2023 is the Visitor Center Picnic Area behind the staff parking lot, which is near a quick coupler and irrigation lines. City will look into planting the oaks that were promised for memorial benches along VC Loop. A long-term policy exists between the Foundation and the City to replace dead memorial trees as needed from the Foundation's Habitat Fund.

#### **FOUNDATION REPORT - Lane MacKenzie**

- Moving forward with the acquisition process of the 53-acre parcel west of the landfill; appraisal underway.
- Eco Ambassadors returns for a second round, featuring teens from all over the county. Field trips have also started up again; over 3,000 students last year.
- Upcoming Foundation events: book signing and presentation by Doug Tallamy, CA Clean Air Day lecture, and donation campaign.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS – None**

#### **ACTION ITEMS -- None**

#### **WORKSHOP ITEMS – None**

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

##### **301. San Diego River Crossing Bridge project – PRJ-1050170 – Evan Lakin, KPFF.**

- Passed the permit review and are approved for the borings.
- Recent weather has made water levels rise. They are monitoring until expected boring start date of Sept. 15.
- Can bridge over small amounts of water to bore, but not large quantities like two feet. Have been communicating with reservoir management upstream to stop releasing water for the season. Still on standby.

##### **302. MTRP CAC Operating Rules Changes – Dorothy Leonard**

- Reviewed red-lined items and formatting changes. Established term limits for members with the exception of Special Members and agencies with staff representatives which include MCAS Miramar and SDSU.

##### **303. Mission Trails Golf Course Lease update – Ed Christensen**

- The current lease has expired. The city is considering a new lease of either 10 or 20 years. In a phone conversation with the CAC chair, CAC vice-chair Dick Murphy recommends retaining the name Mission Trails Golf Course.

**304.** Cowles communications tower/ power pole replacement update – Ed Christensen

- A power pole needed emergency repair to fix a drooping wire. The property is co-owned by the City and County.
- Erika is with speaking with the County Representative Matt Sanford regarding the need to replace existing poles with larger metal poles.
- This project is currently estimated to cost around 1.5 million dollars.
- Erika is working on an emergency memo, which allows the work to begin concurrently as the permits are being processed. The memo has passed through the City Attorney's Office and is being routed to upper city management for approval.
- Solar options were explored but deemed not visible.

**305.** MTRP Antenna Fund update including funds that are not encumbered (aka Mission Trails Fund 200403) – Ed Christensen

- The total amount of Unincumbered Funds \$511,644.

**306.** Oak Grove trail improvements status report – Julie Aeilts

- Dan Kimpel has taken the lead on this project. He is working on different approaches to handling the trail improvements and will be testing a few different products to see what would hold best, year-round.

**307.** Stowe Trail status report – Ed Christensen

- Real Estate Assets reported that the Code family representative responded saying that they are not interested in selling to the city.

**308.** Report from MTRP CAC ad hoc subcommittee to monitor status of land acquisition negotiations between the County of San Diego and MCAS Miramar – Kevin Loomis

- MCAS Miramar representatives have been very active with the County and the City to follow through on the acquisition.
- Kevin asked that the ad hoc subcommittee members stay and meet after the CAC meeting to pull together some ideas for getting access from the southern portion of MTRP to Sycamore Canyon preserve and the West Sycamore area of MTRP.

**309.** Old Mission Dam Dredging project status report – Ed Christensen

- Received an update from the Capitol Projects Department. They have hired a consultant and expect the permit work to begin this week.
- The project is underfunded, the city is aware of that, and Erika is looking into the possibility of obtaining funds from the Regional Park Improvement funds.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 6:30 PM