

MINUTES OF THE July 21th, 2021 MEETING OF THE
TECOLOTE CANYON CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TIME AND PLACE

This meeting of the Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, July 21th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via a virtual Zoom conference.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Darrel Madison
Jim Roberts
Niki Ahrens
Ingrid Lewin
Wilbur Smith
David Harpster
Marc Schaefer
Suzy Ellison-Logan
Robert Mathers
Terressa Whitaker

Absent

Anitra Kaye
Eloise Battle
Rick Bussell

Guests

Julie Wilds, California Coast Fire Safe Council
Sabrina Davidson, SDSU art student
Emily Dolton, Special Resource Needs Foundation of San Diego
David Goldberger, Interested Member
Ron Sandvick, Mesa College

City of San Diego Staff

Steven Smith, Parks & Recreation Department

CALL TO ORDER

Darrel Madison called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 19TH, 2021

1. (MADISON) **MOTION** to approve the minutes from May 19th occurred. (HARPSTER/AHRENS). (MADISON) asked, all those in favor? All were in favor. All those opposed? None. Any abstentions? (WHITAKER) abstained. The motion to approve the minutes passes.

CITY COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORT

1. None present.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Darrel Madison

1. Meetup is up to 512.
2. Darrel announced the Nature Center opened today.
3. Darrel gave Sabrina Davidson the rest of his time to talk.
4. Sabrina introduced herself as a student from SDSU doing a virtual/augmented reality art project/game on Tecolote Canyon that utilizes a smart phone to learn more about the canyon as you walk through it.
5. Sabrina asked for people who were interested in being interviewed for the project and left her email sabrocks@gmail.com as a contact.

STAFF / RANGER'S REPORT – Park Ranger Steven Smith

1. Steve stated the Nature Center reopened today and gave new open hours.
2. Steve talked about new volunteer program Better Impact.
3. Steve talked about the fire that occurred near Balboa.
4. Steve talked about the new working contract he procured this fiscal year with Canyon Lands to do restoration work.

TREASURER'S REPORT – David Harpster

1. No Report

WILDLIFE REPORT

1. Darrel saw a crane.
2. Suzy saw a Coopers Hawk in her pool.
3. Teresa saw a Coopers Hawk in her garden.
4. Ingrid has seen many lizards.
5. Niki saw 3 coyote pups.

ACTION ITEMS

201. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

301. Circulate SD

1. Emily Dolton stated she lives in Clairemont and has a child with a disability. She started making temporary signs for walking trails for people with special needs. She is interested in adding such signage near the Tecolote Nature Center and wants to know if the group is interested in such signage.
2. Darrel had questions about the signs and trail difficulty. Emily explained the signs are only to be up for 30 days and would be on easy trails that allow for sensory experiences.
3. Steve asked if the signs could be utilized by people without disabilities as well. Emily said

yes.

4. Marc gave his support based on similar work he had done with SANDAG.
5. Steve offered to help with the project.
6. Suzy asked if she could be included in the project.

302. TCCAC Bylaws

1. Wilbur stated he had not made much progress.
2. Marc stated it is not a priority with the City right now.
3. A discussion on possible ways the group could get recognition occurred.
4. Group stated they would like to have a meeting with City Council member soon.
5. Marc then talked about Susan Mournian getting information on designated finger canyons and what it would take to de-designate them. Steve clarified that this was concerning primarily the golf course in Tecolote.
6. Terressa stated the group should comment on the Clairemont Community Plan Update.

303. Grace Peter Sargent

1. Group thought the award should still be kept.
2. Discussion on volunteer events occurred.
3. Julie asked how to volunteer without being under the City. Steve stated a right Of Entry permit could do that, but it is hard to get, takes a while and could be denied.
4. Steve stated he would be working on getting volunteers events up and running as soon as possible.

INFORMATION ITEMS

401. Tecolote Canyon Trunk Sewer Project

1. Darrel stated project is still on schedule and had no new news from Jamul.
2. Steve said he had not been told exact spots of open trenching and that mitigation may not all take place in Tecolote.

402. Natural Resource Management Plan/Master Plan Update for Tecolote Canyon Natural Park

1. Darrel said he had talked with Mark Berninger about joint mitigation work occurring in Tecolote Canyon and with the TNRMP mitigation efforts.

403. Friends of Tecolote Canyon Update / Fund Raising Events

1. Niki said there were two candidates for education coordinator.
2. Friends received a grant from SDG&E for environmental champions.

404. Open Discussion

1. Julie introduced herself as part of the California Coast Fire Safe Council which is a 1 year old 501c3 organization.
2. Julie talked about an event her group put on to remove old junk and brush to clear for fire safe space.
3. Julie stated her group has received grants and would like to provide signs to be placed at

trail heads on fire safety. She wanted to know if the group was interested?

4. Wilbur was interested. He also talked about smoking on mesa college near the canyon.
5. A discussion occurred on signage.
6. Julie talked about homeowners losing insurance for fire due to living on the canyon.
7. Julie stated San Diego has 1 firefighter per 6700 residents and it should be 1 to 1000 residents.
8. Terressa said the group should comment on the Clairemont Community Plan concerning fire and high-density growth.
9. Jim stated the group needs to keep its eyes on the prize as protectors of the canyon and coastal sage habitat stating that fuel reduction is just another word for cutting stuff down.
10. Niki talked about Brush Management removing brush every year taking too much and cutting the wrong stuff. Crews do not have preservation in mind.
11. Marc talked about signage policy and rules being consistent stating too much signage can lessen the impact.
12. Ingrid asked about goats doing thinking.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING: September 15st, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Smith, Sr. Park Ranger, Tri-Canyons/Mission Valley Preserve