

Minutes of the Meeting of the January 18, 2024 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, 2024.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Councilmember Raul Campillo, City of San Diego
Dorothy Leonard, Chair, MTRP Citizens' Advisory Committee
Councilmember Dustin Trotter, City of Santee
Councilmember Jack Shu, City of La Mesa
Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe, County of San Diego

Members Absent

Councilmember Kent Lee, City of San Diego
Supervisor Joel Anderson, County of San Diego

Staff

Julie Aeilts, Senior Park Ranger, Mission Trails Regional Park
Vicram Vettiyil, Office of Councilmember Campillo
Erika Ferreira, Deputy Director, Open Space Division
Ed Christensen, District Manager, Open Space Division

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Task Force Chair Raul Campillo at 1:07 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (TROTTER/ LEONARD) to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2023 meeting. Motion passed unanimously, with Montgomery Steppe abstaining.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES - None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT- *Councilmember Campillo*

- Campillo acknowledges the legacy of Dorothy Leonard and her decades of service (50 years) to the City, County and San Diego/ MTRP region. Her impact will not be forgotten. The Office of Campillo recognizes Leonard with a special accommodation.

COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable)

- None

ACTION ITEMS

101. **Recommendation for One (1) Additional Beverage Machine at Cowles Mountain TH-**
Sarah Brehna, Assistant Deputy Director, City of San Diego Economic Development and Alishia Zalvidar, Regional Director, Canteen Vending.
- **MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (LEONARD/ SHU) to approve an additional vending machine at Cowles Mountain Staging Area. Motion carried unanimously.
102. **Report and Recommendations Regarding FY25 Regional Park Improvement Funds, CAC Proposed Allocation Recommendations** – *Dorothy Leonard, CAC Chair*
- **MOTION:** It was moved unanimously (5-0) to approve the Park Improvement Funds CAC Proposed Allocation Recommendations.
103. **MTRP Visitor Center Facility Rental Program Updates** – *Jennifer Morrissey, MTRP Executive Director*
- **MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (SHU/MONTGOMERY STEPPE) to approve the MTRP Visitor Center Facility Rental Program Updates.
 - **SECOND MOTION:** It was moved/ seconded (LEONARD/MONTGOMERY STEPPE) to approve the new drafts for MTRP Visitor Center Rules and Regulations as well as the MTRP Reservation Guidelines. Motion carried unanimously.
104. **Appointment /Reappointment of MTRP CAC Representatives for Terms Expiring January 2026** – *Councilmember Campillo, MTRP Task Force Chair*
- *Rick Gully, City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Board*
 - *Marilyn Reed, Navajo Community Planners Inc.*
 - *Kin Searcy, Scripps Ranch Civic Association*
 - *Lane MacKenzie, Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation*
 - *Cynthia Cornelius, City of San Diego At-Large Member*
 - *Kevin Loomis, City of San Diego At-Large Member*
 - **MOTION:** It was moved/ seconded (CAMPILLO/ LEONARD) to approve the aforementioned list of CAC representatives, as well as the addition of David Boyer to represent Miramar Marine Corps Air Station.
105. **Appointment of MTRP' CAC Special Member** – *Councilmember Campillo, MTRP Task Force Chair*
- *Dorohty Leonard, Special Member*
 - **MOTION:** It was moved/ seconded (TROTTER/ CAMPILLO) to approve MTRP CAC Special Member Dorothy Leonard.
106. **Appointment of MTRP CAC Chair and Vice Chair Representatives for Terms Expiring January 2026**

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- Kevin Loomis, *Chair*
- Dick Murphy, *Vice-Chair*
- **MOTION:** It was moved / seconded (MONTGOMERY STEPPE, TROTTER) to approve the appointment of Kevin Loomis as MTRP CAC chair and Dick Murphy as Vice Chair representatives. Motion passes unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. San Diego River Crossing Bridge Project – PRJ-1050170 – *Evan Lakin, KPFF and Ben Lenail, Project Applicant*

Second set of borings at Jackson occurred on January 12 2024. Some City and MTRP Foundation staff attended. No presentation at this time; Lakin was unable to attend this meeting.

302. East County Advanced Water Purification Project – *Rebecca Abbott, Padre Dam Municipal Water District*

Since last attendance at 2021 TF meeting, the CEQA document has been completed, a condition assessment performed on the sewer force main that runs through MTRP, and some design-level, site investigations performed (including surveying, utility locating, and geotechnical investigations.) Currently at 60% design; entering final design and construction phase of this project [1) rehabilitation of old sewer infrastructure 2) new pipeline]. Project schedule was shared: three-year plan with most work occurring during dry season.

303. Bilingual Signage Program – *Julie Aeilts, MTRP Senior Park Ranger*

Working with Foundation staff to convert all interpretive signage, both on trail and within the Visitor Center, to English *and* Spanish, with QR codes for other languages as well. Currently auditing to determine park audiences and general needs; will roll out the multi-phase implementation throughout the park geographically.

304. Old Mission Dam Dredging Project Status Report – *Erika Ferreira District Manager, Open Space Division, Parks and Recreation Department*

The Engineering Capital Projects is expected to receive the first review of conditions and is negotiating permits with the CA Department of Fish and Game, as well as the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Regional Army Core of Engineers. Once permits are received, it will be reviewed by the consultants. Work is scheduled to begin Fall of 2024.

STANDING REPORTS

City of Santee Community Services Department – *Sam Ransbury, on behalf of Nick Chavez*

- No updates.

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Citizen's Advisory Committee Report – *Dorothy Leonard, Chair MTRP CAC*

- Leonard thanks the committee for approving the actions and welcomes Kevin Loomis.

MTRP Senior Ranger Report - *Julie Aeilts*

- The Certs for the vacant Park Ranger positions at MTRP and throughout the City have been approved. Interviews are slated to begin mid-February to early March.

Open Space Staff Report-*Erika Ferreira*

- Two Supervising Park Ranger positions within Open Space Division / six department-wide. Interviews scheduled to begin in the coming weeks.

MTRP Foundation Report – *Jennifer Morrissey, Executive Director, MTRPF*

- Foundation received a 2 million dollar grant to purchase parcels on private land north of the 52 freeway / East Elliot to give more acreage to the park. Phase 1 report (for 55 acres) will go to City, then go to City Council in the next few months, then Escrow.
- Interpretive panels – Foundation applied for a grant with San Diego River Conservancy Board for funding, as well as funding from an invasive brush removal grant.
- Interpretive Updates: Received grant for Trail Tykes from Dr. Seuss Foundation to increase programming. Six full time staff employed to assist with Eco Ambassadors and other educational opportunities.

ADURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 2:17PM.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 21, 2024, 1:00 PM