

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 17, 2025
LOS PEÑASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee was held at 7:00 PM on July 17, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM

MEMBERS

Lillian Barnes, Chair, San Diego Bird Alliance
Pam Stevens, Vice-chair, Mira Mesa Community Planning Group
Erik Basil, Treasurer, Multi-use Trails Coalition
Matthew Bartelt, San Diego Mountain Biking Association
Giovanni Benson, Rancho Peñasquitos Community Planning Board
Tim Gross, San Diego City College, Member-at-Large
Frank Macaulay, Carmel Valley Community Planning Group
Beth Mather, Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve
Shital Parikh, At-Large, Friends of Del Mar Mesa
Jim Royle, San Diego County Archeological Society

Members Excused

Anne Fege, Member-at-Large
Bunny Clews, Carmel Valley Trail Riders
Ish Khan, Del Mar Mesa Community Planning Group

Members Absent

Torrey Hills Community Planning Group

City of San Diego

Gina Washington, Sr. Park Ranger, City of San Diego Parks & Recreation

County of San Diego

Brandon Schroeder, Regional Manager, County of San Diego, Parks & Recreation
Justin Gibbons, Park Ranger, County of San Diego, Parks & Recreation

Others Present

Kerris Kennedy

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of MARCH 20, 2025

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Bartelt/Mather

The motion to approve the minutes, with the following corrections was made by Mr. Bartelt and seconded by Ms. Mather. 5/0/3

- Organizational Reports - Mr. Gross is not with the San Diego (add County) Archeological Society
- Pam Steven was not in attendance, rather the Mira Mesa Community Planning Board Alternate, Jacob Rickett attended the meeting.
- Organizational Reports – Mr. Ricketts, not Pam Stevens made the report
- Anne Fege is no longer the “Acting Chair”

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – Item 201

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT – Ms. Barnes shared that she met with the Friends of LPCP who approved the purchase of computer equipment to be used for Zoom meetings. She also shared the loss of long-time CAC member and Friend of LPCP, Les Braund; a very nice ceremony was held in his memory.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The account has gained \$0.39 with a total of \$1,905.37

RANGER REPORTS

Ranger Gibbons shared that the County wrapped up their Discovery Program in May; it hosted 1,000 kids. A maintenance project on the porch, roof and railing of the ranch house will begin soon, in addition to the regular repairs and maintenance on the Adobe. The county is refreshing signs around the property, replacing old, faded signs which have the SD County logo. They are training a new staff member. Mr. Schroeder shared that the Outdoor Classroom project is moving forward with a hope to award the bid for a contractor in winter. (A discussion was held about the bidding process and designs of the classroom. It was requested that a few minutes before the start of the September meeting those interested could be shown the location of the classroom)

Ranger Washington shared that a 3rd ranger position was approved for LPCP. Staff are currently repairing the Penasquitos Creek Park crossing, anticipating a full restoration of it in cooperation with SDMBA soon. Oak tree treatment for GSOB was completed in May, the 8th year of treatment. Thanks to the Friends for their continued support of this project. The Open Space MSCP staff completed the annual surveys of the threatened/endangered species in the Preserve, i.e. short-leaved dudleya, variegated dudleya, San Diego thornmint, etc. Staff are hosting regular volunteer events on the 2nd Saturday and 3rd Sunday of every month in addition to weekly events on Monday and Tuesday mornings. During the heat advisories rangers are making regular “water fairy” patrols to ensure trail users avoid heat exhaustion/dehydration. Mr. Basil asked about the small fire that burned just north of the Adobe, it was an area that burned only a year or two previously; ranger staff are already making plans to revegetate it as part of their regular habitat restoration events. Two new benches will be installed at the south side waterfall. They are being donated by the Yates family in honor of Mr. Noah Yates work in helping preserve the Preserve.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Kennedy asked if San Diego Mountain Biking Association posts trail maps on their website. Mr. Bartelt answered, yes, they post official City trail maps. Ms. Kennedy expressed concern about a well-used trail on the northwest corner of Carmel Mountain Preserve that is impacting native habitat. It was shared that, though the official maps do not show those as trails, many of the social media apps that people use for trail guidance are user generated and there is nothing that can be done to prevent the incorrect trail information from being shared.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Member Elections and Member-at-Large Appointment

- Chair – Lillian Barnes
- Vice-Chair – Pam Stevens
- Treasurer – Erik Basil
- Member-at-Large, odd year – Tim Gross
-

MOTION:

MOVED/SECONDED

BASIL/unknown

The motion to extend the slate of officers and Tim Gross as Member-at-Large until January 2026 was made by Mr. Basil and seconded by unknown. The motion passed 8/0/0

102. Les Braund Recognition/Memorial

The Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve suggest naming the trail from Camino Ruiz Neighborhood Park the “Les Braund Trail” due to his significant contributions to the Preserve over the years. Ms. Mather requests a letter of support from the LPCPCAC.

MOTION:

MOVED/SECONDED

BASIL/PARIKH

The motion to support the naming of the Camino Ruiz Trail the “Les Braund Trail” with a letter of support written by the Chair of the LPCPCAC was approved. 9/0/0

103. Moving/Permanent Outdoor Exhibit – Instruction Signage in Del Mar Mesa Preserve

The Friends of Del Mar Mesa Preserve have secured grant funding for extending the current pollinator garden (at the pocket park along Carmel Mountain Rd) and including signage. Additionally, the Friends of DMMP are exploring the possibility of creating a *moving/permanent outdoor exhibit* in DMMP featuring a series of 12x12 instructional signs along trails for educational engagement and community involvement. Six permanent signs and 6 revolving.

- **Purpose:** Enhance educational outreach, create a sense of belonging, and encourage community stewardship through rotating educational signage.
- **Content:** Signs to feature engaging photos of local flora and fauna submitted by neighboring resident, with informative captions.
- **Exhibit Concept:** Signs can be periodically rotated or moved to different trails to maintain user interest and cover a broader range of educational topics.
- **Next Steps:** Seek ranger guidance on:
 - Approval process for sign installation and rotation
 - Design standards and material recommendations for weather-resistant signage.

- Potential permit requirements
- Establishing a timeline for development and implementation.

It was suggested that signs designed by children are less likely to be vandalized. Ms. Parikh asked for any help creating the sign content.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED BASIL/GROSS

The motion that the LPCPCAC expresses overwhelming support of the project as presented was made by Mr. Basil and seconded by Mr. Gross. 8/0/1

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

201. Bylaw Revision Draft CAC approved for presentation to the LPCP Task Force
Tabled by Ms. Stevens

ORGANIZATION REPORTS

No Reports

COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUPS

- Rancho Peñasquitos Planning Group – Mr. Benson asked if the CAC was aware that many trail users park by the Ballfields to avoid paying the parking fee at the County Black Mountain/Mercy Rd lot. They are aware

NON-AGENDA MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Parikh shared the Friends of DMMP and DMM Garden Club are putting up a display board at Ocean Air Recreation Center to highlight the natural environment.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Draft letter in support of the Les Braund Trail naming; pre-meeting tour of outdoor classroom location

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Washington