

MINUTES OF THE September 10th, 2025
MEETING OF THE MARIAN BEAR MEMORIAL PARK ADVISORY GROUP

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Marian Bear Natural Park Advisory Group was held on Wednesday, September 10th, 2025, at the Tecolote Nature Center.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Deron Bear
Ann Graham
Michael Kowalski
Joni Stern
Alex Wenz
Del Cover
Mark Bear
Sharon Rague
Brent Banta

Absent

Wendy Hancock
Matheson Bear

Guests

None

City of San Diego

Steven Smith, Senior Park Ranger, Parks & Recreation Dept.
Ivy Neff, Park Ranger, Parks & Recreation Dept.

CALL TO ORDER

Deron Bear called the meeting to order at 6:43 PM.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

J. Stern needs to be added to the absent list. (D. Bear) Do I have a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of May 14th, 2025? (S. Rague) moved, (M. Kowalski) seconded. (All) were in favor. Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – *Deron Bear*

1. Deron thanked those involved (S. Rague, A. Wenz, J. Stern, A. Lane, D. Bear) for repurposing the Regents West kiosk. Now, there are only 14 panels to redo instead of 20.

2. Construction still happening on the sinkhole and storm drain at the entrance to Marian Bear from the Stanley Park trail.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

- None in attendance

STAFF / RANGER REPORT – Senior *Park Ranger Steven Smith and Park Ranger Ivy Neff*

1. S. Smith mentioned the hiring of Park Ranger Ivy Neff and Catherine Morrison and Center Director Mary Zanoteli.
2. S. Smith introduced the nonprofit partner, Wildcoast, to the Advisor Group and expressed the possibility of restoring the non-native open space, south of the parking lot at Regents East with help from Wildcoast.
3. S. Smith discussed the clogged bathroom issues at Regents East and West. Seems to be a constant issue now. Rangers are working to fix them quickly once reported.
4. I. Neff reported the non-native tortoise found in Rose Canyon and informed the Advisory group to contact Rangers or Humane Society if they suspect an animal does not belong in the habitat.

S. Rague asked when the Genesee parking lot will be restored. Ranger S. Smith had no update on the construction timeline.

D. Bear mentioned the study of the Rose Creek Watershed conducted by the Rose Creek Watershed Alliance. D. Bear offered a copy of the study to the group.

ACTION ITEMS

201. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

301. *Review 2025 Trust Fund Balance*

1. The Advisory Group saw the endowment balance amount (roughly \$7,700). D. Bear suggested using the money to update a kiosk and/or add a bench to the recently updated kiosk.
2. Ranger S. Smith recommended a stone bench and suggested using the Company Southwest Boulder.
3. B. Banta suggested adding arm rests to the bench to deter sleeping.
4. Group tasked with researching what to use the money on and it will be made an action item for next meeting.

302. *Kiosk Updates*

1. D. Bear stated that the kiosk in Regents East looks much cleaner.
2. It was mentioned to possibly wait to remove panels from the Genesee kiosk until the construction is done.

3. A. Wenz asked if a QR code would be beneficial to add to the kiosk. D. Bear mentioned there is not a current website and the agenda and meeting minutes are posted on the city website. A QR code might not be appropriate for kiosks in Marian Bear.
4. D. Bear suggested removing the corkboard panel from the kiosk.
3. A. Wenz suggested making all the kiosks 6 panels.
4. Group to plan next work party to restore more kiosks.

303. *Wildlife and Vegetation Matters*

1. Several members mentioned the park still looks green overall.
2. A. Wenz found a skink in the park.

304. *Current Events*

1. D. Cover stated that Scripps Ranch developers purchasing 19.1 acres in Marian Bear is in review. Ranger S. Smith mentioned that the city will require them to clean the area before the city accepts the land.
2. D. Cover asked if there are any plans to restore the trail that led from Argon St. to Regents East bathrooms. Ranger S. Smith stated that the area is private property.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. None

ADJOURNMENT

- (Deron Bear) made a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. (M. Kowalski) moved, (J. Stern) seconded. (All) were in favor at 7:34 pm.

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING: November 12th, 2025 at 6:30pm in the Tecolote Nature Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Park Ranger, Ivy Neff