

MINUTES OF THE January 21st, 2026 MEETING OF THE
TECOLOTE CANYON CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TIME AND PLACE

This meeting of the Tecolote Canyon Citizen's Advisory Committee was held on January 21st, 2026 at 6:30pm at the Tecolote Nature Center.

ATTENDENCE

Members Present

Darrel Madison

Wilbur Smith

David Harpster

Robert Mathers

Anitra Kaye

Niki Ahrens

Lauriel Adsit

Beatrice Darimont

Marc Schaefer

Suzy Ellison-Logan

Absent

Cynthia Contreras

Guests

Savannah Stallings, San Diego Bird Alliance

David Boehmer, Wildcoast

City of San Diego Staff

Steven Smith, Parks and Recreation Department

Mary Zanolli, Parks and Recreation Department

CALL TO ORDER

Darrel Madison called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF September 17th, 2025

1. (MADISON), Do I have a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 17th, 2025? (Harpster) Motioned with changes. (Remove Terressa Whitaker as member and update Council Members Report). (Adsit) seconded. (Schafer and Darimont) Abstained. (All) were in favor to approve the minutes with changes.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

1. No Council members present. Darrel reported on the fact that the Clairemont Community Plan update kept the 33' height limit.

CHAIR PERSON'S REPORT- DARREL MADISON

1. Darrel stated that Meetup had dropped in membership, but has rebounded to 1016 members.

RANGER'S REPORT

1. Mary Zanotelli introduced herself as the new Center director for the Nature Center and gave a little information on herself and her goals for the Nature Center. She talked about organizing Canyon Connection Day 2026.
2. Steve talked about the completed mural at the Golf Course wall section of Tecolote Canyon that was funded by Wildcoast and painted by @Questmo.
3. Steve spoke on the restoration efforts staff and volunteers are currently working on in site 10. He spoke on the restoration efforts being done under the supervision of Wildcoast both in Tecolote near the September St. trail and in Marian Bear at the Regents East parking lot. He also spoke on the joint restoration being done by Friends of Rose Canyon and Wildcoast in Rose Canyon.
4. Steve gave an update on the sewer replacement project and where it currently is in the canyon and how clearing started in middle Tecolote.
5. Steve talked about the Wildcoast connection to the Tri-Canyons, how it came about and some of the science they were doing in conjunction with restoration.

WILDLIFE REPORT

1. Steve stated the Cedar Waxwings were around and that he rescued a juvenile rattlesnake from the concreted portion of the creek that had been pushed into the creek during brush clearing by Alpha Project.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Grace Peter Sargent Award

1. Darrel asked the group if they had any nominees. None were mentioned.
2. Darrel stated that he and Steve had talked about it earlier and the two mentioned were Cynthia Contreras and Wildcoast. Darrel then read a bio about the candidates to the group.
3. Marc brought up his opinion on why he thought an individual who gave their free time as a volunteer was more deserving than a non-profit who existed to do the function they are

assisting Tecolote Canyon with. Darrel stated there was precedence for an entity to receive the award. Savannah of SD Bird Alliance echoed Marc's sentiments.

4. (Schaefer) **MOTIONED** to nominate Cynthia Contreras for the Grace Peter Sargent Award. (Ahrens) **SECONDED**. (All) were in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

201. Mission Bay / Tecolote Creek Historical Ecology Reconnaissance Study

1. Savannah of the San Diego Bird Alliance gave a power point presentation on the study highlighting much about how much human impact has changed and altered Mission Bay. She also talked about how Tecolote Creek has changed from ephemeral flow to year-round flow due to the golf course and irrigation. A short discussion and questions about the document and how it could be used occurred after her presentation.

202. Group Liaison Assignments

1. Tabled.

203. Friends of Tecolote Canyon

1. No meeting occurred this month.

204. Trunk Sewer Project

1. Darrel mentioned that a 25,000 gallon sewage spill occurred due to a log that fell on a bypass pipe. Filanc said they would be using more robust monitoring materials and equipment to prevent this type of issue.
2. Darrel spoke about questions he had from the last project walk on habitat restoration and mitigation efforts. He received responses stating the amounts of mitigation per zone and that much of the mitigation will come from mitigation banks that were primarily already done in Tecolote Canyon in the past.
3. Darrel spoke about questions on restoration time frames. He said he received the answers that were in the project plan.
4. Darrel talked about manhole access path sizes and clearing around the manholes. It seems as though the paths and clearing sizes can be smaller than currently were created to be in the project.
5. Darrel read through a list of questions and responses he had sent and received a 79 page response from the City. Darrel stated he would email the group the document for input.
6. A discussion occurred on the city's responses to Darrel's questions.
7. Beatrice asked about the possibility of making permanent creek crossing in the northern portion of Tecolote canyon to assist elderly people in easier creek crossings. It was not generally supported by the group as it posed being too big of a request when the group could focus on more reasonable requests that had more potential to be addressed by Filanc and the City.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

1. Darrel Stated Mark Berninger emailed him that there would be another 7-10% budget cut this coming fiscal year. Despite that Jessie Lane was hired as a Biologist III and will be working on the NRMP for Tecolote.

303. Friends of Tecolote Canyon Update/ fund raising events

1. None.

304. Open Discussion

1. None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING: March 18th, 2026 @ 6:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Smith, Sr. Park Ranger, Tri-Canyons

Please Note: If there are questions regarding this agenda, please contact Staff Representative Park Ranger Steve Smith at 858-581-9961.

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