

MINUTES OF THE
5/13/26 MEETING OF
THE MARIAN BEAR MEMORIAL PARK ADVISORY GROUP

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Marian Bear Memorial Park Advisory Group was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at the Tecolote Nature Center.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Deron Bear
Michael Kowalski
Del Cover
Joni Stern
Alex Wenz
Sharon Rague

Absent

Wendy Hancock
Brent Banta
Mark Bear
Ann Graham

Guests

None

City of San Diego

Mary Zanotelli, Tecolote Nature Center Director, Parks & Recreation Dept.

CALL TO ORDER

D. Bear called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Correction to 11/12/25 minutes: Add Alex Wenz to attendance. (D. Bear) Attending minors' names should not be included in minutes. (D. Bear) Do I have a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of November 12, 2025? (S. Rague) moved, (J. Stern) seconded. (All) were in favor. Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Deron Bear

1. Thank you for adjusting your schedules to be here. We typically meet 4-6 times per year. Our July meeting will be held at Regents East as usual.

2. Two Saturdays ago, Ranger Austin suggested a work party to water the plants at the restoration site. Ten people worked over two hours to water 500 plants. Ranger Ivy found a gopher snake! We are looking to do monthly work parties going forward.

STAFF / RANGER REPORT – *Center Director Mary Zanotelli (from Ranger Austin Lane)*

1. Rangers are done with trail maintenance for the year. (M. Zanotelli showed video sent by A. Lane)
2. Rangers are planning to hold monthly restoration events at Marian Bear on Sundays.
3. A charter school, Innovations Academy, worked with Mary to set up a literacy walk event at Marian Bear Regents West on April 18. Mary had a table with taxidermied animals; the school had snacks and lemonade. 60 children and adults attended. The Poetry Path signs were placed along the 1 mile loop. Students were asked to scan a QR code on each sign to answer questions. The signs stayed in place until April 26, when the literacy walk ended. The signs are now in the native plant garden at Tecolote Nature Center. (Approximately 5 signs were stolen from Marian Bear and were remade.)
4. Tecolote Nature Center is holding its annual Canyon Connections event on Saturday, June 6 from 10 am to 2 pm. All are invited.

ACTION ITEMS

None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

301. *SANDAG 2025 Regional Transportation Plan*

1. SANDAG's 2021 Regional Transportation Plan was updated in 2025. Hwy 52 should stay the same. However, there is a bike path proposed for 2050 that goes along the 52 freeway, then to Regents Road East exit, continuing into Marian Bear Park. The proposed bike path hooks up to the main trail and continues past Genesee. This might discourage people from using the Park. The bike path is a two-way path designed for commuting. It does not match our natural resource use plan. It also involves major construction. (D. Bear)
2. Discussion was had about alternatives, including the suggestion to move the bike path north of the 52 freeway, in an area that is not designated Open Space.
3. D. Bear will draft a letter to present at the July MBMPAG meeting.

302. *Kiosk Updates*

1. D. Bear reported that funds from the endowment have been depleted. S. Rague believes that some money was saved to cover bench construction. D. Bear will check with Ranger Steve Smith to find out how much is available.
2. A. Wenz suggested keeping the two kiosks consistent in the number of panels, whether it's six panels or otherwise. He also suggested taking inventory of materials already in the group's possession. S. Rague suggested four panels on each kiosk.
3. A separate on-site meeting will be held at 10 am on June 9, 2026 to look at and make decisions on the kiosks.

303. *Wildlife and Vegetation Matters*

1. S. Rague found a four-foot snake shed in her yard.

2. A. Wenz talked about red-tailed hawks, raccoons, and bobcats in their yard. J. Stern told the story of an opossum and a coyote caught on their neighbor's wildlife cam, and how shortly afterward, the coyote came back through with the opossum in its mouth.
3. D. Cover said he has a mystery bird that has been calling outside his home every night for months. May be a common poorwill.

304. *Current Events*

1. S. Rague gave an update on the Pure Water Project. They are starting to recurb along Genesee and will be repaving later. D. Bear wondered if the Genesee parking lot of Marian Bear Memorial Park will end up being the staging area again. S. Rague will share the Project emails.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. D. Cover shared a 1982 map of property adjacent to Marian Bear. Previously called "Keller Canyon," it consists of three lots that were once pueblo lands that were to be developed in the 1980s but development was prevented by citizens who wanted to keep the land natural. About a year ago, a developer purchased all three lots as an environmental offset for a development project in Scripps Ranch, which has not been started yet. The developer has since gone bankrupt, leaving these lots in limbo. According to a community plan, the canyon is listed as Open Space. It shows a connecting trail from Tecolote to this parcel. This land could potentially connect Marian Bear to Tecolote. D. Cover offered to be the guide to show other members the parcel.

ADJOURNMENT

- (D. Bear) made a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. (M. Kowalski) moved, (S. Rague) seconded. (All) were in favor at 7:49 pm.

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Wed, July 8, 2026 at Marian Bear Memorial Park – Regents East kiosk.

Respectfully submitted,
Center Director Mary Zanotelli