

MINUTES OF THE May 20th, 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 My 20th, 2026 at 6:30pm at the Tecolote Nature Center.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

David Harpster

Anitra Kaye

Niki Ahrens

Lauriel Adsit

Cynthia Contreras

Beatrice Darimont

Wilbur Smith

Absent

Darrel Madison

Suzy Ellison-Logan

Robert Mathers

Marc Schaefer

Guests

Terressa Whitaker

City of San Diego Staff

Steven Smith, Parks and Recreation Department

CALL TO ORDER

Niki Ahrens called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF March 18, 2026

1. (Ahrens), Do I have a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 18th, 2026 with correction: (Date of last meeting incorrect.) (Harpster) Motioned. (Kaye) Seconded. (W. Smith and Whitaker) abstained. (All) were in favor to approve the minutes with correction.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

None.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT- DARREL MADISON

1. Niki stated that Darrel sent an email to the city with concerns about the sewer project and included photos.
2. Beatrice stated she is trying to compile photos of tree pictures she took before and after cuts were.
3. Beatrice spoke on her concerns about why they are cutting trees outside of the line of the sewer pipe and while in bird nesting season.
4. Niki asked where the group is with its work on a Mission Statement. Group said they would take it up again.
5. Wilbur stated the group needs council representation to have real impact.
6. Terresa said she will send out old notes concerning the Mission Statement.
7. Niki said that April 1st 2028 Tecolote will be 50 years old from the time it was dedicated as a park.

RANGER'S REPORT- PARK RANGER AUSTIN LANE

1. Steve stated that Canyon Connections is on June 6th and staff is working a lot on preparations for the event.
2. Steve said the next restoration event will be June 6th and people can attend both Canyon Connections and restoration event if they like.
3. It was brought up that Canyon Connections could be held on April 1st in honor of the dedication date of Tecolote Canyon. And a possible way to avoid parking conflicts with Tecolote Canyon Baseball tournaments.

WILDLIFE REPORT

1. Cynthia saw a coyote, rattlesnake, gopher, rabbits and squirrels on the golf course.
2. Terresa saw crows attacking a Great Horned owl.
3. Anitra said she did a bumble bee survey with Lorri Friedas. They mostly saw White Faced bumble bees just off the Battle Trail.
4. Lauriel Saw a Rattle Snake den in Rose Canyon.
5. Niki saw a Nuttall's Woodpecker on Tecolote Canyon rim and has been hearing Poorwills at dusk.
6. Steve said they saw Poorwills nesting on a Mesa near Lanston St.

ACTION ITEMS

101. City of San Diego's Phase 3 Status.

1. No action taken. Item discussed in 201.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

201. Tecolote Canyon Trunk Sewer Replacement

1. Darrel's letter to the city was discussed.
2. Group would like to ask the city about inconsistencies they see in the plan.
3. Group would like to ask about why trees are being cut during bird nesting season.
4. Beatrice would like to see the documentation of reports the biologist have made.
5. Wilbur stated that the engineers from the project likely won't care about the groups concerns and that the group needs political support.
6. A discussion occurred on how this project is cooccurring in the park system with what appears to have little pushback from the Open space department.
7. The group wants to understand the permitting process as they have concerns for future projects.
8. A discussion occurred on how the group could advise on the restoration efforts that will occur from the project.

202. Golf Course Proposal

1. The group received a letter form one of the organizations bidding on the Tecolote Golf Course lease stating they would like a partnership with Friends of Tecolote where they could make donations and create a community partnership.
2. A discussion occurred on what TCCAC could do to try and turn the golf course back into native habitat and become an open space park with trails all people could visit.

203. Group Liaison Assignment

1. Everyone stated they know their roles.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

1. The city hired a new biologist named Jesse Lane, Biologist III and she is actively working on the NRMP.
2. Niki read an email that Mark Berninger sent to Darrel. It was a list of items that the biology team is working on to move the NRMP forward.

302. Friends of Tecolote Canyon Update/ fund raising events

1. Cynthia is working on getting Friends a Venmo account.

2. Mary has Canyon Connections well planned.
3. Cynthia and Lauriel are doing a nature journaling class this Saturday.
4. Friends is making an Amazon wish list for people to be able to purchase needed items.
5. The website is being refreshed.
6. Grant writing is continuing.
7. Beatrice spoke on a class she put on last Saturday using natural dyes from oak galls. She wants to follow up with 2 more classes. One using invasive species to make natural dyes and a third class using sediment dyes. These are all in conjunction with the San Diego Bird Alliance.

303. Open Discussion

1. A discussion about the RFP on the Tecolote Golf Course occurred.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

1. (Contreras) **MOTIONED** to adjourn the meeting. (Kaye) seconded. (All) were in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING: July 15th, 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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