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FIESTA ISLAND PARK PRECISE PLAN RUNNING CLUBS MEETING MINUTES- August 25, 2010

ATTENDEES:

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Bill Aaron	San Diego Track Club	619	billaaron@hotmail.com

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mike gave a recap of the project process and next steps; he mentioned that the design team was holding a series of user meetings to get each group's design input on the latest master plan alternate 5e. These meetings will result in further refinement of the plan, before it goes back to the Mission Bay Park Committee on Sept. 7. The meeting will be open to the public and public comments are likely to be allowed. Mike reviewed the proposed circulation changes, the bike time trial courses and the potential triathlon and special event opportunities afforded by the use of four loop systems with a clockwise flow pattern.

SPECIFIC INPUT:

1. Bill expressed great interest in more capacity and facilities at Fiesta Island for running and special events. The use of Fiesta Island for events or training would be very helpful since there are so many limited venues and most are spread out in various areas, making it difficult to conduct the event and control traffic and other course logistics.
2. Bill mentioned that the Track Club would like to run club events on Fiesta Island but do not utilize it now because it is not safe for any group above a couple of people. The club has training runs of 40-50 people every Wednesday night and would like to use the island, but limit themselves to the outer loop of Mission Bay Park. The island would be well utilized by runners for individual training, for club training, for smaller events as well as regularly scheduled running events. These facilities could include cross-country events on DG trails, turf or hard packed sand or other running events could occur on asphalt trails or concrete walkways. The roadways could be used for larger special events assuming permits would be issued for full or partial closure.
3. Discussed this year's Rock N Roll Marathon. Runners generally find "wind" is a problem on the island. In addition, the existing berms hinder the views around the bay and the runners find it boring. The current roadway system is a little bit too much cross-sloped.
4. S.D. Track Club conducts 15 events average per year with 1,500-2,500 participants for many of these runs. These events are run mostly on the roads with special permits obtained and traffic control provided. Some of these venues include: Balboa Park Central Mesa and West Mesa – some of the course on lawns but mostly on the roads and Morley Field – made up of lawn running, DG trails, and other cross country surfaces
5. Discussed possible routes on Fiesta Island and South Shore for 5/10k running events.
6. Discussed the longevity of a hard surface trail vs. a soft surface jogging path. Hard surface trails can save money on maintenance, is better for cyclists and in-line skaters. Mike felt asphalt may not be the best surface because of the need to resurface every 3-5 years and the runoff contains petro-chemicals. Concrete is not ideal for running because it does not give and can create knee problems for runners. Bill was agreeable to the 8-10' wide concrete trail with dual 2' DG (decomposed granite) paths on each side.

Prepared by: Mike Singleton / Cheri Blatner-Pifer