

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 17, 2022
LOS PEÑASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE CITIZENS 'ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens 'Advisory Committee was held at 7:00 PM on March 17, 2022 on Zoom virtual meeting platform.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM

MEMBERS

Frank Landis, Chair, California Native Plant Society
Anne Fege, Vice-chair, Member-at-Large
Matthew Bartelt, San Diego Mountain Biking Association
Lillian Barnes, Audubon Society
Erik Basil, Multi-use Trails Coalition
Les Braund, Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve
Tim Gross, Member at Large
Anne Harvey, Carmel Valley Community Planning Board
Ken Heinz, Rancho Peñasquitos Community Planning Board
Shital Parikh, Del Mar Mesa Community Planning Board
Jim Royle, San Diego County Archeological Society
Pamela Stevens, Mira Mesa Community Planning Group and Craig Radke

Members Excused

Bunny Clews, Carmel Valley Trail Riders
Rob Osbourne, Canyonside Ranch LLC

Members Absent

Torrey Hills Community Planning Group

City of San Diego

Gina Washington, Senior Park Ranger, City of San Diego Parks & Recreation

County of San Diego

Timothy Leon, Senior Park Ranger, County of San Diego Parks & Recreation
Jen Spencer, Park Project Manager, County of San Diego, Parks & Recreation
Brandon Schroeder, Region Manager, County of San Diego, Parks & Recreation
Riley DeWitt-Rickards, County of San Diego

Others Present

Marilyn Teague, Sorrento Mesa Resident
Tom Clark, Rancho Peñasquitos Resident

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of January 20, 2022

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Bartelt/Gross

The motion to approve the minutes as amended of January 20,2022 was made by Mr. Bartelt and seconded by Mr. Gross. The motion passed 10/0/1

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES - None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – None

TREASURER'S REPORT – \$1899.70 end of February

RANGER REPORTS

Brandon Schroeder shared that there is an uptick in school visits to the Ranch House. Grant funded project with Urban Corps to work on trails in May, focusing on the single-track trails perhaps getting debris out that is impacting waterflow. Looking at tenting the ranch house for termites in the next couple of months. The historical marker on the monument will be replaced due to updated information, funded by the Park Society. Trail counters were placed as one of 10 parks. Hoping to expand the counters, perhaps to include equestrian counters. This is a pilot project, the county has to report monthly visitation numbers, attendance numbers don't break down by usership. They are also working to close social trails and revegetate bare areas. (Weekend 930 average per day second busiest park of the 10)

City Sr. Ranger Gina Washington reported on the success of the new bumper signs in the Preserve on the single-track. The first kiosk was refurbished and they are in talks with a potential Eagle Scout project for one of the kiosk replacements.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – Anne Fege got a Friends of LPCP Bylaw revision proposal and she shared that the changes seem to legitimize a smaller group though it has an immense goal. Erik Basil shared that it isn't really appropriate for the CAC to discuss how they run their organization. Braund shared that the only thing discussed at the Friends meeting was changing votes from members to board members.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Letter to County Supervisor and San Diego City Councilmembers on the LPCP Task Force, their historic role, what the CAC is doing, and to encourage them to become active again.
Frank received good comments for revision on the draft letter. He shared the letter with the group. The Task Force was established in 1977 subsequently the Task Force appointed the first Citizens' Advisory Committee.
There was a discussion about how to convey the importance of the CAC and what is accomplished at the meetings. Additionally, it was mentioned to emphasize the difference between park and preserve. Several other edits were made. It was expressed that the view in the Human Use section of the letter as originally drafted was specifically anti-bike. A reasonable discussion was had that resulted in a substantial change to reflect the real issue of increased usership of the limited resources in the Preserve.

MOTION:

MOVED/SECONDED

Heinz/Bartelt

The motion to approve the letter as amended with final formatting to be done before posting was made by Mr. Heinz and seconded by Mr. Bartlet was passed. 11/0/0

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

201. Brief Update on the County’s Bridge and Amphitheater Project - Jen Spence shared that they have the task order and contractor on board. First community meeting will be in April/May. A more comprehensive update will be held in May. If there are any other stakeholders that could be invited to the community meetings please contact:

Jen Sabo Spencer, PLA LEED AP.
Park Project Manager
SD County Parks and Recreation
858-776-8399 jen.spencer@sdcounty.ca.gov

202. Update on Outreach Activities in the Preserve – great kick off on the first kiosk refurbishment. Looking forward to continuing the project.

ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Friends of LPCP – Mr. Braund shared that the Friends volunteer performed GSOB surveys, the report is not very good. The canopy of the trees is declining, not sure if it is from GSOB or drought. The largest tree in the canyon at Carson’s Crossing is dead. Spraying will occur in May but is yet to be scheduled. The Friends agreed to accept the money from the POPs settlement with Cistera; in the neighborhood of \$500,000 and will be under the control of POPs.

San Diego Mountain Biking Association – Mr. Bartelt shared that the bell stations are being regularly replenished. Work on Darkwood Connector trail has begun. He also shared that SDMBA is implementing a Trail Ambassador program to assist Preserve staff with eyes in the field, similar to the original Volunteer Patrol.

COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUPS

Mira Mesa Community Planning Group – no report

Carmel Valley Community Planning Group – Alternate quit recently, there is a need for someone active in the canyon that lives in Carmel Valley to be the alternate to the CAC.

Del Mar Mesa Community Planning Group – The DMM garden club is celebrating Earth Day on April 3rd from 2-5 pm at Elizabeth Rabbitt Park as part of community outreach. You are all invited to stop by.

Ms. Parikh shared that Councilmember LaCava seems to be listening to the concern about proposed changes to Community Groups.

Rancho Peñasquitos Community Planning Group – Mr. Heinz piggy-backed on what Ms. Parikh said. There seems to be softening, the council vote was postponed indefinitely to rework the entire proposal. Will the community groups have any teeth when it’s all done remains to be seen.

NON-AGENDA MEMBER COMMENTS

Suggested to go back to in-person meetings

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Elections, letter from Shital Parikh

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:13 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Washington