

MINUTES OF THE November 10th, 2021
MEETING OF THE MARIAN BEAR NATURAL PARK RECREATION COUNCIL

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Marian Bear Natural Park Recreation Council was held on Wednesday, November 10th, 2021 via Zoom.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Brent Banta
Deron Bear
Toni Bear
Michael Kowalski
John Fowler

Absent

Ann Graham
Daniel Logue
Don Steele
Cheryl Bear

Guests

Eric Johnson
John Bailey
Mark Varnau
Sharon Rague
Erin Levy

City of San Diego

Steven Smith, Sr. Park Ranger, Parks & Recreation Dept.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION:

(Brent Banta) Do I have a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of September 8th, 2021? (Banta/Kowalski) So moved. All were in favor. Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – *Deron Bear*

1. Deron thanked Brent for keeping the group informed on the SANDAG transportation plan.
2. Deron had group and guests do introductions.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

- None in attendance

STAFF / RANGER REPORT – *Park Ranger Steven Smith*

1. Steve informed the group the new entrance signs are in production.

2. Steve informed the group of the new footbridge Ranger Cameron and he built and installed at Regents East to cross the creek.
3. Steve mentioned the vandal who had been spreading hot sauce in the men's restrooms.
4. Steve brought up an idea he had to use endowment funds to create a new small parking lot at the Regents West parking lot that avoids the flood zone that perpetually destroys the old parking lot. Group discussed the idea. Stated they were in favor. (Fowler/Banta) **Moved** and seconded the item become action item 202. (All were in favor).

ACTION ITEMS

201. *Elect MBNPAG Officers for 2022*

1. The group proposed current officers stay as is for one more year.
2. Deron and Brent both proclaimed they were ok in their positions for on more year. (All stated they were in favor)

202. *Creation of Smaller Regents West parking area*

1. Discussion on subject occurred in Ranger Report.
2. Daron stated that this proposal supported the Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP).

WORKSHOP ITEMS

301. *Continue Discussion of Police Officer Memorial in Parking Lot*

1. Deron stated that the group was not there for reasons other than to support the NRMP, but that they wanted to support Police Officers.
2. John Bailey talked about the history of memorials, Kirk Bailey and efforts on getting Kirk a memorial.
3. John talked about a stone bench idea to keep up with the aesthetic of the park and the bench to have an engraving on it dedicated to Kirk.
4. John would like group to vote on bench idea.
5. Mark Varnau talked about the trauma police officer's encounter. Talked about being a part of police officer assistance. Talked about finding Kirk. Stated he supported memorial.
6. John Fowler stated he supported the idea.
7. Deron spoke at length about aesthetic of park, requests for other memorials, living memorials, the park has no other physical memorials. Stated he was divided on living vs. physical memorials. Stated a physical memorial would be better with another agency as the group does not want to be deciding on other memorials in the future. Stated that they would stick with the NRMP.
8. Brent asked if a living memorial could be identifiable? Deron answered, "No. other than it being publicized elsewhere." Brent asked more questions on if a tree could be photographed and posted on a kiosk in a living memorial fashion.
9. John Fowler asked what the process of approval was. Steve said that there is a parks memo describing that the group was to decide and then it goes on to possibly the Parks & Recreation board, but was not sure that is the exact process as he has not been through it before.
10. Discussion occurred.
11. John Bailey described where the incident occurred in the park and having the stone bench near the location.
12. John fowler asked how many SDPD officers had been killed in a park. John Bailey stated he thought it was 3. John Fowler asked about Open Space parks specifically. Exact answer unknown.
13. John Bailey talked about the night of the incident.
14. (Banta) **Moved** the Marian Bear Recreation Advisory Group approve a living memorial. (All were in favor).

15. More discussion occurred.

302. *SANDAG Draft Regional Transportation Plan Update*

1. Brent gave background on long-range transportation plan.
2. Brent talked about wildlife corridor along the 52 and how new development would impact it.
3. Brent stated plan wants to turn the 52 from a 4 to 7 lane highway with managed lanes in the middle.
4. Brent stated interchanges could encroach on the park.
5. Brent stated that the group did not join other groups who oppose the expansion, but group will have to take a stand based on its concerns.
6. Deron shared the comments that the group added to the SANDAG comments section.
7. Sharon had concerns about water runoff.
8. Brent will compose a letter of concerns.

303. *Kiosk Update*

1. Deron stated he would like the group to always have the Zoom meeting option and will post it on the kiosk.
2. Sharon asked about the geology panels. Stated she had the originals and that the group could have them.
3. Deron said he had met a school teacher interested in school art on the kiosks panels.

304. *Wildlife and Vegetation Matters*

1. Deron asked about drought. Steve the park appeared well.
2. Erin said she had seen a bobcat in the past.

305. *Current Events*

1. Brent said to keep an eye out for an article in the Reader on the park and widening of the 52 highway.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. None.

ADJOURNMENT

- (Kowalski) **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:01. (All) were in favor.

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING: Jan. 12th, 2021, 6:30PM via Zoom conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Park Ranger, Steven Smith