

MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 2, 2021

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 via zoom.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Kin Searcy, Scripps Ranch Civic Association
Dorothy Leonard, Chair, Member at Large
Dick Murphy, Vice Chair, Special Member
Michele Greenberg-McClung, City of La Mesa
Marilyn Reed, Navajo Community Planners
David Boyer, USMC Miramar
Richard Thesing, Tierrasanta Community Council (alternate)
Lane MacKenzie, MTRP Foundation
Nancy Acevedo, Member at Large
Gary Strawn, City of Santee
Mickey Zeichick, San Carlos Area Council
Ryan Hartegan, MTRP User Group (alternate)
David Lipson, San Diego State University
Mike Pent, Special Member
Glenn Farber, San Carlos Area Council (alternate)
Carol Lockwood, City of La Mesa (alternate)
Kevin Loomis, MTRP user group
Demitrios Sparacino, City of El Cajon

Members absent/Excused

Rob Hutsel, Co of SD Parks and Recreation Committee
Betty Ogilvie, Tierrasanta Community Council
Marcella Bothwell City of San Diego P&R Board (alternate)
Noli Zosa, City of San Diego P&R Board

City of San Diego

Steve Haupt, District Manager, Open Space Division, Parks and Recreation Department
Ryan Robertson, Senior Park Ranger, Parks and Recreation Department
Jennifer Canales, Center Director I, Parks and Recreation Department
Lara Ball, Project Officer II, Open Space Division

Guests

Anna MacMaster, Project Manager, Community Housing Works
Mary Jane Jagodzinski, Community Housing Works
Carlos Rodriguez, Architect, Community Housing Works
John Becker, Landscape Architect, Project Design Consultants
Ben Lenail
Laurie Yoler

Susie Murphy
Patricia Murphy

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM by CAC Chair Dorothy Leonard.

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (Acevedo/MacKenzie) to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 5, 2021. The motion passed (12-0-3) with Boyer, Sparacino, and Strawn abstaining.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Dorothy Leonard

- In our last meeting we made some recommendations for the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JEPA) with amendments requested by the CAC, which were approved by the Task Force in their meeting of January 2021.
- With a year of back logs on CAC appointments the Task Force approved terms for 2020 through 2022 those include Demitrios Sparacino – City of El Cajon, Marilyn Reed - Navajo Community Planners, Dorothy Leonard - Member at Large, David Boyer - USMC Miramar, Lane MacKenzie - MTRP Foundation, Kin Searcy - Scripps Ranch Civic Association, Noli Zosa - City of San Diego P&R Board
- Approval for 2021 through 2023 appointments includes Nancy Acevedo - Member at Large, Kevin Loomis - MTRP user group, Ryan Hartegan - MTRP user group (alternate), Mickey Zeichick - San Carlos Area Council, Glenn Farber - San Carlos Area Council (alternate)
- There are 5 additional pending appointments which have been submitted by agencies and organizations which are on the Agenda for the March Task Force meeting.
- The Task Force also approved Dorothy Leonard as Chair, and Dick Murphy as Vice Chair for the CAC.

RANGERS REPORT – Ryan Robertson

- There are no updates on the Stowe trail from what was reported at the last meeting
- We are working on getting the trails Ad Hoc sub-committee up and going at some point.
- We still do not have a time frame for when we will be able to utilize volunteers.
- We are currently down two Rangers at MTRP. In our last meeting I reported the departure of Ranger Rebecca Smart, and since then we have said goodbye to Ranger Andrew Miller who took a promotion and went to work for the County of San Diego as a Senior Ranger.
- We are currently working on the hiring process of getting staff to fill those positions.

WATER DEPARTMENT'S LAKE MURRAY REPORT – No report

STAFF REPORT- Laura Ball, Project Officer II, Open Space Division

- Update on the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JEPA) between the City and County of San Diego.

The item went to council for its first hearing on the 23rd and was approved. It requires a second hearing because it's an ordinance to adopt the JEPA. We are expecting to be scheduled on March 9th for the second hearing. Then it will go to the County Board for

approval. There will be a time lapse before it can go into effect once approved by the Board of Supervisors.

FOUNDATION REPORT- *Lane Mackenzie*

- MTRP Foundation staff of two and a half continue to work remotely as they have since March.
- To make up for the loss of income due to the Visitors Center closure we launched a new online gift shop and since September have filled over 450 orders.
- Our staff continues to apply for grants to support Foundation initiatives and recently submitted a concept proposal to the San Diego River Conservancy for Prop-68 funds to support the dredging of Old Mission Dam, which along with many other City projects, needs funding.
- We launched an online lecture series this fall which has had fantastic response. The first in a series of three presentations about the geology of Mission Trails with Dr. Pat Abbott had more than 800 registered and his two upcoming presentations currently have 950 people registered.
- On March 11 Mark Berninger, Natural Resource Manager with the City of San Diego Open Space Division, will be speaking virtually about a three-year project to restore an endangered habitat in the park. We are expecting it to be just as well attended as Pat Abbott's lecture.

COMMUNICATIONS - None

ACTION ITEMS

- 101.** Navajo Apartments Neighborhood Development Permit and Site Development Permit within the MTRP Design District – Anna McMaster, Project Manager Community Housing Works (CHW)

The mission of CHW Properties is “Opportunity begins with a stable home.” The design we are proposing is a four-story residential building with 45 apartments. This site is located within the Mission Trails Design District Sub-Area I. The apartments range in size from one to three bedrooms. It's a real amenity rich development as with all CHW properties. There will be a separate two-story community building it has a multipurpose community room with a kitchen and a computer lab for kids to use in after school programs. The buildings will be designed and constructed to be Green Point Rated. Since this relates directly to Mission Trails, we do anticipate that the development as currently designed would generate a little bit more than \$150,000 in park development impact fees.

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (Murphy/Pent) to find that the proposal meets the Mission Trails Design District requirements. The motion passed (13-0-2) with David Boyer, and Mickey Zeichick abstaining.

WORKSHOP ITEMS- None

INFORMATION ITEMS

- 301.** San Diego River Park Crossing Bridge – Senior Park Ranger Ryan Robertson

We all were extremely saddened to learn of the tragic death of a hiker here in the park. What has come of that event is an interest to put a bridge over the San Diego river on the San Diego River Crossing trail. There have been numerous discussions regarding the construction of a bridge spanning the San Diego River over the years both informally and as a part of this committee. The construction of the bridge is currently identified in the Master Plan update. The implementation of such a project is dependent on a variety of issues including funding, whether the bridge should be usable by both pedestrians and vehicles, and what impacts the construction would have on the surrounding infrastructure including the wetlands and sensitive habitat. We have a lot of listed sensitive species in this park and while Mission Trails is a park, it is primarily a preserve and as such all projects in this park are subject to stringent permitting and environmental regulations. This is a good place for this project to start but I want to stress that it is just the start.

Laura Ball provided a brief overview of privately funded and publicly funded projects and some of the environmental/permitting requirements that would be needed.

Public comments in support of a bridge over the river on the San Diego River Crossing trail included

- Ben Lenail and Laurie Yoler who are interested in working with the city for a pedestrian bridge at this crossing where their son Max died. They would like the bridge to be built as soon as possible, in memory of Max, to prevent future tragedies. They have set up a restricted fund with the San Diego Foundation and have hired a design and engineering firm that will make a presentation at the March MTRP Task Force meeting.
- Susie Murphy with San Diego Mountain Bike Association spoke in support of a pedestrian and bicycle bridge at this location.
- Patricia Murphy spoke in support of a pedestrian and bicycle bridge at this location.

CAC members expressed their condolences to the Lenail family and spoke in support of implementing the MTRP Master Plan recommendation for a bridge in this location. Dick Murphy asked staff to make a presentation at the May CAC meeting which would include physical limitations of the site, potential locations for the bridge, possible types of bridge structures, construction cost estimates, process required to construct a bridge in a riparian area, and time estimates to complete the project. Kevin Lumas requested information on a pedestrian only vs. a pedestrian/vehicle bridge including cost and timing, and for information on the Master Plan proposed suspension bridge. This item will be on the MTRP May meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM

Next meeting, May 2, 2020, 6:30 PM