

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 4, 2021**

**TIME AND PLACE**

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, May 4, 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  
Ryan Hartegan, MTRP User Group (alternate)  
David Lipson, San Diego State University  
Mike Pent, Special Member  
Kevin Loomis, MTRP user group  
Demitrios Sparacino, City of El Cajon  
Rob Hutsel, Co of SD Parks and Recreation Committee  
Betty Ogilvie, Tierrasanta Community Council  
Noli Zosa, City of San Diego P&R Board

**Members absent/Excused**

Marcella Bothwell City of San Diego P&R Board (alternate)  
Mickey Zeichick, San Carlos Area Council  
Glenn Farber, San Carlos Area Council (alternate)  
Carol Lockwood, City of La Mesa (alternate)

**City of San Diego**

Erika Ferreira, Open Space Division Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department  
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  
Michelle Abella-Shon, Project Officer II, City of San Diego

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM by CAC Chair Dorothy Leonard.

**ROLL CALL**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (Thesing/Searcy) to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2021. The motion passed unanimously with Boyer, Hutsel, Ogilvie, and Zosa abstaining.

**CHAIR'S REPORT – Dorothy Leonard**

- The remaining CAC member appointments/reappointments were approved at the last Task Force meeting so now everything is up to date.
- At the last Task Force meeting, there was an in-depth presentation on the bridge project which will also be given tonight as it is an action item on our agenda.

**RANGERS REPORT – Ryan Robertson**

- Regarding the two Ranger vacancies in MTRP, an offer to transfer was extended to Ranger Roberto Bejar. The offer was accepted, and he began working at MTRP this week. An offer of employment was extended to a candidate from the current list. That offer was accepted, and we are waiting on final clearances for that candidate to begin work.

**WATER DEPARTMENT'S LAKE MURRAY REPORT – No report****STAFF REPORT- Steve Haupt**

- Steve introduced Erika Ferreira as the newly appointed Open Space Deputy Director.

**FOUNDATION REPORT- Lane Mackenzie**

- The Foundation produced film about the Geology of Mission Trails has been nominated for an Emmy Award by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Southwest Chapter. The 20-minute film features geologist Pat Abbott, a former board member, who discusses how the park's five peaks were built over millions of years.
- Foundation staff continues to apply for grants to help support the park. The most recent of which is to assist with the Old Mission Dam dredging effort.
- Staff worked with the Rangers and volunteers to create an educational online series for Native Plant week. It has received an incredible response just like all the other educational programs the Foundation has put together during the pandemic.
- The Foundation continues to work remotely and is looking forward to the day they can return to the Visitor Center. When that does occur, the Foundation will be looking to hire a new lead educator if it appears that schools will be resuming field trips.

**COMMUNICATIONS - None****ACTION ITEMS****101. San Diego River Crossing Trail Bridge across the river**

- City of San Diego Project process, *Erika Ferreira*  
A power point was presented to the group explaining the process this project would go through. Included in the presentation were some timeframe estimates for permitting, plan reviews, etc. and the differences in the project if it is a private project or a public/private partnership project.

- Potential for a pedestrian bridge at the San Diego River Crossing on the San Diego River Crossing Trail, *Steve Merritt, KPFF Consulting Engineers*

A power point was presented to the group explaining the construction process, potential designs and finishes, and illustrations showing the riverbed and associated flood plains.

- Public comment:

The following individuals spoke in support of constructing a bridge:

Ben Lenail and Lorie Yoler

Lisa Gibson

Manu Namboordiri

Kiva Allgood

Shawn Covell

Janet Cooper-Nelson

Susie Murphy

Cynthia Wootton

The following individuals submitted letters in support of constructing a bridge:

Congressman Scott Peters

Senator Brian Jones

Assemblymember Brian Maienschein

Assemblymember Randy Voepel

Supervisor Nathan Fletcher

Barry Jantz

Jim Madaffer

Escondido Creek Conservancy

Susie Brusa

Keith Van Haren MD

Hallie Fang-Horvath

Additionally, a petition in support of constructing a bridge was submitted containing 1,016 signatures

- The item was further discussed amongst the CAC members

**MOTION:** MTRP CAC recommends that the MTRP Task Force support the construction of a pedestrian and bicycle bridge across the San Diego River in the vicinity of the San Diego River Crossing Trail consistent with the MTRP Master Plan Update as a priority project in MTRP. In supporting this project, the MRP CAC requests that the project design consultant work with the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department staff and MTRP CAC representatives, obtaining final MTRP CAC and Task Force approval for bridge design and location before final plan check.

The motion was moved/seconded (Murphy/Pent) and passed unanimously with Boyer abstaining

**WORKSHOP ITEMS-** None

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**301.** East County Advanced Water Purification Program, *John Sufflebean, City of San Diego; Kyle Swanson, East County AWP, Padre Dam Municipal Water District; Rebecca Abbott, East County AWP, Padre Dam Municipal Water District*

- A power point was shown to give the group information on what the project is and the potential impacts it will have in the park during construction

**302.** City of San Diego budget as it relates to the Open Space Division and MTRP, *Erika Ferreira, Open Space Division Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department*

- There is an addition in the Parks and Rec. budget for a Chief Ranger. We are currently working with our HR liaison to write up the role and responsibilities of the position. The position would develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate the training and operations of the Park Ranger program city wide. The position would also serve as a liaison to community groups, City Council, the Police Department, the Fire Department, and the office of homeland security for interagency coordination to enhance public safety and property protection. We would also like the position to oversee the activity of the Ranger program volunteers to help train, direct, schedule, and monitor the program. Lastly, we envision this position establishing and/or revising policy documents and then training staff to those documents.

**303.** Old Mission Dam dredging project update, *Senior Park Ranger Ryan Robertson*

- The Foundation has been very gracious in its efforts to assist by working on securing a grant to fund the project. As we all know, there is currently no City funding for the project. Some questions have come up about the grant requirements. The grant calls for a 30-year monitoring and maintenance period. If the dam needs to be dredged again and there is no funding to do it, does that mean that we fail in our obligations. Until some of the questions are answered, it is unclear if the Foundation will be awarded the grant.

**304.** West Sycamore Staging Area CIP update, *Senior Park Ranger Ryan Robertson*

- Per Mark Calleran in the Engineering and Capital Projects Department, we've been in negotiations with the consultant to reduce the cost of their task with E&CP. Their initial proposal was way more than budgeted so we've been reducing their scope. We just received a new proposal on Tuesday. We're reviewing it now but believe it will work so we can move forward.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 PM

Next meeting, July 6, 2021, 6:30 PM