

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 6, 2021**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, July 6, 2021, via zoom.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Nancy Acevedo, Member at Large
David Boyer, USMC Miramar
Michele Greenberg-McClung, City of La Mesa
Rob Hutsel, Co of SD Parks and Recreation Committee
Dorothy Leonard, Chair, Member at Large
David Lipson, San Diego State University
Kevin Loomis MTRP User Group
Lane Mackenzie, MTRP Foundation
Dick Murphy, Vice Chair, Special Member
Betty Ogilvie, Tierrasanta Community Council
Mike Pent, Special Member
Marilyn Reed, Navajo Community Planners
Kin Searcy, Scripps Ranch Civic Association
Gary Strawn, City of Santee
Mickey Zeichick, San Carlos Area Council
Ryan Hartegan, MTRP User Group (alternate)
Glenn Farber, San Carlos Area Council (alternate)
Richard Thesing, Tierrasanta Community Council (alternate)

Members absent/Excused

Marcella Bothwell, City of San Diego P&R Board (alternate)
Noli Zosa, City of San Diego P&R Board
Carol Lockwood, City of La Mesa (alternate)
Demitrios Sparacino, City of El Cajon

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
Tiffany Lavan, Associate Planner, Public Utilities Dept.
Kristina Fraijo, Citywide Volunteer Coordinator, Human Resources Department

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday July 6, 2021 and called to order at 6:33 PM by CAC Chair Dorothy Leonard.

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (Acevedo/Searcy) to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 4, 2021 The motion passed unanimously with Boyer and Zeichick abstaining.

CHAIR'S REPORT –

- In the May meeting the Task Force voted and approved the CAC recommendation regarding the San Diego River Crossing Trail Bridge as written.
- The Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan Update Implementation Ad hoc subcommittee will meet prior to the September CAC meeting.
- The next meeting is scheduled on Tuesday September 2 which is a Jewish Holiday. We will reschedule to September 14th.

RANGERS REPORT –

- We are currently working towards reopening the Kumeyaay Lake Campground by the end of this month.
- On Monday July 5th the entire staff spent most of their time cleaning up Cowles Mountain due to 4th of July celebrations.
- We are experiencing an uptick in rescues primarily due to the heat.

WATER DEPARTMENT'S LAKE MURRAY REPORT-

- A Presentation was given on the Chaparral canyon habitat restoration and vegetation management project. This project is funded through the Water Quality Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 also known as Proposition 1 and it is in partnership with the San Diego River Conservancy.
- The purpose of this project is to enhance 2,789 linear feet of Riparian habitat and improve water quality. The overall goal removes, 88 exotic trees as well as 7800 square feet of Pampas grass. The project also has a purpose to detour homeless encampments and restore unauthorized access trails within the canyon.
- Progress update, to date the project has removed 2.07 acres of Non-native invasive vegetation. Phase 1 removed 60 exotic trees and 85 exotic trees from Phase 2 have been removed. Where plants have been removed there will be habitat restoration in place with biological monitoring and maintenance 2 years after.
- Since the implementation of the project there has been no new homeless encampments.
- The Grant Funds for this project end May of next year

FOUNDATION REPORT-

- We received notice that we can open the Visitors Center once we have our volunteers schedule in order.
- We have had several people calling to pick up their 5 Peaks Challenge pin. The Challenge ended last summer when we hit our peak 15,000 registered hikers. Which was way beyond our expectations. On behalf on the Foundation I want to thank Ryan and his staff for all of there help with such a successful program.
- As part of the reopening the Foundations plans on hiring a part-time Lead Educator and a full time Communications Operations assistant and a freelance Giftshop Operator.

COMMUNICATIONS- None**ACTION ITEMS****101. Allocation from Fund 200403 Mission Trails (aka MTRP Antenna Fund) for West Sycamore Staging Area Project. – Dorothy Leonard**

Postponed until the September meeting.

WORKSHOP ITEMS- None**INFORMATION ITEMS****301. Mission Trails Flow Regulatory Structure II construction update and revegetation plans – Construction Manager Aaron Trimm and Summer Adelberg**

A presentation was given with a progress update. The projects completion date has been pushed back to Summer of 2022. The overall goal of the revegetation effort for restoration is to replace existing upland habitat within Mission Trails Regional Park, to mitigate the temporary habitat loses from the project's implementation. In accordance with the Master Restoration Plan and in accordance with The Good Neighbor Policy Agreement, revegetation will include the establishment of approximately 17 acres of coastal sage scrub, southern mix chaparral and native grassland habitats within the project area.

302. San Diego River Crossing Bridge project update

Public Comment: Doug Livingston

I am a frequent user of the park and have crossed at Jackson over 1,000 times in the last four years. I appreciate the roughness and ruggedness of the area the way it is and ask that the Committee use the public funds on erosion control for the trails rather than on a bridge. Basically, my thinking is that the bridge is an emotional response to the death of a young man, and I am sorry that it happened. But the more common-sense approach is that Mission Trails is a natural area and we'd like to see it left as a natural area. The area is crossable 11 months out of the year. There is probably 2-4 weeks a year that it is not crossable. Just as you know like some of the other areas in Mission Valley also. There are plenty of accessible areas within the park. I am also concerned that

if we do have a bridge, what kind of ADA access is going to be required from Jackson Drive. Then they have a project that affects an entire area. If people want to go to more controlled, easier hiking areas, there are hundreds of miles within parks in the City of San Diego. If we could keep Mission Trails as rugged as it is, I think it would be much appreciated by many, many people.

Ben Lenail:

Mr. Lenail informed the committee that they have raised \$750,000 dollars in the Max Lenail Memorial Bridge Fund. Now that the project is approved, we are going to get support from the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation. We are scheduled for a kick-off meeting with The City of San Diego, including a meeting with Mayor Todd Gloria in early September. We are also going to have a Project Manager from Public Works to begin working on the schedule, the design and the environmental reviews.

303. Changes to the City of San Diego Volunteer Program and the impact on Mission Trails operations. – Kristina Fraijo, Citywide Volunteer Coordinator, Human Resources Department

A presentation was given to explain the new application process of what they are asking City staff to complete before Volunteers can return to Mission Trails. Kristina offered an intern to help assist staff if needed.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM

Next meeting, September 14, 2021