

**Minutes of the Meeting of the May 20, 2021
Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force was held on Thursday, May 20, 2021, via zoom.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Councilmember Colin Parent, City of La Mesa
Councilmember Raul Campillo, City of San Diego
Dorothy Leonard, Chair, MTRP Citizens' Advisory Committee
Councilmember Joe LaCava, City of San Diego
Supervisor Joel Anderson, County of San Diego
Councilmember Dustin Trotter, City of Santee
Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, County of San Diego

Members Absent

None

City of San Diego Staff

Erika Ferriera, Deputy Director, Open Space Division Parks and Recreation Department
Steve Haupt, District Manager, Open Space Division
Ryan Robertson, Senior Park Ranger, Mission Trails Regional Park
Jennifer Canalas, Center Director, Open Space Division
Vicram Vettiyil, Office of Councilmember Campillo
Michael Simonsen, Office of Councilmember Campillo
Richard Flahive, Office of Councilmember LaCava

County of San Diego Staff

Michael Kulis, Office of Supervisor Anderson
Matt Sanford, Region Manager, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Task Force Chair Raul Campillo at 10:01 A.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (ANDERSON/LEONARD) to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2021 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES - None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT- *Councilmember Campillo*

- Councilmember Campillo thanked everyone for attending. He noted that a lot of the people in attendance were there regarding the proposed bridge over the San Diego River Crossing. It was a pleasure being at the park yesterday and is looking forward to seeing the Visitor

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Center again soon. Also planning on completing the five-peak challenge with his staff later this year.

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE / MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT – Dorothy Leonard

MTRP CAC Report

- The CAC made a recommendation on the San Diego River Crossing Bridge that is now on the agenda for this meeting as an action item

MTRP Foundation Report

- The Foundation 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 twenty-minute film features geologist Pat Abbott and discusses how the five peaks in the park were formed over a million years ago.
- As of this week, foundation staff has been allowed to resume working in the Visitor Center part time and will be working with City staff on plans to reopen the center to the public.

STAFF REPORTS

Water Department's Lake Murray Report – None

City of Santee Community Services Department – None

MTRP Senior Ranger Report-Ryan Robertson

- Both vacant Ranger positions have now been filled. One of the positions was a transfer from Balboa Park and Ranger Bejar started last week. The other new Ranger will be starting on June 14th.

Open Space Division Staff Report- None

COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable)

ACTION ITEMS

101. San Diego River Crossing Trail bridge across the San Diego River

- *Steve Merritt, KPFF Consulting Engineers*
Potential bridge design presentation
- *Ben Lenail and Laurie Yoler*
Thanks to everyone who has been reaching out in support of constructing a bridge. We are grateful and encouraged by the progress that has been made and have been very successful with fundraising. Currently closing in on \$700,000.00 raised. It is obviously going to be an expensive project so we would like to continue the emphasis on fundraising. We would also love to find ways to partner with the Mission Trails Foundation and others.
- *MTRP CAC Recommendation:*
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 MTRP CAC

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requests that the project design consultant work with 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.

Public comments related to the action item:

- The following individuals spoke in support of constructing a bridge:
Kiva Allgood
Shawn Covell
Susie Murphy
- Letters of support for constructing a bridge were read into the record from the following:
Scott Peters
Toni Atkins
Brian Jones
Brian Maienschein
Randy Vogel
Nathan Fletcher
Jim Madaffer
Barry Jentz
Ann Van Leer

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (Campillo/Parent) to approve the MTRP CAC recommendation regarding the San Diego River Crossing Bridge as written. Motion carried unanimously.

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*

- No report, item will be presented at a future date

302. Old Mission Dam dredging project update – *Ryan Robertson*

- The Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation made it a priority to put together a grant proposal in an effort to assist with getting this project completed. Due to ongoing maintenance and inspection requirements specified in the grant, the foundation will not be awarded the grant. We are now essentially back to square one with trying to identify a funding source.

303. West Sycamore Staging Area CIP update – *Ryan Robertson*

- We received the following information from Engineering and Capital Projects staff; We've been in negotiations with the consultant to reduce the cost of their task. Their initial proposal was way more than budgeted. We have reduced their scope and 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 10:55 AM

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 15, 2021, 10:00 AM