

MEETING NOTES
City of San Diego
OPEN SPACE CANYONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
April 14, 2022

MEETING HELD AT:

Virtual Zoom meeting

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Parks & Recreation

Chair Erika Ferreira, *OS Div. Deputy Dir.*

At Large

Deborah Knight

Roger Lewis

Transportation Dept. Streets Division

Excused

Environmental Organization

Eric Bowlby (*SDCL*)

Frank Landis (*CNPS*)

Recreational Organization

Domingo Dias - (*Mtn. Bike Comm.*)

Stormwater Department

Anne Jarque, *Assoc. Planner*

Planning Department

Dan Monroe, *Sr. Planner MSCP*

Development Services Department

Rudy Bilan, *Associate Planner*

Community Planning Group

Jeffrey Stevens

SDG&E

Miguel Rodriguez, *Alternate*

E&CP

Stephanie Bracci, *Associate Planner*

Public Utilities Department

Water/Wastewater

Kelsey Hall, *Associate Planner*

Cheryl Jenkins - *Biologist III*

GUESTS:

Clayton Tschudy

Carrie Schneider

Andy Wiese

Travis Whitney

Vanessa Sandoval

Bob Byrnes

Charley Herzfeld

Cherlyn Cac

Carrie Schneider

Karen Bucey

MJ Tichacek

Richard Breisch

Amy Rouillard

Keli Balo

Mark Berninger

Paul Kilburg

Travis Whitney

Tersia d'Elgin

Michael Cassidy (*OSAC staff liaison*)

PREPARED BY:

Michael Cassidy

City of San Diego, Park & Recreation
Department

202 C Street, 5th Floor, San Diego

619-235-5262

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Matt Adams - *BIA*

Disabled Community rep. (vacant)

Brian Widener, excused

CALL TO ORDER

OSCAC Chair Erika Ferreira called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item 1 – Approval of Meeting Notes from October 21, 2021.

Meeting notes were approved with no changes.

Item 2 – Vote to increase meeting frequency bi-annually to quarterly

Committee members and public requested to meet on a quarterly basis. OSCAC Chair Erika Ferreira asked for more time to review the history of the committee and guidelines that were established when the committee was formed and will take the request under advisement.

Item 3 – Status Reports - Cheryl Jenkins, Environmental Biologist, PUD

Annual Report will be completed in August and provided to public in September. Cheryl reported on a pipe protection emergency protection project and maintenance access road repair project in east Switzer Canyon. There was a minor repair completed in Tecolote canyon. Ongoing path maintenance and trail trimming is occurring with bird surveys.

Redirection of flow (ROF) studies have been completed in Ridgeview/Webster area and was determined to be feasible. ROF studies for Golden Hill area at Huckleberry Canyon, Juniper Canyon, Adams Ave. and HWY 163 Corridor were determined not to be feasible.

Clayton Tschudy asked about nesting bird survey availability and if surveys were done before emergency work. Cheryl confirmed nesting bird surveys are done by city staff or contractor before any work is started during nesting season. Cheryl said the surveys are not posted publicly but available if requested and have monitors in place during work. Clayton requested a set standard for nesting surveys between the departments. Mark Berninger said the mechanism is in place and coordination for standardizing surveys between departments can happen and he will work with PUD.

Carrie Schneider (guest) wanted to know what the reasoning behind the repair was. Cheryl said most repairs are due to runoff or erosion after a big storm.

Item 4 – Re-Oaking Program - Debby Knight, Friends of Rose Canyon

Debby presented jointly with Andy Weise on re-oaking program in Rose Canyon. Debby said oaks are harvested and grown in Rose Canyon with volunteers. Andy shared that SD County has 10 different types of oaks and over 300 oaks have been planted with the help of volunteers. Andy and Debby described the process that volunteers take to harvest, plant, and grow oaks. Andy described the partnership with SDSU students, Tri-Canyons Rangers, and SDCL and how impactful these relations are on restoring Rose Canyon.

Carrie Schneider shared that Friends of Switzer canyon have had success with oaks and sycamores in Switzer Canyon. Debby expressed desire for the city to include re-oaking in Open

Spaces and canyons when considering the Climate action plan which have less maintenance requirements than street trees.

Frank Landis from CNPS added that the city should value chaparral and not remove chaparral to plant oaks. Debby clarified that she would like to replace eucalyptus trees with oaks.

Item 5 – SDCL Updates (Manzanita and Ruffin) - Clayton Tschudy, Executive Director, SDCL

Clayton gave an oral presentation on SDCL’s programming, expansion, and growth. SDCL now has 25 employees with an expanding outreach program, a brush management team, a canyon heroes program that trains local volunteers to perform maintenance under SDCL master ROE. Clayton described a new paid internship program for students.

Clayton said the Mission Hills project is unfolding rapidly and has been presented on in past OSCAC meetings. SDCL is working with multiple departments to streamline permitting and install features to allow infrastructure access while restoring the riparian areas.

Item 6 – Unauthorized Trail Dashboard - Mark Berninger, Natural Resource Manager, Open Space Division

Mark differed his time and stated he will present at the next meeting.

Item 7 – Canyons Ranger District Update - Michael Cassidy, Senior Ranger, Open Space Canyons

Mike gave an update on the Canyons Ranger District. He talked about the recent staff changes and hiring of two Park Rangers. He discussed the volunteer program has restarted and how interested members can volunteer. He provided data on trash removed, signage installed, fencing repairs and plants installed. He talked about projects with partners including San Diego Canyonlands, Alpha Project and restoration and monitoring projects in multiple canyon areas.

Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

Debby would like to review how Get it Done process works. Dan Monroe will present on MSCP report in October 2022. Eric Bowlby requested an update on the streambed rehabilitation project in Maple Canyon. Clayton Tschudy would like a description on how brush management is handled by city teams.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tershia d’Elgin thanked the committee and wanted to review brush management program as well.

NEXT MEETING
October 13, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Message log:

From Tershia d'Elgin: I agree with Debby.

Clayton Tschudy: I suggest asking for next meeting topics at the end of each meeting to help structure and motivate more frequent meetings.

Andy Wiese: Here is some information from the city clerk/ city council on the establishment of this committee and membership... You can search "Canyon sewer task force" in the clerk's office and there a variety of formal docs that come up. <https://docs.sandiego.gov/reportst>

Among the conclusions of the 2003 discussion relating to meeting times and hours were: "Potential Advisory Committee members were advised they should be available to meet on a monthly basis for approximately 1 ½ hours in duration on a weekday. Sometime between the hours of 330 - 6 at the Metropolitan Wastewater Operations Center Auditorium in Kearny Mesa.

The council reports and discussion are readily available through the clerk's office. I'm looking at some of them now. In any event, the committee was created with the open space division...

This document from the council natural resources committee, report 05-128 from 2005 has good background on the purposes, activities and scope of the committee as originally created.

<https://docs.sandiego.gov/reportstocouncil/2005/05-128.pdf>

Roger Lewis: this 30% computation has been a source of dispute regarding the written description outlined in the original canyon sewer ordinance.

Frank Landis: Perhaps we need to incentivize more projects to reduce runoff into canyons by keeping it onsite, either in aquifers or in cisterns for wildfire fighting.

Eric Bowlby: I completely agree with Frank on this concept.

Clayton Tschudy: Upstream green infrastructure and water retention for canyon health water quality.

Frank Landis: RE: re-oaking. Probably part of this talk, but due to the shothole borers, oak planting will have to continue indefinitely. This isn't a one and done, there will be a need to plant more as the older ones die.

Clayton Tschudy: That Jay has TWO acorns in its beak!

Roger Lewis: The dispute over the origin and purpose of the 30% mandate is whether the 30% higher cost allowance for removal was to account for the undeterminable cost of environmental damage/cost

to leaving it in the canyon or just a policy directive to spend more to remove the sewer. My recollection as being a part of that body that developed clause was this WAS NOT to try and offset that cost but rather it was simply worth it to pay 30% by “right” just to get the sewer out of a canyon. The cost of to the environment of keeping the sewer in the canyon was to be considered an additional extra cost and the 30% was not mean[t] to cover this.

Tershia: Bravo bravo, Debby, Andy and Friends of Rose Canyon!! Just wonderful!

Clayton Tschudy: You could geolocate oaks by each kid, so they can come back to their tree decades later 😊. What a wonderful project!

Mike Cassidy: Debby and Andy can you send me your power point presentation? Thanks Erika.

Andy Wiese: Thanks everyone! Yes, Michael, I will send it to you.

Mike Cassidy: Thank you Debby and Andy! mcassidy@sandiego.gov

Andy Wiese: It’s all mustard and non-native grasses where we are planting oaks... Slopes that were grazed off almost completely. Thanks for your comments everyone!

Clayton Tschudy: https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2019-11/CCCA4-CEC-2018-005_ADA.pdf

Clayton Tschudy: Thank you Erika and everyone for your time.