

MEETING NOTES
City of San Diego
OPEN SPACE CANYONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
August 11, 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

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

Stormwater Department

Ernie Rios, *Sr. Planner*

Planning Department

Dan Monroe, *Sr. Planner MSCP*

Development Services Department

Rudy Bilan, *Associate Planner*

Community Planning Group

Jeffrey Stevens

Vicki Touchstone (*Alternate*)

SDG&E

Lisa Murphy

E&CP

Stephanie Bracci, *Senior Planner*

Public Utilities Department

Water/Wastewater

Dirk Smith, *Sr. Planner*

Megan Hickey, *Principal Water Res. Spec.*

GUESTS:

Terrell Powell

Susan Seiguer

Douglas Allen

John Mooney

Amy Rouillard

Mark Berninger

Paul Kilburg

Tersia d'Elgin

Amy Rouilliard

Anastasia Brewster

Anne Fege

Christine Rothman

Michael Cassidy (*OSCAC staff liaison*)

PREPARED BY:

Michael Cassidy

City of San Diego, Park & Recreation
Department

202 C Street, 5th Floor, San Diego

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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 April 14, 2022.

Meeting notes were approved with two minor corrections. Domingo Dias was corrected to Domingos Dias and Kelsey Hall's title was changed from Assistant Planner to Senior Planner.

Item 2 – OSCAC Meeting Scope and Virtual Meetings Guidelines - Erika Ferreira, Open Space Division Deputy Director and OSCAC Chair

OSCAC Chair Erika Ferreira reviewed the purpose and scope of the OSCAC meeting for the members and guests. Erika explained OSCAC was formed in 2003 and meets regularly to review programmatic and long-term policy issues related to urban canyons as well as significant utility access proposals and advise the city manager. Erika has committed the meeting to being held quarterly as requested by committee members and recommended to remain on the virtual platform.

The meetings will be held virtually from 3:30-5:00 on a quarterly basis in January, April, July and October. Erika reminded the committee and guests to remain muted out of respect to the attendees and the presenter. The OSCAC meeting agenda will be posted at Visitor Centers and kiosks one week prior to the meeting, following the Brown Act regulations and the meetings are run informally per Robert's rules. OSCAC Committee member terms are two years and "At Large" member terms will be reviewed and updated accordingly.

P&R staff will continue to send agendas and minutes to committee and guests one week prior to the meeting. Topic discussions will be provided by the committee members. Presentation documents and timeline must be submitted to the OSCAC staff liaison prior to the meeting to allow ample time for discussion. Once the presentation is completed committee members will raise their virtual hand to be called on by the host for comments. After committee members have finished their comments or questions related to the topic of discussion, non-committee member guests will be allowed to comment if time permits but are limited to one minute each.

Subcommittees can be formed for a particular topic and can report back to the committee. Subcommittees should be formed by a committee member and can include non-committee members. Non-agenda items can be discussed at the end of the meeting and are limited to 2 minutes each.

Debby Knight wanted clarification on the virtual meeting guidelines.

Frank Landis recommended to require meeting no less than twice a year. Frank suggested to amend the scope to include having the virtual meetings based off current public health

guidelines. Debby requested Erika send out her suggested revisions to the original scope which includes an update describing the virtual meeting guidelines.

Item 3 – Status Reports - Megan Hickey, Principal Water Resources Specialist, PUD

In June, there was a minor repair to the access road in Tecolote canyon. There was a crack in the main at the sewer pump station in Tourmaline St. in June which was repaired. Ongoing path maintenance and trail trimming is occurring with bird surveys.

There were no Redirection of Flow studies to report out, but PUD is projecting studies for Tecolote, Hopkins Canyon, San Clemente Canyon, Woodman Canyon, Waring Canyon to address long term sewer access path need.

The annual report will be presented at the next meeting in the fall.

Debby mentioned a water main break near 805 that flowed through Rose Canyon, she was wondering on the status of the break.

Dirk Smith responded that upland repairs are underway and mentioned that wetlands are not impacted by this and CEQA regulations are being closely monitored.

Item 4 – Unauthorized Trail Dashboard - Mark Berninger, Natural Resource Manager, Parks and Rec.

Mark shared the data collection tool used to capture the unauthorized trails to track the impacts. Mark shared that capturing the impacts helps to allocate resources to restore these impacted areas. The dashboard is continually being developed and is hosted on the city server. Mark shared an example from Rose Canyon. The dashboard is a map representation that allows photo points to be captured where additional data can be input, including habitat types and sensitive species.

Vicki Touchstone was wondering if this will incorporate bird species in the list of impacts to habitat. Mark confirmed that it will capture impacts to any species.

Debby thanked Mark and commented on the loss of *Quercus dumosa* in Rose Canyon that Mark highlighted in his dashboard presentation.

Eric Bowlby thanked Mark for tracking this information and wondered how the linear feet were calculated. Mark confirmed that the impact is tracked with a GPS unit called the “bad elf” which tracks sub-meter distances and the average distance of trail width. The computer is programmed to calculate the acreage based off inputs.

Frank stated that CNPS is launching an Oak Watch this fall as part of a nationwide effort to track the status of oaks. Frank also mentioned that SDMBA is getting a bad rap for this illegal trail building and proposed a partnership with them as mountain bikers are getting ran off the trail by the higher-powered e-bikes.

Item 5 – Bird Nesting Survey Protocols- Douglas Allen, Biologist III, Open Space Division

Douglas Allen shared a presentation on bird nesting surveys and what biologists and other city staff look for when surveying prior to work. Doug shared the Migratory Bird Act and that the goals of surveys are to minimize the impacts to nesting birds prior to performing work in open space areas. Doug shared the behaviors to watch for when trying to identify where birds may be nesting.

Once nests are identified they are flagged five meters north of the nest. Areas with nests will be re-surveyed seventy-two hours prior to work being performed to determine activity. Survey windows can occur up to one hour before sunrise and up four hours after sunset to capture owls as well. Raptor nests have a three to five-hundred-foot buffer zone.

Observed nests are recorded at the location with other info such as date, time, habitat type, cloud cover, bird species observed, etc. Active bird nesting survey reports are completed and submitted to the land manager.

Debby suggested that the bird surveys are given to the MSCP team. Doug stated that the reports are compiled and available for request if needed. Erika informed Debby that she can contact the Park Ranger for the area she is interested in getting bird nesting information on. Doug confirmed that Parks and Rec documents the surveys and has long term data on the collection of those surveys.

Item 6 – Get It Done Process and Reporting - Michael Cassidy, Senior Ranger, Open Space Canyons

Mike gave a presentation on the Get It Done mobile application. He talked about the application's history and impact to date. He provided the committee step by step info on how to submit a report via mobile devices.

Item 7 – Future Agenda Items

Erika made a note of sharing nesting bird surveys as it relates to MSCP with DSD. Debby wanted to talk about Brush Management conversion of native habitat to non-native grasslands. Eric wanted to stress the importance of brush management being done correctly in sensitive habitats. Frank added that change in the approach for Brush Management is necessary. OSCAC guest Anne Fege would like to know what's being done in areas where brush has been removed in excess.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Berninger shared that a new species of cactus was found in our urban canyons. *Cinlindropuntia cabrilloensis*, is the working name of the recently discovered species of chollas cactus. Eric thanked Mark for sharing this find. Frank suggested closing the unauthorized trails (from Mark's presentation) with the new species and suggested that studies on propagation of this species should be a high priority.

NEXT MEETING

October 13, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.