

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 MEETING OF THE  
TECOLOTE CANYON CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TIME AND PLACE

This meeting of the Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, held on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30pm at the Tecolote Nature Center.

ATTENDENCE

Members Present

Darrel Madison

Eloise Battle

David Harpster

Niki Ahrens

Marc Schaefer

Wilbur Smith

Absent

Suzy Ellison-Logan

Jim Roberts

Anitra Kaye

Terressa Whitaker

Robert Mathers

Guests

N/A

City of San Diego Staff

Cameron Engelhart, Parks & Recreation Department

CALL TO ORDER

Darrel Madison called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF November 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

1. Edit/ correct previous minutes of November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
  - Title date is incorrect, should be November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 not November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
  - Move Evan Solenberger, member of SDMBA to “Guest” not “Member”
  - Remove Ingrid Lewin and Rick Bussell from “Absent” they are no longer members.
  - Add David Harpster and Marc Schaefer names as the two abstentions from the “Approval of the Minutes for October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
  - Correction of date in “Approval of Minutes” from October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
  - (Action Item 202.2) Change to “Marc motioned to table the discussion until January, was seconded and approved.
2. (MADISON), Do I have a MOTION to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Eloise Battle moved to approve with the amended changes, and David Harpster seconded, (BATTLE/HARPSTER). (MADISON) asked, all those in favor with amendments stated? All were in Favor. All those opposed? None. Any Abstentions? The motion to approve the minutes passes with all members voting in favor.

#### CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

None present.

#### CHAIR PERSON’S REPORT – DARREL MADISON

1. Darrel mentioned the Meet-Up group is now up to 682 members and is a good tool for promoting events.
2. Darrel praised ranger staff for all their hard work within Tecolote Canyon and communication with Tecolote Canyon Citizens’ Advisory Committee.
3. Darrel would like to find out more information on the sewer line installation in Tecolote Canyon. The City of San Diego has not selected a contractor for that project yet.
4. Gardena bridge that connects the main trail to Gardena Ave. has been impacted by the recent storms.

#### RANGER’S REPORT – PARK RANGER CAMERON ENGELHART

1. Ranger Engelhart stated ranger staff, Canyonlands, and volunteers are working on restoration site 8 that is 1.4 acres. 550 plans have been planted in that site with a goal of 800 to 1000 by the end of the planting season.
2. Ranger Engelhart gave an update on the recently revived volunteer group Canyon Compadres that takes place once a month. Over the last three months the group has cleaned areas such as the Chateau entrance and trail and Linda Vista area near Manning and Nye. December event was canceled due to weather conditions. Darrel mentioned posting the event on the meet up page.
3. Ranger Engelhart stated that SDMBA will begin projects in Tecolote Canyon at the end of January or beginning of December.

4. Ranger Erika has been promoted to Senior Ranger at Open Space Canyons. Tri- Canyons is set to hire a new Ranger Aide that is currently an intern at Los Penasquitos Open Space Park.
5. Ranger Smith will be working with Canyonlands to do a young palm removal in the creek bed of Tecolote Canyon starting at Chateau and working towards Balboa Ave.
6. Ranger Engelhart stated that Tri- Canyon staff has been working with Urban Corps through an ESD grant once a week to clean up trash throughout Tri- Canyons parks. This Grant has been helpful to staff and will continue to use Urban Corps until the grant money is exhausted.
7. Ranger Engelhart discussed the planning of Canyon Connection event happening on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Currently activities and booths include...
  - a. California Native Plant Society- Outreach booth at the native plant nursery.
  - b. Senior Ranger Erika- Monarch and Milkweed information table.
  - c. Tecolote Canyon Interpretive Group (Linda Stafford)- Kumeyaay info table and activity.
  - d. Sky Hunters- Raptor education with live birds
  - e. San Diego Tracking Team- Outreach booth
  - f. Nature Center Staff- Craft tables
  - g. Rangers/ Canyonlands- Will be doing their monthly volunteer restoration project up the main trail.
  - h. (Tentative) Solana Center- Information booth on composting/ worms
  - i. (Tentative) Los Penasquitos Rangers- Outreach booth.

#### WILDLIFE REPORT

1. Ranger Smith observed four big healthy coyotes together on the trail between Chateau and Balboa Ave.
2. Tri- Canyon Staff have seen lots of Red Breasted Robbins co-mingling with Cedar Wax Wings this year.
3. Darrel saw Red Shoulder Hawks fighting with crows
4. Darrel saw Parrots in the canyon
5. David saw a thrasher in the canyon and stated he enjoys the animal tracker kiosk on the battle trail.
6. Eloise saw a trasher near the Nature Center
7. Niki saw Red Masked Parakeets near fox Run

#### ACTION ITEMS

##### *201. Grace Peter Sargent*

1. Darrel Stated he would like to give it to someone in 2021 and 2022 or not give the award out at all. Darrel wants to make changes to how the award is decided.

2. Marc mentioned the possibility of having a Volunteer of the Month and then based on the 12 Volunteers of the Month choose one of those monthly winners as nominees to win Grace Peter Sargent Award.
3. Darrel would like the newsletter to announce the winner of 2021 Grace Peter Sargent Award as well as announce the nominees for the 2022 Grace Peter Sargent Award. Possibly in April have an event where they name the 2022 winner and honor the 2021 winner as well.
4. Pick the winner of the 2022 Grace Peter Sargent Award in the March Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting.
5. Discussed nominees for the 2022 Grace Peter Sargent Award. (Laurel Adsit, Linda Stafford, Bud Phillips, Cassidy White, Jim Roberts, David Harpster)
6. 2023 Grace Peter Sargent will be between 3 to 7 nominees.
7. (MADISON), Do I have a MOTION to approve the nominees of the 2022 Grace Peter Sargent Award (Laurel Adsit, Linda Stafford, Bud Phillips, Cassidy White, Jim Roberts, and David Harpster). Marc Schaefer moved to vote on the winner of the 2022 Grace Peter Sargent Award from the nominees on the next Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting in March or vote through email poll as well as ask Marla Gilmore for a brief description of each nominee before the vote, Wilbur Smith seconded, (SCHAEFER/SMITH). (MADISON) asked, all those in favor? All were in Favor. All those opposed? None.

#### *202. Volunteer Appreciation Event*

1. Darrel Mentioned volunteer appreciation event was supposed to happen in January and was canceled.
2. Darrel mentioned adding volunteer appreciation event with Canyon Connections or monthly restoration Event.
3. Eloise mentioned asking Friends of Tecolote Canyon for small funding to help with the Volunteer Appreciation Event due to the Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee cannot have funding.
4. Marc would like to talk to Tri- Canyon staff about adding the Volunteer Appreciation Event to the monthly volunteer restoration event before deciding on anything.
5. (MADISON), Do I have a MOTION to table discussion of the Volunteer Appreciation Event to the next Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting in March. Eloise Battle moved to approve, Niki Ahrens seconded, (BATTLE/AHRENS). (MADISON) asked, all those in favor? All were in Favor. All those opposed? None.

#### WORKSHOP ITEMS

##### *301. Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee Bylaws*

1. Wilbur mentioned that members of Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee has a meeting with Erika Ferreira Deputy Director and Andy Field Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of San Diego on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 9:00 am at the

- Tecolote Nature Center to discuss the bylaws for Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee.
2. Marc discussed the history of the bylaws.
  3. Eloise discussed the history of the Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee and its previous bylaws.
  4. Marc confirmed that the Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee's say, and advice go directly to the Park and Recreation Board and not City of San Diego staff/ City Council.
  5. Current subcommittee of bylaws includes Darrel Madison, Eloise Battle, Wilbur Smith, and Marc Schaefer.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

#### *401. Tecolote Canyon Sewer Project*

1. Darrel mentioned that Mark Berninger Senior Planner from City of San Diego said that the Army Core of Engineers will decide on approval in February and if they approve the City of San Diego will be able to hire a contractor and hopefully start work in the fall.

#### *402. Natural Resource Management Plan/ Master Plan Update for Tecolote Canyon Natural Park*

1. 402 information has been combined and discussed in 401.

#### *403. Friends of Tecolote Canyon Update/ Fundraising Events*

1. Eloise said that training for volunteers is on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
2. Eloise mentioned a private donor contributed \$250.
3. Eloise stated that the Jewish Children's Center would like to bring 100 students but there is no confirmation.
4. Eloise stated that there are no fundraising events and that there is ample funds in the treasury.
5. Niki stated that Amazon is cutting Amazon Smile on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, this change might affect raising donation money.

#### *404. Tecolote Nature Center's Canyon Connection*

1. Information on this event was discussed in the "Ranger Report"

#### *405. Open Discussion*

1. David stated he appreciates the snacks and drinks at the volunteer events.

### COMMUNICATIONS

1. None.

### ADJOURNMENT

### NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING: MARCH.