

MINUTES OF THE November 17th, 2021 MEETING OF THE
TECOLOTE CANYON CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TIME AND PLACE

This meeting of the Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, November 17th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via a virtual Zoom conference.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Darrel Madison
Jim Roberts
Niki Ahrens
Wilbur Smith
David Harpster
Suzy Ellison-Logan
Robert Mathers
Eloise Battle
Terressa Whitaker

Absent

Marc Schaefer
Ingrid Lewin
Anitra Kaye

Guests

Evan Solenberger, San Diego Mountain Biking Association (SDMBA)

City of San Diego Staff

Steven Smith, Parks & Recreation Department

CALL TO ORDER

Darrel Madison called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 19TH, 2021

1. (MADISON) **MOTION** to approve the minutes from July 21th occurred. (LOGAN/WHITAKER). (MADISON) asked, all those in favor? All were in favor. All those opposed? None. Any abstentions? (BATTLE) abstained. The motion to approve the minutes passes.

CITY COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORT

1. None present.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Darrel Madison

1. Stated he rode the trails and they were in good shape.
2. Meetup is up to 558 with lots of interest in birding.
3. A discussion on Meetup occurred.

STAFF / RANGER'S REPORT – *Park Ranger Steven Smith*

1. Steve informed the group of the need to close the Osler access road in Tecolote due to an exposed water line. The road would still be accessible to foot and bike traffic, just no vehicular traffic. The group was in favor of the changes.
2. Steve talked about all the work he had been doing with Canyon Lands in Tecolote.
3. Steve talked about partnering with Canyon Lands for volunteer events.
4. Steve talked about trail work that will occur with SDMBA in the near future, probably starting on the September St. loop trail.
5. Steve talked about the new restoration site in Tecolote this year.
6. Steve mentioned the new foot bridge installed in Marian Bear at Regents East built by Ranger Cameron.
7. Steve talked about the pop-up interpretive displays Ranger Erika has been doing around the parks.
8. Steve talked about a desire to update the Nature Center displays.
9. Steve mentioned the Native seed box idea being at The Nature Center.
10. Steve mentioned the SANDAG widening of highway 52 concerns that groups in the Tri-Canyons bordering that area are concerned about.

TREASURER'S REPORT – *David Harpster*

1. No Report

WILDLIFE REPORT

1. Steve said there had been many coyote sightings in lower Tecolote.
2. A conversation of Grey Fox's and Bobcats occurred.

ACTION ITEMS

201. Grace Peter Sargent

1. A discussion on occurred on who should get it.
2. Darrel asked if this year no award be given due to lack of volunteerism from Covid restrictions.
3. No Christmas party will occur this year.
4. Darrel asked what to do about Cheryl Lowe who has still not received last years award. Possible small gathering at The Nature Center.
5. Niki nominated Jerry Jacobs for his insect articles. (ROBERTS) seconded. (ALL) were in favor. **MOTION** passed for Jerry to receive Grace Peter Sargent award this year.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

301. Grace Peter Sargent

1. Taken care of in 201.

302. TCCAC Bylaws

1. Skipped

INFORMATION ITEMS

401. Tecolote Canyon Trunk Sewer Project

1. Darrel stated he has not heard much from Jamal since last meeting.

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

1. Darrel said Mark Berninger had sent him an email discussing delays on mitigation due to Army Corps of Engineers (ACE).
2. Steve asked for clarification on what the ACE had to do with the project. Darrel and group were not certain either.
3. Eloise asked Darrel to see if Mark Berninger could give a clearer explanation.
4. Terresa stated the delay may possibly be for a noble cause to get better mitigation.

403. Friends of Tecolote Canyon Update / Fund Raising Events

1. Eloise stated that today 90, 9th graders from Kearny High School came to The Nature Center for a project called Preserve the Reserve. A snake presentation, a talk with Stan Rodriguez and Susan Mournian and a hike with Niki occurred in group rotations.
2. Eloise stated the event went exceptionally well.

404. Open Discussion

1. David asked where Rangers are planting Milkweed? Steve described where in restoration sites.
2. Darrel asked Terresa if she knew Emily Dolton of the Circulate SD. Steve explained the guided walk had fallen through, but Ranger Erika had created a new Green Friday interpretive sign walk about Mule Deer that would be placed in all 3 of the Tri-Canyons.
3. Darrel spoke about Barbara Torres of Bike Clairemont and how she had won an award for her work. He then spoke on her work on getting better passage under Balboa.
4. Eloise spoke on a palm removal near her yard and the palm weevil affecting Canary Island Palms.
5. Wilbur spoke about the San Diego Parks Foundation combining with the Library Foundation to create a ballot initiative to provide funding for parks and libraries. He said Open Space needs to be a part of this funding.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING: January 19st, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Smith, Sr. Park Ranger, Tri-Canyons/Mission Valley Preserve