

MINUTES OF THE May 18th, 2022 MEETING OF THE
TECOLOTE CANYON CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TIME AND PLACE

This meeting of the Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, May 18th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Tecolote Nature Center.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Darrel Madison
Anitra Kaye
Niki Ahrens
Wilbur Smith
Suzy Ellison-Logan
Robert Mathers
Eloise Battle

Absent

Marc Schaefer
Jim Roberts
Terressa Whitaker
David Harpster

Guests

Ron Sandvick, Mesa College

City of San Diego Staff

Steven Smith, Parks & Recreation Department

CALL TO ORDER

Darrel Madison called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 19TH, 2021

1. (MADISON) **MOTION** to approve the minutes from November 17th occurred. (BATTLE/LOGAN). (MADISON) asked, all those in favor? All were in favor. All those opposed? None. Any abstentions? None.

CITY COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORT

1. None present.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Darrel Madison

1. Darrel mentioned the Battle trail had some sink holes on it. Steve stated they were caused by USD boiler room overflow of fresh water.

2. A discussion about the Battle trail and September St. trails occurred.
3. A discussion on Canyon Connection event occurred.
4. Darrel stated Meetup is up to 613 members.

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

1. Steve told the group that around 800 plants had been planted in the restoration site this year.
2. Steve informed the group that the restoration was being performed under the Canyon Lands ROE as a work around to Better Impacts volunteerism limitations.
3. Steve informed the group he had been working with San Diego Mountain Biking Association in Marian Bear park on some trail and bridge projects.

WILDLIFE REPORT

1. Eloise has Mallards residing in her pool, saw a Gopher and Racer snake.
2. Anitra stated it was a good year for migratory birds, lots of bunnies seen, quail in lower Tecolote, haven't heard or seen Red Shoulder hawk at nest.
3. Anitra recommended not putting out bird feeders as it might be causing the spread of avian flu to birds at gathering sites.
4. Ron asked about Woodrats and where Manzanita groves could be found.

ACTION ITEMS

201. *None*

WORKSHOP ITEMS

301. *Grace Peter Sargent*

1. Darrel asked what the plan is on the award? Stating people have won it, but not received it.
2. Darrel mentioned that Ingrid has stepped down from the committee.
3. Eloise suggested the award be given out if there is a holiday party this year.

302. *TCCAC Bylaws*

1. Wilbur stated not much has happened on this issue.
2. Eloise stated the Task Force should be done away with and the group should just be a committee.
3. A discussion on having a meeting with the assistant director of Parks & Recreation should occur and the group could report to the Parks & Rec. board.
4. It was mentioned that Andy Field said he would meet with the group.
5. Wilbur said he would talk to Marc Schaefer about getting the ball rolling on TCCAC bylaws again.

INFORMATION ITEMS

401. *Tecolote Canyon Trunk Sewer Project*

1. (This item was joined in discussion with 402 and points will be listed in 402.)

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

1. Darrel called Mark Berninger for a phone update. (Mark was put on speaker phone)
2. Mark had no news on the Trunk Sewer.
3. Mark said contract had not been awarded yet, but plan was at 100% design.
4. Mark said that 5 of the 7 creek crossings in the NRMP will be addressed by the trunk sewer which alleviates mitigation and costs.
5. Mark said there is a little bit more work to be done on the NRMP.
6. Mark said the trunk sewer project will start in September and the Ranger will be notified.
7. Mark stated by the end of the month his team will be full steam ahead on the NRMP.
8. Eloise asked where project laydown would be. Mark stated probably both in and out of the canyon.
9. Eloise raised concerns about the oak grove near Chateau entrance.
10. Darrel asked how to find out where impacts would be. Mark stated he would get back to the group on this concern. A discussion on project ensued.

403. Mesa College Interpretive Trail System

1. Ron stated Biology students are going into the canyon.
2. Received a \$12,000.00 grant to create an interpretive trail system from Mesa College leading down into Tecolote.
3. A discussion on the trail system occurred.
4. Ron stated he is looking for approval from TCCAC on the creation of the trail. Group generally approved and said they would make it an action item in the next meeting.

404. Friends of Tecolote Canyon Update / Fund Raising Events

1. Escape has had 3 or 4 school groups come through the Nature Center since it reopened.

405. Tecolote Nature Center's Canyon Connections, June 4th

1. Eloise stated that Canyon Connections was not a widely advertised event.
2. Niki stated info on the event is on the Friends webpage.

406. Open Discussion

1. Bob suggested that there could be an observer on all major infrastructure projects. A small discussion ensued.
2. Anitra said the Tennis Court agreed to sell and will become high occupancy real estate. Then she stated she heard that was not true and is looking for clarification. A housing discussion ensued.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING: July 20th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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