

SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of June 6, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT

Phil Pryde
Tonjia Thrun
Tina Robinson
Dick Barber
Dave Shaffer
Don Miller
Jan Fuchs
Karen Berger
Marvin Gerst
Ken Smith
John Degenfelder
Jacqueline Winterer
Gene Helsel
Margaret Schlesinger
Richard Belzer
Liz Christianson
Ben Hillebrecht
Matt Witman
Bob McClure
Freda Reid
Martha McCarter
Bob Dudley
John Ingalls
Devore Smith
Byron Anderson
Darrell Beck
John Stewart

REPRESENTING

CAC, Chair
ADA Advisor
Association of Environmental Professionals
Audubon Society
Back Country Horsemen
California Native Plant Society
Carmel Valley Planning Board
Citizens Coordinate for Century Three
Council of Homeowners Association
Del Dios Town Council
Equestrian - Ramona Trails Association
Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Julian Community Planning Group
League of Women Voters
Rancho Bernardo Community Planning Board
Rancho Santa Fe Association
San Diego City Agricultural Advisory Board
San Diego County Farm Bureau
San Diego Wild Animal Park
San Dieguito Lagoon Committee
San Dieguito Planning Group
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Santa Fe Irrigation District
Sierra Club
Surfrider Foundation
Eastern Property Owner
Del Dios Property Owner

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Dick Bobertz	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Shawna Anderson	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Jan Lines	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Jan Brown	Alt, Equestrian Trails
Casey Gwinn	City Attorney, San Diego
Tiffany Mills	Director, Camp Hope
Jeff DeMeester	Recreational Workshops

INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Pryde convened the meeting at 10.10 a.m. at the Rancho Bernardo Library, 17110 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo, CA.

Office Manager, Jan Lines, took the roll call. A quorum was met.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of May 2, 2003-

John Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes from May 2, 2003 and Jacqueline Winterer seconded. All in Favor

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Pryde informed the CAC about the last JPA meeting vote on open space rezones. The JPA approved the CAC's recommendation, but omitted the word "any". A demonstration by the Rancho Cielo project manager was given at the JPA meeting and the JPA Board decided that the project was acceptable and instructed staff not to send the letter that staff had drafted with concerns that the River Park had about the project.

Chair Pryde said that the other item the JPA discussed was on Camp Hope. The JPA asked for a recommendation from the CAC. Mr. Pryde said that we would have a speaker, Casey Gwinn, on the Camp Hope project today. Chair Pryde stated that the CAC could make a recommendation for staff to submit to the JPA.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Bobertz apologized to the CAC that the item on Camp Hope was not on the JPA agenda last month, because he felt it should return to the CAC for a presentation by the project proponents first. Mr. Bobertz said that he should have discussed the matter with Chair Pryde, and would do so in the future.

Mr. Bobertz said that the California Recreational Trails Plan is being distributed and this plan defines the trails recognized by the State of California. He was pleased to announce that the Coast to Coast Trail is in the plan and the only other San Diego trail recognized is the Transcounty Trail. He said that a trail has to be 50 miles in length to be recognized. Mr. Bobertz said that he only had one copy of the plan but anyone interested could find it on the internet at www.caltrails.org, click on the California Dept. of Parks and Recreation link and go to planning.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION AGENDA

1. Report from Project Review Committee- Jan Fuchs stated that the PRC is meeting monthly and they are focusing on western river valley. The two items that are taking the most time are the Fairbanks Ranch Country Club issues and the soccer fields on open space land. The PRC is going onsite with the occupants about the projects. The PRC is looking for the City of San Diego to do a more discretionary review of the land.

Director Bobertz stated that he spoke to Brian Maienschein's office to get action on our letter about the grading being done at the country club. He stated that the Regional Water Quality Control Board has jurisdiction in the area and were to look into the matter. The grading permit was contingent on all relevant approvals from all state and federal agencies. Mr. Bobertz stated that he would follow up on what action will be taken.

Marvin Gerst stated that the Fairbanks Ranch Country Club is going full force on their project. He said that if there is jurisdiction then someone is not acting on their project.

2. Camp Hope at Lake Sutherland- Shawna stated that the CAC had taken a position last month to oppose the project, including the temporary camp uses, until they could see more detailed plans.

Mr. Gwinn stated that he is happy to be able to speak to the CAC to clear up any misconceptions that have been circulating. He explained that Camp Hope is part of the San Diego Family Justice Center and that the Family Justice Center has had national recognition. Mr. Gwinn said that the first thoughts for the camp were discussed with the San Diego Water Department which led to a hearing of the City of San Diego's Natural Resources and Cultural Committee who authorized the project last June (2002). Mr. Gwinn said that the lease for the site is first for a 5 year term to start on the twelve acre parcel and will continue longer as the need becomes necessary up to 30 years.. Last summer the San Diego City Council approved the lease and the resources and funding of the project. There are no project plans in place at this time but they are working on CEQA documents at this time. He stated that 70 organizations have endorsed this project and they have spoken to the Ramona Planning Committee with details on the project. All the County departments have been alerted and are looking at the issues. They are hoping for temporary overnight camping to start on the property that is being leased from the Water Department. Tiffany Mills will be the executive director of the project. There are procedures in place that allow City of San Diego and the County of San Diego to waive certain restrictions and permits when working with each other. Mr. Gwinn assured the CAC that all the concerns of the different organizations are being addressed by the City of San Diego before anything is permanent. He explained that there will not be a full EIR on this project as it is not needed. Mr. Gwinn concluded the temporary tent camp will have 15 kids at one time. They hope to have kids arriving starting the 3rd week in July 2003 and the permanent facility will have 75 kids.

Darrell Beck stated that the City of San Diego should be conforming to the regulations and permits the same way that he would as a contractor. Mr. Beck stated that the CAC, residents of Ramona, and the public need to be assured that they will be responsible for the concerns of everyone. He said that the issues need to be in writing.

Tiffany Mills stated that the environment is a number one issue for the camp. Ms. Mills said that this camp is a wonderful experience for abused children and will benefit any child who attends the camp.

Marvin Gerst stated that most people agree that it is a good project, but asked why it has to be at Lake Sutherland. Mr. Gerst stated that the CAC's efforts should not be addressing the social good but only the environmental issues.

Dave Shaffer stated that there are many other camp sites and facilities that could be used in the area. Mr. Shaffer named a few camps and sites that already exist.

Karen Berger stated that the CAC's concerns are what happens on the property that will impact the River Park.

Jan Fuchs made a motion for the CAC to recommend and JPA send a letter to the jurisdictions that affect the River Park and any project needs to be presented to the PRC. Chair Pryde stated that the letter should be sent to remind the jurisdictions of our previous requests for review of projects upcoming in the focused planning area. Jacqueline Winterer seconded the motion.

24 Yes 0 NO 0 Abstain

Darrell Beck made a motion to restate the motion from last month's meeting (Recommend opposition to the project and the temporary uses until the plans and scoping letter are presented to the CAC). 22 Yes 1 NO 1 Abstain

ADA Advisor, Tonjia Thrun asked if the concession stand will be ADA compliant. Mr. Gwinn stated that it would.

Chair Pryde asked Mr. Gwinn to address the overnight camp that will last for 6 weeks and will be removed in August. Mr. Gwinn said that the waste products will be the same as with the public activity at the lake, chemical toilets and the holding tanks used with public toilets.

3. RS 2477- County Rights of Way on Federal Land- Chair Pryde stated that the County of San Diego has made a request that the Federal Government open up the possibility of claiming the right of way on Federal land. Mr. Pryde stated that the issue is controversial

because the wording could cause a trail to be claimed by the Federal Government for future highway access. Chair Pryde said that he thought it might be appropriate for the County of San Diego to compile a Memorandum of Understanding that will state how they wish to use this RS 2477 and hopefully how not to use it. Director Bobertz stated that Supervisor Jacobs office wanted the CAC to know that they are acting on this issue for trail use only. Chair Pryde said that we still need a letter from the County of San Diego that the use would be for is non motorized trails only.

John Stewart made a motion for the CAC to recommend to the JPA that a letter be sent to the County of San Diego to refine the types and uses of non motorized vehicles on the trails of Federal/State land. Marvin Gerst seconded the motion.

Vote 17 Yes 7 NO 0 Abstained

4. Pamo Valley- Proposal to Designate Open Space Preserve Named for Emily Durbin- Speaker Dave Hogan from the Center for Biological Diversity a non profit environmental organization that is concerned with the preservation of the Pamo Valley and the stewardship of the area, spoke about the 4000 acres that is owned by the City of San Diego Water Department and there is a very limited access to the property. It is the CBD's recommendation that the JPA concern itself with the environment in the area and the future access to the land. He hopes that the City Council will authorize the land as open space as part of the JPA focused planning area.

Karen Berger made a motion there should be a management plan for the area and an Emily Durbin Preserve in Pamo Valley. Tina Robinson seconded the motion.

Vote 17 Yes 3 Opposed 3 abstaining.

INFORMATION

5. Del Dios parcels- Director Bobertz stated that there are 525 lots under the City of San Diego Water Department jurisdiction in Del Dios that is quality habitat and drainage areas. These lots can be designated as open space use without necessity of compensation to the utilities fund if the water department so orders due to water shed issues. Mr. Bobertz has some meetings in the near future with Brian Maienschein's office and City of San Diego Real Estate Department representative, Jim Lovewell, to discuss the necessity of designating these lots as open space.
6. Status Reports on Ongoing Projects (Oral Reports)

- a. Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge- Shawna Anderson stated that the River Park is making slow progress on the bridge due to studies that are being conducted and consultants are looking at doing further hydrology studies and water quality studies.
- b. Coastal Wetland Restoration Project- Director Bobertz said that SANDAG has a committee called Shoreline Preservation Committee that has had a presentation from the Save the Beach organization that is against the rivermouth opening in Del Mar. They have also had a presentation from the JPA and Southern California Edison. The Shoreline Preservation Committee directed staff to put an item on the next SANDAG agenda to support the Wetland Restoration Project. Our court case is being addressed again in July and we should have decision by the end of summer 2003.
- c. Sikes Adobe Restoration- Shawna Anderson said that the contractors are on site and progress is being made.
- d. Property Acquisition- Director Bobertz stated that the JPA took action to purchase the 47 acres next to our office on Sycamore Creek Road . Mr. Bobertz also stated that we are working with the Trust for Public Land on two major acquisitions to the east of Sutherland that will give us a very sizeable part of our overall goal.

Tina Robinson asked what was going on with Starwood and the trail that was to go in the area. Director Bobertz stated that the JPA has accepted an endowment of \$30,000 for the maintenance of the trail. Mr. Bobertz said that the trail will be started within the next 60 days.

Committee Reports

None

Communications Regarding Activities Proposed in the River Valley

Marvin Gerst asked that an item be put on the next agenda so that we have a policy in place when any action item or information issue is up for discussion that the applicant is notified. He felt that this would eliminate the situation that we had today with Camp Hope. Chair Pryde stated that he felt that it is already our policy.

John Degenfelder introduced his alternate, Jan Brown. He also said that he got a call from a friend at the Cleveland National Forest and there will be a study done on the trails in Ramona through the forest.

Byron Anderson stated that 7500 acres at San Felipe Ranch has been approved for purchase by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Chair Pryde adjourned the meeting at 12:15.