

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of January 9th, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Phil Pryde
Chris Moore
Dick Barber
Anne Harvey
Diane Coombs
Lynda Gaynor
John Degenfelder
Dave Abrams
Ann Gardner
Margaret Schlesinger
Terry Badger
Cathrine Laguna
Ben Hillebrecht
Carol Carr
Nola Michel
Matt Witman
Liz Dernetz
Chaco Clotfelter
Tom Golich
John Ingalls
Devore Smith
Arthur Schmitz
Brant Bassett-
Jacqueline Winterer

REPRESENTING

CAC, Chair
American Society of Landscape Architects
Audubon Society
Carmel Valley Planning Board
Citizens Coordinate for Century Three
Del Dios Town Council
Equestrian - Ramona Trails Association
Fairbanks Ranch Association
Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
League of Women Voters
Lomas Serenas Homeowner Association
Pioneer Room
San Diego City Agricultural Advisory Board
San Diego County Bicycle Coalition
San Diego County Trails Council
San Diego County Farm Bureau
San Dieguito Lagoon Committee
San Dieguito Planning Group
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Santa Fe Irrigation District
Sierra Club
Eastern Property Owner
Central Property Owner
Coastal Property Owner

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Dick Bobertz	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Susan Carter	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Shawna Anderson	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Jan Lines	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Marge Colross	RB Resident
Chloe Schmitz	Ramona Resident

INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Pryde convened the meeting at 10:31 a.m. at the Hope United Methodist Church, 16550 Bernardo Heights Parkway, Rancho Bernardo.

Deputy Director Susan Carter took the roll call. A quorum was met with 24 members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES November 7th, 2008- Jacqueline Winterer made a motion to approve the minutes and Liz Dernetz seconded. All in favor

CHAIR'S REPORT- Chair Pryde wished everyone a Happy New Year. Mr. Pryde noted that this is his last year as chair and suggested that a committee be formed sometime this year to recruit a new chair. It was reported that on Sunday the 4th of January, Mr. Pryde carved out a birding area that he will be discussing later in the meeting. Chair Pryde said that the last JPA Board meeting contracts were approved for fire recovery projects in the River Park.. In an effort to educate the public about the wetland project, we had requested permission to put signage on Highway 5 at the wetland project that was rejected. The JPA Board sent out a letter appealing that decision. Another letter the JPA Board sent out was a formal request for funds from the Lake Hodges Recreational Trust Fund to finish the bridge.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT- Executive Director Bobertz said that the fire recovery is in full swing now. Contracts have been approved for the Green Valley Creek Bridge on the Piedras Pintadas trail to Contech Bridge Solutions to fabricate the bridge for \$52,400 and to Errecas to install the bridge for \$41,200. All work has to be completed by Feb 15, 2009. A second contract for 7 bridges on the Santa Fe Valley (Crosby Estate) Trail and the bridge at Highland Valley Trail was awarded to Bellfree Contractors. FEMA approved upgrading those bridges so that they will be constructed from steel girders with wood planks in the event of another fire. Those bridges will cost \$154,000 and will be installed by Feb 15th, 2009. An additional contract was approved for the Del Dios Trail for \$94,500 and will extend the trail from the Dam along Del Dios Highway toward the newly installed bridge. Mr. Bobertz reported that part of the trail will be secured with retaining walls and we are looking for a grant to fund the last section.

Leslie Woollenweber wanted to acknowledge the Northrup Grumman for their donation of \$50,000 for the Green Valley Bridge that was received by the Conservancy.

PUBLIC COMMENT- John Degenfelder said that Ramona Trails Association sent a donation of \$1000 to the Conservancy for trail work.

ACTION AGENDA-

DISCUSSION /ACTION

1. Committee Reports (oral)

- a. **Project Review Committee-** Shawna Anderson announced the next PRC meeting will be on January 26th at 1:30 at Fairbanks Ranch Association. Ms. Anderson said that the PRC has seen a slowdown in projects but they are meeting with the City of San Diego staff on the 28th of January regarding the widening of El Camino Real. Last year a report was sent to the committee, overseen by Councilmember Scott Peters, about the concerns of the PRC and CAC members on the widening of El Camino Real with many environmental issues.
- b. Trails Committee- No report

2. Grand Avenue Bridge Overlook (PowerPoint presentation) Shawna Anderson gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Grand Ave Bridge overlook. Ms. Anderson discussed the history of the area and how it had been used as an airfield many years ago and this bridge was the access to the airport. This project was credited to the Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley who lobbied for the bridge and suggested it be

turned into a viewing platform when the wetland project was completed. Ms. Anderson said that we are very happy with the construction of the Grand Ave Bridge overview even though it had to be dismantled at one end and reconstructed at the base due to rotting wood beams. Ms. Anderson acknowledged the grant from Supervisor Slater-Price of \$35,000 for the preservation of the historical overlook. After the grand opening on January 25 of this month a new entrance will be constructed with some of the signs that Alice Goodkind drew of birds in the area and more interpretive panels that will tell the history of the area. The Del Mar Rotarians, who have been instrumental on projects in this area, restored some of the wood that was removed from the bridge and it was reinstalled keeping the authenticity. Jacqueline Winterer said that the Grand Opening of the overlook will be on January 25th from 2 to 4 and she recognized the other sponsors of the event. Tom Golich made some suggestions as to where to park for the event.

3. Trail Planning Update-

- a. Del Dios Highway Undercrossing Feasibility Study- Shawna Anderson said that the Conservancy paid an engineer to do a feasibility study on Del Dios Gorge and Clevenger Canyon. Ms. Anderson said that these studies are completed and will give us a starting point on how to identify issues in each area and we will have a community input and we welcome suggestions on these difficult areas. Leslie Woollenweber gave a PowerPoint presentation of the routes that are being suggested for the Del Dios Area including an undercrossing for people and Animals that will link to the Del Dios Highlands trail.
- b. Clevenger Canyon Feasibility Study- Leslie explained that she is waiting for the final report from the engineer. The initial report identified 3 trail alignments, and the engineer was asked to provide more detail on the alignment that would stay on the south side of the river.
- c. Pamo Valley- Shawna Anderson showed a few pictures of the Pamo Valley area with the truck trail out of Boden Canyon. The Coast to Crest will utilize the existing 3 mile Lower Santa Ysabel Truck Trail, and the existing 6 mile Upper Santa Ysabel Truck Trail and link them with a new trail adjacent to Pamo Road for an additional 3 miles, approximately. Funding for the trail and two proposed staging areas is from the San Diego Foundation via the Conservancy. At this time we are working with the City Water Department and Cleveland National Forest and the County of San Diego on issues that they have raised.
- d. Heritage Link- Shawna Anderson said that this project connects the Poway Heritage Trail with the Mule Hill Trail segment of the Coast to Crest Trail. There is a new staging area at Evergreen Nursery already graded and ready for use when the segment is completed. We are in the permit stage of the project and we will go to the JPA Board for CEQA approval at the January 16 meeting. The project will go to the San Diego City Planning Commission due to the wetland impacts on a small segment of the trail. We hope to have the trail in by spring 2009.
- e. Mesa Loop Trail- Shawna Anderson said that Coastal Conservancy staff is recommending approval of a grant to the JPA for the exploratory study for a trail alignment from Jimmy Durante Blvd in Del Mar to the beach. This grant would also include construction of the last segment of the lagoon trail (near where the proposed nature center will be constructed) and two viewing platforms. It would also pay to construct the Mesa Loop Trail (which will be across El Camino Real from the Stallions Crossing). CEQA is completed already so this will be another segment ready to construct quickly.

4. State Budget Impacts on SDRP- Deputy Director Carter said that the State of California Parks and Recreation, Resources Agency and the Coastal Conservancy has sent us letters asking us to not enter into

any new contracts and halt construction until they have their financial issues resolved. Since we have a few projects being completed we do not feel that this crisis is impacting us significantly at this time. The money that we are spending at this time came from SANDAG Transnet funds which are local funds not impacted by the State Budget crisis. Ms. Carter said that there is a federal stimulus bill being considered and SANDAG compiled a list of projects that could be considered for funding. Our Lake Hodges Bike Ped Bridge shortfall and the cantilever along West Bernardo were added to the approved list. We also submitted proposals for three nature centers in the River Park with a request that they be added to the list.

5. Fire Recovery Projects

- a. Office Replacement- Director Bobertz showed a concept diagram of the new River Park offices. The preliminary plans showed the office layout incorporating the concrete foundation that was from the burned office. Mr. Bobertz said that the insurance will fully fund the new office which has a large amount of glass showing the outdoors from the office space. The new offices will be Authentic Rural style to blend in with the area. He explained that on the JPA Jan 16th agenda will be a recommendation that we proceed to finalize the plans with the City of Poway.
- b. Sikes Adobe Historic Farmhouse- Deputy Director Carter reported that the architect has submitted the plans to the City of San Diego and our architects are working with the City on various items. Our insurance company has agreed to work with the original contractor who restored the Sikes Adobe in 2003.

6. Christmas Bird Count at San Dieguito Lagoon- Chair Pryde said that he participated in the Rancho Santa Fe Christmas Bird Count on a new section that is in the east part of the San Dieguito Lagoon. Each Christmas 100,000 people or more take part in the largest citizens science project in the world to report on the different birds in their areas. This information gives a reflection of bird activity to the Audubon Society which uses it to track each species. This count has been going on for 50 years and is very useful to monitor the state of the environment. He said that the new section already had a lot of ducks, but few shorebirds, probably because insufficient organisms are in the mud yet to support them.

7. Communications - Diane Coombs said that San Diego Foundation Working Group is responsible for the Regional Climate Change report that was just completed and it is a wake up call. This group is interested in climate changes and the impacts in the area so that they can start doing something about the changes. Ms. Coombs suggested that anyone interested in the information visit www.sdfoundation.org for the results. She also reminded the group of the deadline of February 9th, 2009 for submitting a grant to the Environmental Working Group for monitoring, maintenance and management of habitat.

Chair Pryde adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.