

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of February 6th, 2004**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Phil Pryde
Gary Ruyle
Dick Barber
Dave Shaffer
Anne Harvey
Karen Berger
Marvin Gerst
John Degenfelder
Dave Abrams
Ann Gardner
Gene Helsel
Spencer Smith
Liz Christensen
Nola Michel
Freda Reid
Martha McCarter
Craig Adams
Tom Cook
John Ingalls
Devore Smith
Byron Anderson
Darrell Beck
Arthur Schmitz

REPRESENTING

CAC, Chair
American Society of Landscape Architects
Audubon Society
Back Country Horsemen
Carmel Valley Planning Board
Citizens Coordinate for Century Three
Council of Homeowners Association
Equestrian - Ramona Trails Association
Fairbanks Ranch Association
Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Julian Community Planning Group
Lomas Serenas Homeowner Association
Rancho Santa Fe Association
San Diego County Trails Council
San Dieguito Lagoon Committee
San Dieguito Planning Group
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association
Santa Fe Irrigation District
Sierra Club
Surfrider Foundation
Eastern Property Owner
Eastern 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
Chloe Schmitz	Ramona Resident
Diana Drake	City of San Diego READ
Lisa Matthis	Columbia MD
Jacqueline Winterer	Del Mar resident

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION

Chair Pryde convened the meeting at 10:35 p.m. at the Rancho Bernardo Library, 17110 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego, CA 92128.

Deputy Director Susan Carter took the roll call. A quorum was met. 20 members in attendance.

Executive Director Bobertz introduced Craig Adams, Executive Director of the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy .

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 11/07/03 - John Degenfelder made a motion to approve the minutes of November 7th, 2003. Nola Michel seconded. Marvin Gerst stated that he was present at the November 7th, 2003 meeting and would like to be added to the members in attendance.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Pryde stated that the grand opening for Sikes Adobe was a wonderful event . He felt that the River Park staff had put on a gala event and it was a great day.

Chair Pryde stated that he attended the first meeting of the San Dieguito Watershed Planning Committee. He felt that not a lot was accomplished but a consultant was suggested and goals were discussed. Mr. Pryde said that Mark Whitehead, former JPA Boardmember, will be the chair of the committee. Others in attendance at the meeting from the CAC were Jacqueline Winterer, John Ingalls and Craig Adams.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Bobertz deferred his report to items to be discussed later in the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

ACTION AGENDA

1. **Report from Project Review Committee (Oral Report)-** Shawna Anderson stated that Jan Fuchs was not in attendance so she would give the report. Ms. Anderson stated that the PRC is meeting regularly but that development projects were dropping off. She stated that the PRC is making an effort to weigh in on issues before the projects go out for public review. One of the projects that has occupied their time is the Evangelical Formosan Church on El Camino Real which is a very prominent building on a very small site. Staff has been writing letters and meeting with proponents of the project to consider the location of the structure on the property. Ms. Anderson stated that another project that is next to the church is the Boudreau project which is a Pardee project and they will be releasing a EIR in the near future. She stated that we have been following this project very closely and have written a letter in response to the Notice of Preparation. Ms. Anderson said that the last item to report on is in the Del Dios region on a project called Helix Tract Map which is on a steep, environmentally sensitive area that golden eagles use as their habitat.

2. Report from Trails Committee (Oral Report)- Marvin Gerst reported that the trails committee is looking into the western area for the trail through Fairbanks Ranch to El Camino Real. He said that the RSF Association has made it clear that they do not want the Coast to Crest Trail to connect to the private trails in the covenant of Rancho Santa Fe. Mr. Gerst said that the Trails Committee is also looking at the Clevenger Canyon area in San Pasqual to see where an extension of the trail might go. He is working with Jason Lopez, Trails Manager for the San Dieguito River Park, to plan a hike to review the best site for the trail to continue.

Freda Reid stated that the Lagoon Committee is working on a trail extension in Del Mar along San Dieguito Road.

INFORMATION

3. Presentation on Status of San Dieguito Lagoon Wetland Restoration Project- Deputy Director Susan Carter stated that a presentation will be given on the Southern California Edison Wetland project. Director Bobertz stated that on February 18th, 2004, the Coastal Commission is holding a workshop for the public for SCE to explain the entire Wetland project. Director Bobertz stated that Edison gave the River Park \$500,000 for the wetland project to be placed in an endowment for future maintenance of the wetlands. Mr. Bobertz said that we are working on an amendment to adjust the endowment to cover the real costs of maintaining the wetland project in the future. The amendment will be reviewed every five years to make sure that the cost of maintaining the project is funded sufficiently when it is time to take over the maintenance of the wetland. Another issue to be negotiated by the River Park is providing Rangers to monitor the wetland area.

The PowerPoint presentation issued by Southern California Edison to be presented to the Coastal Commission on February 18th, 2004 showed the main points of the wetland project, photos of the area, trail alignment and the sand on the beach at Del Mar.

4. Presentation on the River Park's Geographic Information System Facility Inventory Project- Craig Adams gave a PowerPoint demonstration on the GIS program in place at the River Park. It showed how the River Park will be tracking all the inventory (benches, signs, kiosks, restoration areas, etc.) and areas that are in our jurisdiction. The GIS will allow us to see what the area looks like and we will be able to monitor when our inventory needs maintenance.
5. Progress Report on Ongoing Projects-

- a. Fairbanks Ranch Country Club - Director Bobertz stated that Fairbanks Ranch Country Club has constructed a berm that blocks out views of the River Valley along San Dieguito Road as part of their extension to the golf course. The City of San Diego was notified and has stated that it is not in the approved grading plans to have such a visible berm. A "Stop Order" was placed on the project and it was decided that the berm will have to be lowered. Mr. Bobertz stated that the original processing of the permit made numerous references to a trail along the river. The Polo Club is using that area designated for the trail as a polo track and has graded and plowed the area even though it does not appear to be in their leased area. Mr. Bobertz said that the River Park does not want to be forced to negotiate for property that the City Council has already designated for trail use and it will be very costly to convert the graded area into a trail. He said that a letter from the City of San Diego Development Services Department that is in the agenda package has ruled against us without any explanation. He stated that we have gone to Councilmember, Scott Peters, to intercede and we are seeking to have a meeting to resolve the public trail issue before the Fairbanks Ranch permits receive final approval rendering us unable to negotiate for the trail.
- b. Lake Hodges Bicycle /Pedestrian Bridge- Shawna Anderson stated that an issue of concern is the steep slope that is on West Bernardo Road. This slope has been found to be unstable and it is of concern to all the agencies involved as to why it is in this condition and who is responsible for correcting it. Since this area will eventually align with our trail, it is imperative that we make sure that it is corrected. Ms. Anderson said that we are still going through the environmental process and we hope that we can have it ready for public review in the summer of 2004.
- c. Sikes Adobe Restoration- Deputy Director Carter stated that we have some pictures of the Sikes grand opening on boards around the room. She stated that we had wonderful volunteers and the community was great in pitching in to help with the painting and other services that were necessary. Ms. Carter stated that the Colonial Dames were responsible for the manta ceiling that was installed. She said that the Colonial Dames would eventually furnish the inside of the adobe. The Rotary Club of Escondido has agreed to provide a windmill for the location.
- d. Property Acquisition – Executive Director Bobertz stated that the River Park has closed escrow on 143 acres (McDonald parcel) on Volcan Mountain. He said we are cooperating with the County of San Diego and we have obligated 1 million dollars from the Wildlife Conservation Board Grant money to help purchase the rest of Volcan Mountain which amounts to about 1800 acres. Mr. Bobertz said that the River Park is working with The Trust for Public Land to purchase three other properties east of Lake Sutherland and on the coast and we are making good progress on all of those. We are working with TPL for additional funds from the Wetland Recovery Project (through the Coastal Conservancy) and the Wildlife Conservation Board for more purchases.

- e. Cloverdale Creek Mitigation Project- Shawna Anderson stated that this project is a Federal U. S. Agricultural Grant. In association with the City of San Diego we are doing a riparian and upland restoration project on Cloverdale Creek Road which was a mitigation requirement from the Mule Hill Trail and the Lake Hodges Bridge projects.
- f. Lepidium Removal Grant, including Interpretation and Clean-up- Shawna Anderson stated that we are working with the weed management area, which is primarily the County of San Diego, to remove Lepidium that has spread throughout the San Pasqual Valley. It is funded by a State of California Riverine Grant. Ms. Anderson said it is a five year program and some of the eradication of the weed may be done by goats on about 16 acres as an alternative to herbicide spraying. Ms. Anderson said that the program also has an interpretive aspect that will inform trail users about native and non-native plant species on the trail and agricultural operations.

6. Communications- None

Chair Pryde adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.