

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of July 8th, 2005**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Phil Pryde
Dick Barber
Don Miller
Jan Fuchs
Diane Coombs
Laurilyn Berson
John Degenfelder
Martha McCarter
Ann Gardner
Jack Shelver
Margaret Schlesinger
Terry Badger
Liz Christensen
Ben Hillebrecht
Carol Carr
Eric Larson, Alt.
Nola Michel
Michael Ahlering, Alt.
Freda Reid
Chris Khoury
Tom Cook
John Ingalls, Alt.
Darrell Beck
Arthur Schmitz
Jacqueline Winterer
Leslie Woollenweber

REPRESENTING

CAC, Chair
Audubon Society
California Native Plant 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
Julian Community Planning Group
League of Women Voters
Lomas Serenas Homeowner Association
Rancho Santa Fe Association
San Diego City Agricultural Advisory Board
San Diego County Bicycle Coalition
San Diego County Farm Bureau
San Diego County Trails Council
San Diego Wild Animal Park
San Dieguito Lagoon Committee
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association
Santa Fe Irrigation District
Eastern Property Owner
Eastern Property Owner
Coastal Property Owner
Central Property Owner

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Dick Bobertz
Susan Carter
Shawna Anderson
Jan Lines
Chloe Schmitz

San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA
Ramona Resident

INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Pryde convened the meeting at 10:35 a.m. at the Rancho Bernardo Library, 17110 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo, CA.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 6/03/05- Chair Pryde asked for corrections or objections to the minutes of 6/03/05. Seeing none, he said that the minutes were approved by consensus.

CHAIR'S REPORT- Chair Pryde introduced a new property owner member from the central area, Leslie Wollenweber. Chair Pryde said that the JPA Board approved the motion that the Chair of the CAC appoint a coastal member of the Project Review Committee to the JPA's Wetland Advisory Committee. He said that he would appoint Jacqueline Winterer to that position.

Chair Pryde said that there is a push going on all the way up to the Dept. of Interior to make BLM land accessible to wind farms. Dr. Pryde said they are talking about proposing a number of sites for these windmills and one is on Banner Grade. He reported that it looks to him that the road access would have to be through the Volcan Mountain Preserve which is in our FPA.

Jan Fuchs said the cover story of the Sierra Club newsletter is all about the wind farms.

Chair Pryde said the JPA Board approved the advertising for a contractor on the Bridge and Coastal trail.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT Executive Director Bobertz said that the TPL (Trust for Public Land) is wonderful to work with in acquiring property. The TPL has a newsletter that highlighted the new properties that we purchased recently. This newsletter is distributed widely and is good advertising for the River Park.

Mr. Bobertz said that the SB153 legislation for a new open space bond measure on the 2006 election ballot does not include any funds specifically allocated to the River Park. The River Park is trying to get an earmarked portion of the funds through working with the sponsors of the legislation.

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA

1. Consideration of Alternative Meeting Time or Location due to change of operating hours at Rancho Bernardo Library.-

Chair Pryde said staff has informed him that the library will no longer be available on Friday mornings. He said that there has been considerable discussion on the time and place of the CAC meeting in the past, and that the 10:30 a.m. time appears to work out for most of the regular members.

It was the consensus of the people present that they want to keep the 10:30 a.m. time and find a new location in the RB or Escondido area. Terry Badger said that his church, Hope Methodist on Bernardo Center and Bernardo Heights, is usually available for meetings. He said he would investigate and coordinate with JPA staff.

2. Project Review Committee Report: Proposed Changes to Project Review Policy-

Recommendation: Discuss and make recommendation to the JPA Board, if appropriate.

Jan Fuchs said that at a previous CAC meeting, the PRC was directed to review its operating guidelines. She explained that the existing Project Review Policy provides limited information and that the PRC had discussed various revisions to the policy that will make it more current and relevant.

Terry Badger said that the language should clarify that the PRC is an advisory committee only.

There was additional discussion and suggestions. Chair Pryde requested staff to make the CAC's modifications and bring it back to the CAC at a future meeting. From there it would go to the JPA Board for final approval.

The following is the current PRC membership list: Jan Fuchs, Terry Badger, Jacqueline Winterer, Dave Abrams, Margaret Schlesinger, Marvin Gerst, Tom Cook, Dick Barber, Anne Gardner and Bob McClure.

Ms. Fuchs said that the other attachments are the checklist of park goals and objectives that are used to review the projects and a form check list is used to see that all necessary items are addressed. She said the next meeting is scheduled for July 18th at 1:30 p.m. at the Fairbanks Ranch Association office.

3. Fairbanks Ranch Country Club Potential Sale-

Recommendation: Discuss and make recommendations to the JPA Board.

Executive Director Bobertz said it was reported in the newspaper that the Fairbanks Ranch Country Club property may be sold to the Country Club due to the City of San Diego's financial problems. The 20 year old lease is attached and a letter from Sam Blick, one of the Club's directors, about the 373 acre site.

Jacqueline Winterer raised questions about how much acreage would be sold, there should be a good map of the site and she was concerned about the trail access and wetland status. She said that the City should clarify the FRCC's responsibilities on the north side of the river.

Jan Fuchs said that 10 years ago the Fairbanks Ranch Country Club had wanted to purchase the property and made a suggestion for some benefits for the River Park in the deal but the negotiations fell through. She suggested that any potential sale should be evaluated for benefits to the River Park.

Arthur Schmitz said that the City should donate the lease to the JPA.

Anne Gardner said that the JPA should oppose the sale because we would lose any control over the property.

Diane Coombs said that a deal is a deal, and the Club shouldn't try to change it now. She made a motion to ask the City of San Diego to refuse to sell the property to Fairbanks Ranch Country Club because the property is dedicated open space and to rigorously enforce the terms of the lease as written, specifically with respect to the trail. She added that the sale is not in the public interest and does not benefit the citizens or the River Park. Jacqueline Winterer seconded.

Vote: Yes 20 Opposed 1 abstaining 2

INFORMATION

4. Trails Committee Report- Carol Carr said that the Trails Committee did not meet in June, so there is no report. The Committee is scheduled to meet on July 13th.
5. Progress Reports on Ongoing Projects (Oral Reports)
 - a. **Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge-** Deputy Director Carter said that the project has been approved by the San Diego City Planning Commission. The San Diego County Bicycle Coalition spoke effectively before the Commission to convince the Commissioners that the bridge should be kept open on a 24 hour basis because it is a transportation facility. The Commission does not actually deal with operating hours, but in their motion they recommended to the City Council that the City Council should make it a 24 hour facility when they approve the lease for the bridge. However, the San Pasqual Planning Group appealed the ruling to the City Council and stated that they did not approve this condition when reviewing the project. Ms. Carter said that we probably not be able to build the bridge this year because the water in the lake makes it prohibitive. Next month the Water Authority will be considering a cooperative agreement that would result in beginning to draw down the lake level in September 2005, finishing in January 2006. Ms. Carter said we hope to have the contractor by April 2006 and start the building in September 2006.
 - b. **Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead-** Ms. Carter said that there is a windmill on the property now generously provided by the Sunrise Rotary Clubs of Escondido and Rancho Bernardo. Ms. Carter said that we will be having an ice cream social at the site on July 30th for the public to celebrate and dedicate the new windmill.
 - c. **Wetland Restoration Project/Coastal Trail-** Executive Director Bobertz said that the Coastal Commission will be reviewing our project in August in Costa Mesa.
 - d. **Del Dios Gorge Trail-** Deputy Director Carter said that we are working with the engineers on alternatives to find the one that will cause the least impacts to the gorge. Building a bridge in the gorge is very difficult and we are taking into consideration all the alternatives.
6. Communications: Chris Khoury reported that the Conservancy is still fundraising for the Lake Sutherland East property. He asked for anyone to make a pledge for the fund.

Chair Pryde adjourned the meeting at 12:10