

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of April 16, 2004**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pam Slater-Price, Chair
Tom Golich
Jerry Finnell
Ed Gallo
Betty Rexford
Margaret Schlesinger, Alt.

REPRESENTING

County of San Diego
City of Solana Beach
City of Del Mar
City of Escondido
City of Poway
Citizens Advisory Committee

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Wayne Brechtel | JPA Counsel |
| 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 |
| Craig Adams | San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy |
| Freda Reid | San Dieguito Lagoon Committee |
| Jacqueline Winterer | Coastal Property Owner |
| Rich Geisler | Office of SD Councilmember Scott Peters |
| Sam Blick | Fairbanks Ranch Country Club |

Introduction and Announcements

Chair Slater-Price convened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. in the County Administration 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302/303, San Diego, CA 92101.

Margaret Schlesinger sat in the meeting for Boardmember Pryde.

Approval of Minutes of March 19, 2004- Boardmember Rexford made a motion to approve the minutes and Boardmember Golich seconded. All in favor

Executive Director's Report- Executive Director Bobertz said that the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmhouse is open from 1-3 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday, and that trained docents are there during those times to give tours. He announced that the "Save Our Heritage Organization" has named the San Dieguito River Park as a recipient of a People in Preservation 2004 award for the restoration of the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmhouse. Director Bobertz read some of the comments from the jury in favor of the restoration.

Director Bobertz explained that the chart at each Boardmember's place shows the success of the River Park and the benefits that have come from having an agency dedicated to implementing the River Park's goals and objectives. The chart shows that the member agencies have contributed \$4,500,000 in cumulated monies over the 15-year life of the River Park, and that during the same time period, the River Park has brought in over \$47,000,000 in grants and other revenues. The balances at the several different endowment funds are also noted on the chart. Chair Slater-Price noted that there is also an additional \$65 million that will be spent

on behalf of the San Dieguito River Valley as a result of the Southern California Edison Wetland Restoration Project. Boardmember Golich agreed, and suggested that these funds should be included or noted on the chart.

Public Comment

None

ACTION AGENDA

1. Acceptance and Management of 93-acre Caltrans-Owned Property on Bernardo Mountain.

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct the Executive Director to take all actions necessary to accept conveyance of 93 acres of land from Caltrans and to place the accompanying endowment funds with the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation.

Director Bobertz stated that Caltrans purchased the 93-acre west face of Bernardo Mountain a couple of years ago for habitat mitigation purposes. Caltrans is not in the land management business, and therefore approached the River Park to see if the River Park would agree to own the property and manage it. Caltrans would provide approximately \$202,000 along with the land. Of that amount, \$177,000 would be placed in an endowment to generate income to the JPA to be used each year for management of the site, and \$25,000 would be used for initial year start-up costs. Director Bobertz referenced the various agreements and exhibits that were included in the agenda packet. Executive Director Bobertz explained that he was recommending that the endowment funds be deposited with the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation, in keeping with the practice of distributing the endowment funds geographically, and also because the other endowment for Bernardo Mountain is also at the RSF Foundation.

Boardmember Rexford asked if any Transnet funds had been used by the JPA to acquire the Bernardo Mountain property. Executive Director Bobertz said that the 232 acre property acquired by the JPA and the San Dieguito Conservancy in 2002 did not involve the use of any Transnet funds, but that it was possible that Caltrans used Transnet funds to purchase the 93 acre parcel.

Boaremember Golich made a motion to approve the staff recommendation. Boardmember Rexford seconded. All in favor.

2. Acquisition Committee Recommendations:

- a. Public Hearing for Acquisition of 75-acre Boudreau Property from Trust for Public Land- Director Bobertz stated that the Boudreau property negotiations have proceeded to a point that the Board needs to direct staff to take action to complete the transaction.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Adopt resolution approving the purchase of the Boudreau parcels as described below and in the publication notice, and authorizing the Executive Director to execute all related documents to complete the transaction.

Speaker: Jacqueline Winterer stated that Anne Gardner, President of the Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley, offers support of the parcel. Jacqueline asked if she could put the upcoming purchase in their newsletter, the *Sand Piper*. Chair Slater-Price assured her that she could, after today's action.

Boardmember Golich asked if the purchase of the property would be held up due to the current problems with the finances of California. Director Bobertz stated that the funds are coming from bonds that were already processed, and he has not been advised by any of our funding sources that a delay would be likely.

Director Bobertz read a letter from Councilmember Scott Peters, the letter will be attached to the minutes, supporting the purchase of the Bourdreau property, but requesting that the Board consider allowing the use of a 10-acre portion of the site for soccer fields. Chair Slater-Price asked Director Bobertz if our funding source would allow this use. Director Bobertz responded that the resources agency limits the purchase to habitat conservation and therefore our funding source would not allow soccer fields.

Speaker Rich Geisler, Councilmember Peters' office, quoted language from the Resources Agency that he said could be interpreted that soccer fields may be allowed in a habitat area. Chair Slater-Price said that she supports soccer fields also, and knows they are much needed, but not in our wetlands. She said that at the County, when a development project is approved, that the developer is required to provide amenities such as recreational fields, and identify where those fields are going to be.

Craig Adams stated that the Conservancy is funding a management plan/restoration design because questions were asked about the restoration of the property since they are tomato fields at this time.

Boardmember Rexford made a motion to support the purchase. Boardmember Finnell seconded.
All in favor

b. Public Hearing for Acquisition of 75-acre Crowder Property

RECOMMENDATION:

2. Adopt resolution approving the purchase of the Crowder parcels as described below and in the publication notice, and authorizing the Executive Director to execute all related documents to complete the transaction.

Director Bobertz stated the Crowder property is located in San Pasqual Valley and it is within the city MSCP. He said that the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy brought the property acquisition to our attention because it is a wonderful site and was scheduled for development. Mr Bobertz stated that the funding will be coming from the Proposition 12 funds that the Wildlife Conservation Board previously allocated to the JPA.

Speaker Craig Adams supports this project because this project was sited for development and now the property would be protected from any building. He said it is a highly visible and prominent site, just west of the Wild Animal Park.

Boardmember Gallo noted that the Crowder parcel is surrounded on all sides by other publicly-owned property.

Boardmember Rexford congratulated staff and the Conservancy for their hard work and made a motion to approve the purchase of the property. Boardmember Golich seconded. All in favor.

3. Budget Committee Report and Recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. ***The Budget/Administration Committee of the Board recommends that the JPA Board approve the attached Draft Budget and Salary/Staffing Schedule for FY 2004/05.***
- B. ***The Budget/Administration Committee also recommends that the JPA Board approve changes to the current FY 2003/04 Budget.***

Director Bobertz stated that the budget this year is difficult for every agency. This item was continued from the last meeting for another discussion with the Budget Committee because he had become aware of a financial concern that needed to be addressed. The situation was that according to our monthly County billing statements, our employee overhead had significantly increased beginning last July. That meant that about \$90,000 in additional revenue had to be identified in the current fiscal year, and also in the new fiscal year. The reason for the increased employee overhead was that the County of San Diego, which administers our payroll services and handles all of our accounting, including bill payments, had experienced a loss in the retirement fund in the stock downturn and therefore the loss had to be replaced, resulting in a higher percentage of each employee's salary going toward retirement benefits. He noted that based on the recent headlines, this is being experienced by all retirement plans, including CALPERS, which most of the member agencies use for their employee retirement plans.

Mr. Bobertz said that page 34 of the agenda lists the items that we are going to cut out of our regular budget to help balance the shortfall. Items recommended are not to fill the vacant part-time position of Interpretive Specialist, until next budget year. We will not be sending out our newsletter or activity schedule. He said that the Trail Run account was closed and the funds in the Land Trust Fund that were available for land acquisition costs, such as appraisals, would be transferred to the operating fund. There will not be any merit raises for the staff this year. These cuts would have resulted in a zero percent increase in the member agencies' assessments next year, but there is still an approximately \$92,000 shortfall due to the overhead increase. He said that the Budget Committee evaluated two options to balance the budget. One way would be to decrease the payroll – either by cutting two to three employees or cutting staff salaries 20% across the board. The other way would be to use the funds that were allocated for endowment from each agency for our budget next year. These are funds that the member agencies pay each year in addition to the operational assessment. The Budget Committee's recommendation is to use those funds for operational purposes this year, and not make FY 2004/05 endowment fund deposit. He stated that a letter would go out the agencies with the billing explaining the temporary use of the endowment funds for operational use this year. Mr. Bobertz noted that we would be doing private fundraising to make up the endowment contributions.

Boardmember Golich made a motion to adopt the 2004/05 budget and salary/staffing schedule and amend the 2003/04 budget as described in the staff report. Boardmember Finnell seconded. All in favor

INFORMATION

4. Status Reports (oral)

- a. Fairbanks Ranch Country Club- Director Bobertz stated that a letter was sent to the City of San Diego thanking them for the work on the berm issue and indicating that we would be talking with Fairbanks Ranch Country Club in an effort to come to an agreement on the landscaping. Boardmember Peters sent a letter to be read at the meeting, the letter will be attached to the minutes. The letter was read and it was to clarify the CAC minutes of February 6th, 2004 where the information alluded to the fact that Councilmember Peters might have interceded in the matter of the trail issue at Fairbanks Country Club. He wanted to make it very clear that he would not interfere in the City Managers permit process.
- b. Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead Lease- Deputy Director Susan Carter stated that the lease discussions are still ongoing but Director Bobertz and she will be attending a meeting with the Real Estate Assets Department next week. Ms. Carter said that Charlotte Cagan, our volunteer, had been working with De Anza DAR, and they will be contributing \$3000 for the ornamental garden in the front of the building. Ms. Cagan is also negotiating with the DAR for ongoing maintenance as well. She added that the Escondido Sunrise Rotary is going to rebuild the well and put up an authentic historic windmill on the site.
- c. Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge- Shawna Anderson stated that we are nearing the completion of the second review of the Site Development Permit. Ms. Anderson said that we have gotten to the next step in the State review for the Environmental document and then onto the Federal Highway Administration. Deputy Director Carter stated that she has gone to SANDAG to request the funds designated for the project be released sooner than projected. The City of Escondido is scheduled to take action to receive the funds and transfer them to us.
- d. Del Dios Gorge Trail- Deputy Director Carter said that we have previously received 2 grants totaling \$436,000 to build a section of trail from the Lake Hodges Dam to the Starwood Trail. There is an existing dirt road in the gorge that we will be using that is now being used by the Santa Fe Irrigation District as part of a project that they are doing. Ms. Carter explained that because of the steep drop off from the dam down to the existing dirt road, a short stretch of the trail will go along the Del Dios road right of way. Archaeological and biological surveys are underway now.

5. Jurisdictional Status Reports

Freda Reid from the San Dieguito Lagoon Committee announced that Del Mar is having its annual Lagoon Day on Wednesday, April 21st. Educational lectures will start at 3 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

A closed session was not needed

Chair Slater adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

These minutes approved by Board Action

Date

Executive Director