

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of September 11, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Golich
Jackie Higgins
Phil Pryde
Jan Fuchs
Linda Oster
Don Wendt
Leonard Haynes
Margaret Schlesinger
Ben Hillebrecht
Carol Carr
Mid Hoppenrath
Dave Kreitzer
Bill Michalsky
Pat Whitt
Colleen Bradley
Arthur Schmitz
Jacqueline Winterer
Cory Ha'o
Terry Badger

REPRESENTING

CAC, Chair
American Society of Landscape Architects
Audubon Society
Carmel Valley Planning Board
Del Dios Town Council
Equestrian - Ramona Trails Association
Julian Community Planning Group
League of Women Voters
San Diego City Agricultural Advisory Board
San Diego County Bicycle Coalition
San Dieguito Planning Group
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Sierra Club
Torrey Pines Community Planning Group
Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation
Eastern Property Owner
Coastal Property Owner
Coastal Property Owner
Central Property Owner

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Kevin McKernan	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Shawna Anderson	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Brenda Miller	San Dieguito River Park JPA

Roll Call and Introductions

Chair Golich convened the meeting at 10:40 a.m. at the San Rafael Parish. Office Manager Brenda Miller took the roll call. A quorum was met with 18 in attendance.

Approval of Minutes- June 5, 2015

Bill Michalsky moved to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2015 meeting and Margaret Schlesinger seconded the motion. All in favor.

Chair's Report

At the June 19, 2015 JPA meeting the Board approved the Executive Director Employment Agreement for Kevin McKernan. The Board thanked Interim Director Mark Ochendusko for his hard work and all that he accomplished during his tenure. At the August 21, 2015 meeting the Board approved simplifying the San Dieguito River Park funds held at the County of San Diego. Executive Director McKernan presented

P15-01 to the Board and asked them to review for discussion at a future meeting. The Board also discussed the schedule of future meetings and decided they will plan to meet every month for the remainder of 2015. Executive Director McKernan gave his report with a Power Point presentation. The Board members appreciated the modern presentation.

Executive Director's Report

a. Review and Comment on P15-01 to be Adopted at 9/18 JPA meeting

Executive Director McKernan stated that all member agencies have approved and adopted the renewal of the JEPA Agreement. With the JEPA Agreement came many to do items. One item was to review and revise as necessary, two JPA policies commenting on land use projects; P90 and P14-01. Executive Director McKernan has met with the Project Review Committee, board members and steering committee that worked to revise the JEPA. No one has provided input. Executive Director McKernan included Policy 96, combined the three policies (P90, P14-01 and P96) restated the policies and created a new policy that will be easier to follow when looking at a project. The abstention policy is first, the communications policy 90, then policy 14 as to whether to send comments on letterhead and recording the board vote. Executive Director McKernan took the draft document P15-01 to the JPA board in August. The same document will be on JPA board agenda Friday, September 18. The policy will have relevance for the PRC committee of CAC. Jan Fuchs stated it is important to emphasize to the JPA Board that Board members do not have to leave room during the discussion and vote on a project.

Jacqueline Winterer made a motion to make P15-01 an action item on this agenda. Jan Fuchs seconded the motion. Chair Golich asked for a vote to add this item to the agenda.
All in favor.

Jacqueline Winterer made the motion to approve P15-01 as written. Phil Pryde seconded the motion. A vote was called for to approve the policy as written. All in favor.

b. Review and Comment on Interim Interpretive Feature and Programming Directive

Executive Director McKernan provided background and information on this topic. Staff members have sought guidance regarding proposals from individuals and volunteers requesting interpretive features such as signs and plaques, or programming such as education, hikes, walks etc. from the Executive Director. The only policy found was a donation policy and the donation policy does not fit this situation. Executive Director McKernan felt it necessary to give staff guidance with a formal policy. Carol Carr stated that an example would be to have an individual request to put up interpretive signs in the park. Bill Michalsky said features have come to the PRC for review in the past. Executive Director McKernan stated that this policy adds more oversight and he is asking for feedback. This item is going to the JPA Board as an information item at the next meeting. Members stated that there is already a policy and offered to provide a copy to the Executive Director. This policy is for interpretive features and has been presented to the staff.

Public Comment

Cory Ha'o commented on three projects.

1. Reach the Beach project – The issue of horses on the beach went to the Del Mar Lagoon Committee. The San Diego Trails Alliance has offered to clean the beach.
2. Rancho Del Mar project – A meeting was held with the Milan representatives in June and the project has gone to the Carmel Valley Planning Board. The project is a 20 acre lot next to the Polo Fields. Mr. Ha'o feels that due to the environmentally sensitive area this project should be of interest to the JPA. The property is being used for parking and Mr. Ha'o is concerned that water runoff will go into the river. Jan Fuchs stated that it is probably the correct time to bring this project to the PRC for review.
3. Polo fields – The proposed use of the Polo Fields could be increased by 600%. The concern is the environmental impact to the area from the intense use of the fields and parking. The process of leasing the Polo Fields is being done through the City of San Diego Real Estate Assets Department and the future of this property will depend on the proposals received. The City Council will take action on the proposed lease and if CEQA is required there would be a public meeting.

Bill Michalsky asked about the status of the Coast to Crest trail undercrossing through District Agricultural Association property in relation to the Double Track Project. Shawna Anderson stated she is talking with the City of Del Mar about the Coast to Crest Trail crossing Jimmy Durante Boulevard.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Committee Reports

- a. Project Review Committee-Jan Fuchs stated the next meeting will be held Monday, September 21 and stated that it is the policy of the PRC to look at a project when there is an E.I.R.
- b. Trails Committee - Carol Carr reported that the Trails Committee is working with two volunteers and their interpretive projects. Tom Cook is working on a project for the San Pasqual Valley. The project is interpretive panels and a written history in the San Pasqual Valley. The second project is by James Nelson and a committee from Solana Beach, with an effort on the San Dieguito Lagoon area historical information. Carol reported that both projects will come to the CAC sometime soon.

INFORMATION

2. Report on Osuna Valley Bridge Feasibility Study

Shawna Anderson reported that an engineering and environmental consultant team Kleinfelder was hired to conduct the Osuna Valley Bridge Feasibility Study for a section of the Coast to Crest Trail east of the Polo Fields. The study was finalized last month. (The RFP sent out from the City of San Diego for the Polo Fields property has a clause that the lessee must finish the trail at the southern end of the Polo

Fields.) The study is to provide locations for crossing, bridge designs and cost estimates. The study is not a trail alignment study. The area is downstream from the Morgan Run golf cart bridge. The report is based on three crossing locations and three bridge types. The preferred location is the southernmost crossing with 150 foot span and the preferred bridge type is the steel truss. The access and bridge construction is easier at this location. The cost to design and construct the bridge is \$1.12 million. Thank you to the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy for funding this study. There are many things that need to happen in the future; utility easements, detailed surveys, trail connection to San Dieguito Road, hydrology analysis, environmental permits, CEQA, and funding.

3. Park Project Status (oral)

a. Lagoon Ranger Station – Shawna Anderson reported that permits have been received from the California Coastal Commission and the City of San Diego. The architect is drawing construction plans that will be submitted to the City of San Diego soon for a building permit. We are hoping to begin the project this winter and are looking into loans. The Executive Director asked for financing ideas.

b. Pamo Valley Trail – Shawna Anderson reported that there have been many site visits. The area is a traditional cultural landscape and the trail alignment avoids most of the archeological sites. Details are being worked out with City staff and the application for permit will be submitted soon. REI is donating \$43,000 to this trail. \$33,000 was from a contest REI sponsored and \$10,000 was an additional donation from REI for the trail. A grant application for a River Parkways Grant has also been submitted.

4. Communications – Jacqueline Winterer stated that the Sierra Club filed a lawsuit against the Fairgrounds, regarding the East overflow lot and the judge dismissed the lawsuit. Colleen from Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation said that she and Executive Director McKernan met with Supervisor Jacob regarding the Santa Ysabel Nature Center. This property will provide safer access to connect the Coast to Crest Trail to the Santa Ysabel East Preserve. It was announced that the County will staff the Center, instead of volunteers from partner organizations. Jan Fuchs announced that Trish Boaz has been nominated for San Diego Magazine Woman of the Year for her work with the San Dieguito River Park.

Adjournment

Chair Golich adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m. and stated that the next meeting will be held October 2.