

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of March 6, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Golich
Jackie Higgins
Phil Pryde
Deborah DeBow
Jan Fuchs
Linda Oster
Ed Spaeth
Jeff Barnouw
Leonard Haynes
Margaret Schlesinger
Dorothy McLin
John Kowalski
Larry Roberts
Ben Hillebrecht
Carol Carr
Alice Brown
Mid Hoppenrath
Dave Kreitzer
Bill Michalsky
Pat Whitt
Arthur Schmitz
Jacqueline Winterer
Brant Bassett
Cory Ha'o

REPRESENTING

CAC, Chair
American Society of Landscape Architects
Audubon Society
California Native Plant Society
Carmel Valley Planning Board
Del Dios Town Council
Equestrian - Ramona Trails Association
Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Julian Community Planning Group
League of Women Voters
Lomas Serenas Property Owners
Rancho Bernardo Community Planning Board
Rancho Santa Fe Association
San Diego City Agricultural Advisory Board
San Diego County Bicycle Coalition
San Dieguito Lagoon Committee
San Dieguito Planning Group
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Sierra Club
Torrey Pines Community Planning Group
Eastern Property Owner
Coastal Property Owner
Central Property Owner
Coastal Property Owner

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Mark Ochenduszko	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Shawna Anderson	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Brenda Miller	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Kathy Garcia	City of Del Mar Planning Director

Roll Call and Introductions

Chair Golich convened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. at the San Rafael Parish, 17352 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo.

Office Manager Brenda Miller took the roll call. A quorum was met with 23 in attendance.

Approval of Minutes of January 9, 2015 - A motion was made by Jacqueline Winterer to approve the minutes of January 9, 2015. The motion was seconded by Bill Michalsky. All in favor.

Chair's Report – Chair Golich reported on the January 16, 2015 JPA meeting at which Chair Roberts listed the accomplishments of 2014. Don Mosier was elected Chair and Dianne Jacob was elected Vice-Chair for 2015. The ad-hoc committees will remain the same replacing outgoing Boardmember Jim Cunningham with incoming Boardmember Dave Grosch. After a discussion of changing the day and time of the JPA meeting it was decided that the third Friday of the month, 11:00 a.m. is best. The JPA Board established an ad hoc Executive Director Recruitment committee consisting of Don Mosier, Tom Golich, Olga Diaz, and Mark Kersey to assist Interim Director Ochendusko in the search for and hiring of a new Executive Director. The Board also discussed the South Overflow Lot boardwalk.

Executive Director's Report- Interim Director Ochendusko reported the status of the JEPA agreement, stating that the City of San Diego is doing a comprehensive financial review of the JPA. The plan is to have the JEPA agreement approved at the March 20, 2015 Board meeting and have all member agencies approve the agreement within 60 days. JPA staff has had meetings and a field visit with Larry Roberts and the Rancho Santa Fe Association regarding connecting our trail through their property and this issue is going to the Rancho Santa Fe Homeowners Association Board next month. A meeting was held with Supervisor Dianne Jacob, the Tribal Chairman and Vice –Chair of the Mesa Grande tribe to work on a trail that will go through Mesa Grande, which is an important trail on the east end of the park. The FY 15/16 budget is being worked on.

Public Comment – Jan Fuchs mentioned the Logan Jenkins Union Tribune newspaper column of this morning regarding the approval of the One Paseo project.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. City of Del Mar Planning Staff Presentation Regarding Del Mar River Path Expansion
Shawna Anderson introduced Kathy Garcia and the topic of the Del Mar River Path Expansion. Ms. Garcia and Joseph Smith came to the Project Review Committee meeting to present the project. The project is in the City of Del Mar and is an extension of the River Path Del Mar to the east. The plan is to connect to the Crest Canyon trail. She expressed a thank you to Supervisor Dave Roberts for funding to begin the project, a pathway at this time until additional funding is available. The path is a little over one-quarter of a mile. The majority of the project area is owned by the City of Del Mar, The San Dieguito River Park JPA or the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy with the exception of three properties. Ms.Garcia spoke about how to capitalize on the positive aspects of this location; the peaceful environment, protect the sensitive vegetation and provide public access in a safe manner. Ms. Garcia spoke about the future parking lot location, the concrete sidewalk, the DG portion of the path, the connection with the SCE maintenance road and the viewing or overlook (landing) areas. Ms. Garcia noted that Coastal Sage Scrub will be avoided in this area and also that a portion of the DG path may be subject to sea level rise or wetland expansion in the future. Ms Garcia reported that there would be wheel chair access at the Grand Avenue Bridge. The next steps in the process are to create signage, interpretive program, identifying potential sea level rise, or where historic flood events happened, showing elevations. The path is pedestrian only and would take approximately 15 minutes to walk. The conceptual plan has been to the Del Mar Lagoon Committee for approval and will be going to the Del

Mar City Council for approval in March. The planning department would like to begin the grading of the project after the summer season and before the nesting season and expect this to take six weeks. The project will be done in phases because of the lack of funding at this time. Ms. Garcia answered questions and responded to comments.

Bill Michalsky made the motion to ask the JPA Board to send a letter supporting the Del Mar River Path Expansion. Jacqueline Winterer seconded the motion. All in favor. No opposed.

2. Discussion of Coastal Commission Hearing for Lagoon Boardwalk, Wednesday, March 11

Shawna Anderson reminded everyone of the hearing Wednesday, March 11th, at the Chula Vista council chambers. The hearing will begin at 9 am however there is no certain time on the agenda for this issue and we are anticipating it will be heard that day. Ms. Anderson explained the complexity and difficulty of getting the original permit and she read the specific condition of the boardwalk from 2005. The Coastal Commission staff agreed to place the issue on the agenda for this hearing. The JPA is requesting that the entire condition be stricken from the permit making the boardwalk for permanent use. The Coastal Commission Staff recommendation is denial, to allow one acre more wetland restoration. Ms. Anderson states the reasons for the boardwalk to remain are the educational value, community resource, and pedestrian only nature study.

Discussion: Margaret Schlesinger feels they made persuasive argument about the boardwalk possibly being subject to erosion. Ms. Anderson explained that the excavation will not be right next to the boardwalk and does not think it will cause further erosion of the boardwalk. Ms. Anderson continued to report that we will work with the 22nd Ag District to make sure this erosion does not happen and felt this was a great point. Jacqueline Winterer stated that Trish Boaz has several photos of locations where the Coastal Commission has allowed boardwalks. Why did the Coastal Commission allow the boardwalk in phase one and not in phase two? Letters can be submitted to Sherilyn Sarb at San Diego Coastal Commission office. The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy has a petition on their website.

3. Committee Reports (oral)

a. Project Review Committee

Jan Fuchs reported that the committee met a few weeks ago and heard the City of Del River Path Extension presentation. The next meeting will be March 16.

b. Trails Committee

Carol Carr reported that the Trails Committee was contacted by Tom Cook who showed a proposal improving the informational signs along Mule Hill in the San Pasqual Valley, a 10 mile section of the Coast to Crest Trail. Mr. Cook's goal is to raise awareness of the history in the area. The Trails Committee liked his proposal however are not ready to bring to the CAC yet. The 10 mile section is from Sikes Adobe to the San Pasqual Battlefield and Mr. Cook is calling this concept the heritage corridor. Anne Cooper, Museum Director is helping with research. A meeting was held with Caltrans regarding signs on Interstate 5 and 15 directing motorists to exits for Coast to Crest trails and landmarks such as Sikes Adobe and the Kreitzer Bike and Pedestrian Bridge. In 2014 there were 1645 volunteer

patrols. Over the last several years there has been an average 7000 volunteer hours per year in the River Park.

INFORMATION

4. Park Project Status (oral)

a. Ranger Station

Shawna Anderson reported this is in the coastal development permit process.

b. Pamo Valley Trail

Shawna Anderson stated that this project is in the permitting process with the City of San Diego. Ms. Anderson showed the project on display board where the Pamo Valley Trail is and why it is important. The trail has been carefully designed to have no wetland impact. It will have to cross the river (using the road bridge) to not impact the Arroyo Toad habitat. The main issue prolonging the project is the many cultural sites. The trail has been routed around most cultural sites, except for two.

c. Osuna Valley Bridge

Shawna Anderson reported that the field work is being done. The consultant will be ready to present the preliminary information in the next couple of weeks. Shawna has had meetings with property owners in the area regarding the need for the trail on both sides of the bridge.

d. Peter Douglas Wetlands Dedication Ceremony will be held in August 2015

Shawna Anderson reported that the Coastal Commission staff felt it would be logistically better to have the dedication when the Commission meets in August.

5. Communications

Alice brown reported that Del Mar is hosting a Lagoon Day event, Sunday April 19th, 4:00 p.m. at the Powerhouse. The guest speaker will be Jacqueline Winterer. There will also be a beach cleanup earlier in the day.

The next CAC meeting will be April 3.

Adjournment

Chair Golich adjourned the meeting at 12:07 pm.