

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of November 7, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Golich
Patricia Trauth
Phil Pryde
Jan Fuchs
Diane Coombs
Linda Oster
Kelly Berger
Margaret Schlesinger
John Kowalski
Ben Hillebrecht
Carol Carr
Terry Kopanski
Mid Hoppenrath
Dave Kreitzer
Bill Michalsky
Pat Whitt
Arthur Schmitz
Jacqueline Winterer
Brant Bassett
Cory Ha'o
Terry Badger

REPRESENTING

CAC, Chair
American Society of Landscape Architects
Audubon Society
Carmel Valley Planning Board
Citizens Coordinate for Century 3
Del Dios Town Council
Fairbanks Ranch Association
League of Women Voters
Rancho Bernardo Community Planning Board
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
Central Property Owner

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Dick Bobertz	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Susan Carter	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Brenda Miller	San Dieguito River Park JPA

Roll Call and Introductions

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

Deputy Director Susan Carter took the roll call. A quorum was met with 17 in attendance.

Approval of Minutes- August 1, 2014 Terry Badger made the motion to approve minutes and Carol Carr seconded. All in favor- no opposed.

Chair's Report

Jacqueline Winterer reported that there has been a schedule change to 3rd Friday at 11:00 a.m. for the JPA meetings, effective for the November 21 meeting. A farewell luncheon to honor Director Bobertz and

Deputy Director Carter will be held at the County Administration building following the November 21 meeting. Interim Director Ochenduszko has talked to Supervisor Greg Cox and is trying to have the Lagoon Boardwalk issue moved from the January to the March Coastal Commission meeting. Discussions were held regarding St. John Garabed Armenian church, the status of the multi agencies agreement, the Ranger Station and Interpretive Center. Supervisor Dianne Jacob came to JPA meeting with plans for an Interpretive Center in Santa Ysabel. Trish Boaz reported that the River Fest was very successful.

Executive Director's Report

The local chapter of the American Institute of Architects awarded The San Dieguito Lagoon Site Master Plan and its centerpiece, the Birdwing Outdoor Education Center, an "Urban Solutions Award" Thursday October 30.

This is the last meeting for Director Bobertz and Deputy Director Carter. They both expressed what a pleasure it has been to work with the River Park and all of the volunteers, committee members and member of the Citizens Advisory Committee. Phil Pryde stated that the CAC owes them a huge debt of thanks for all of the work they do and the sacrifice that Director Bobertz has made. Chair Golich said thank you to them for the outstanding jobs they have done.

Public Comment

Bill Michalsky announced that the EIR comments for a double track platform are due on Dec. 1. Deputy Director Carter stated that there will be an open house Tuesday November 18 5-7 pm Santa Fe Christian School in Solana Beach. There will be a lot of displays and information regarding alternatives including architectural details. SDRP still has issue because none of the designs have the Coast to Crest trail on the north side. Staff will be taking this issue to the JPA Board on November 21 to have the concern on record. Bill Michalsky added that the plan is for the platform to extend considerably into the river. Carol Carr stated that she would hate to see plants removed when they do the restoration project on W19. She said we should encourage SANDAG to leave the native plants. Deputy Director Carter said grading is necessary for the SANDAG project. Cory Ha'o said the 20 acre parcel development plan originally discussed in April 2012 is back on the radar. The 20 acre parcel is owned by a venture capital group planning to build 160 units. The property is next to the polo fields toward the soccer fields. Jacqueline Winterer said she is leading field trip of the San Dieguito Lagoon Sunday morning 9:00 a.m.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Committee Reports (oral)
 - a. Project Review Committee

Jan Fuchs made an oral report. The next PRC meeting is the 17th. The CAC needs to determine if they want to make a presentation to the JPA Board regarding the matter of the St John Garabed

Church. Ms. Fuchs says this is not over. The Church project, as proposed violates the City of San Diego General Plan, all environmental regulations and the concept plan. The Church project will go to the Coastal Commission. Ms. Fuchs stated that the CEQA rules have been ignored. She went to add that if the CAC could write a letter to the JPA Board asking them to reconsider the plan for the St. John Garabed Church. Ms. Fuchs feels it will help a lot at the Coastal Commission. The members of the CAC discussed the motion made regarding the church at the October JPA meeting. A request was made that the CAC get a copy of the JPA minutes of the October 17th meeting to take a stand at the JPA meeting. It was suggested that members of the CAC go to the Coastal Commission as individuals. It was also suggested that it is the job of the CAC to appeal to the JPA Board that the wildlife corridor is being split.

Margaret Schlesinger asked if Counsel Brechtel could prepare a report for the November 21 meeting legally pointing out the inconsistencies of this project with our policies and plans. The suggestion was made that the CAC draft a letter to the JPA and the JPA take it to the Coastal Commission. Chair Golich mentioned that the CAC draft a letter to the JPA Board expressing the CAC's dissatisfaction with the way the process was handled at the last JPA Board meeting because there are a lot of issues besides whether you get a trail or not.

Dianne Coombs made a motion and Margaret Schlesinger seconded that the CAC draft a letter to the JPA Board asking them to reconsider their action taken on the St. John Garabed Church matter at the October 17 meeting. The letter will list the reasons why the JPA Board should reconsider its position as the JPA Board's prior action is inconsistent with the JPA's own policies and plans and was not carefully considered. The letter will also ask to place this issue on the JPA Board agenda for November for reconsideration and to pass the CAC's comments on to the Coastal Commission.

All in favor. Yes votes 18, no votes 0, opposed 0, abstained 0.

Jan Fuchs said the PRC will head the committee to draft letter and have it to Susan by Friday, November 14th. The letter will be sent to the CAC members at the same time.

The concern was raised that the JPA action could set a precedent for Rancho Del Mar issue and others.

Jan Fuchs left the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

b. Trails Committee

Carol Carr presented the Trails Committee report. The committee is working on signs. The committee visited Bernardo Bay and identified 10 locations at entry points and trail intersections where new signs are needed, to let trail users know of their location. The Rancho Bernardo Community Council also contacted the River Park to express the safety concerns they had due to the lack of the signs listed above. The new signs are ready to be installed. The signs have been

paid for by a \$5000 grant from Supervisor Dave Roberts. Ranger Bryan Ward identified intersections on the Coast to Crest Trail that need new directional signs. The new signs with mileage will be installed soon. San Andres Street is in need of repairs to the road. The City of San Diego said they will schedule the repairs. River Park Rangers and Dust Devil volunteers have been fixing the area between the trail and San Andres drive.

2. San Dieguito River Park Interpretive Center (page 3)

RECOMMENDATION;

Discuss and Provide Recommendations to JPA Board

Deputy Director Carter presented this issue. The item of the Interpretive Center and naming opportunities was on the September 2 JPA agenda. There are new members on the JPA Board and they were not aware of the plan, had questions and asked that this item be brought back to the CAC for discussion and recommendations. The last time it was in front of the JPA Board and approved was 2009. The Interpretive Center is included in the River Park Concept Plan. The plan is for an earthen built structure that will be closer to the Birdwing than the Ranger Station, between the Coast to Crest Trail and the Nature Trail. Deputy Director Carter showed the display model of the project. Deputy Director Carter asked the CAC for input regarding what the focus of the center should be. She mentioned that Supervisor Dianne Jacob brought up the idea for an East County Nature Center. A handout of the East County Nature Center plan is available. Many aspects are similar between the two buildings, however the Lagoon Center building will have a research center for education and the East County Nature Center will be run by County Parks. The plan for the Lagoon Center has less exhibit space. Both Visitor Centers will provide information about resources and watershed. The thought is that a percentage of the funds raised will need to be set aside as an endowment for operating the center, just as funds will need to be raised to construct it.

a. Design & Location

Phil Pryde commented that he advocates for the theme being the watershed as the primary focus.

Dianne Coombs said it is a favorable location compared to other lagoons and that it should model the watershed with locations that will encourage people to visit different locations in the park from the mountains to the ocean. She also mentioned the Watershed Explorer Program. Supervisor Jacob and the San Diego Foundation will both provide grants for the purchase of two 15 passenger vans to transport students in the Watershed Explorer Program to begin March 2015.

Bill Michalsky supports a mission of the Watershed however he believes the scale is oversized. Labs will need to be maintained and should be discussed. He feels the administration offices should be downsized and the Ranger office eliminated. He feels these changes could take out 2000 sf. He sees this as a trailhead and outreach with parking and is concerned about cost,

maintenance and staffing. Bill thinks the location, parking and outdoor space are all good. He feels the size should be reduced by 1/3.

Carol Carr agrees that the scale is too big. She suggests looking at what we have after the Ranger Station is built and see what is missing. Ms Carr continued to say that the Birdwing has a lot to offer. With the Ranger Station being built, there will be a meeting place for small groups and will be a natural gathering place for visitors.

Jacqueline Winterer said she supports Bill Michalsky and Carol Carr's comments and is concerned about financing. She is wondering if the endowment is sufficient for staffing and maintenance costs.

Margaret Schlesinger said that she thought about the idea of combining lab areas into one area had been discussed previously.

Deputy Director Carter asked if the CAC felt the JPA should be committed to a teaching lab.

Phil Pryde agrees that this building could be scaled down. Dr. Pryde thinks there should be one main visitor center in the park and this should be it.

Art Schmitz asked why the River Park needs a Ranger Station and a Visitor Center.

Chair Golich explained that there are things that the Rangers do, performing maintenance, etc. that require tools and materials that would not be used or stored in a Visitor Center. Having two buildings does make sense.

Cory Ha'o likes idea of multiple purpose space and wonders if we could we use a library or multiple purpose room instead of labs.

Dianne Coombs stated that there was interest from the academic community as well as SCE for monitoring wetlands. Perhaps there could be something in the building that they could use and pay for.

Peter Shapiro said that cost is a consideration. SDRVC may possibly want to have an office at the Visitor Center and pay for it.

Carol Carr does not agree with separation between facilities. If a visitor is attending an event at the Birdwing they may want to stop by center. She feels they should be together.

Director Bobertz stated that allowing for the Via de la Valle right of way and natural habitat area takes away quite a bit of land on the north and south sides of the property.

Margaret Schlesinger talked about the Founders Tribute and how this fits in. She thinks the River Park should consider this at the same time as the building.

Phil Pryde said the group should be careful about making too many changes. Funders may wonder about seriousness and vision.

Dianne Coombs says the site is perfect as it will tuck in and relate well to the Ranger office and Birdwing. She noted that the issue of honoring people is not included in the master plan.

John Kowalski agrees with the size issue and likes options. He would like to see room for expansion later in the plans. Build small at this time and have room to expand later.

Chair Golich stated that no motion needed to be made and that Deputy Director Carter has heard the suggestions.

b. Naming Opportunities

No discussion.

INFORMATION

3. Park Project Status (oral)

a. Ranger Station

Deputy Director Carter stated that we have submitted this to the Coastal Commission and we have received comments back from them.

b. Founders Tribute

Deputy Director Carter stated that the first meeting was held. Need to determine if the current name list is valid. The committee will get started on oral histories on the individuals.

c. Pamo Valley Trail

Deputy Director Carter stated that this has been submitted to City and the City has come back with comments that are not too restrictive. Staff will respond to them and resubmit.

d. Osuna Valley Bridge

Deputy Director Carter said this is a new and exciting project. One of the gaps in the Coast to Crest Trail is from the Polo field property to the Morgan Run Golf Course. The route requires crossing the river to the south to continue going east. The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy has funded a feasibility study to install a bridge (Osuna Valley Bridge). The study will determine where the best place is to put bridge and cost. The engineering firm Kleinfelder, Simon Wong has been hired to complete the feasibility study.

e. Other

Another new item is the River Path Extension being studied by the City of Del Mar from Grand Avenue Bridge to Jimmy Durante Boulevard. Supervisor Roberts provided a \$150,000 grant to the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy with \$70,000 matching funds earned so far for this study.

The meeting in December is to be determined and the meeting in January may be other than the day after New Year's Day.

Adjournment

Chair Golich adjourned the meeting at 12:27 p.m.