

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of January 6, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeff Barnouw
Phil Pryde
Linda Oster
Don Wendt
Jim Lyon
Liz Gabrych
Dorothy McLin
Ruth Coddington
Ben Hillebrecht
Carol Carr
Mid Hoppenrath
Dave Kreitzer
Bill Michalsky
Colleen Bradley
Arthur Schmitz
Jacqueline Winterer
Brant Bassett
Terry Badger

REPRESENTING

CAC, Chair
Audubon Society
Del Dios Town Council
Equestrian - Ramona Trails Association
Friends of Sikes Adobe
League of Women Voters
Lomas Serenas Property Owners
Rancho Bernardo Community Planning Board
San Diego City Agricultural Advisory Board
San Diego County Bicycle Coalition
San Dieguito Planning Group
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Sierra Club
Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation
Eastern Property Owner
Coastal Property Owner
Central Property Owner
Central Property Owner

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Kevin McKernan
Shawna Anderson
Brenda Miller
Leana Bulay

San Dieguito River Park JPA
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Roll Call and Introductions

Chair Barnouw convened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. at the San Rafael Parish. Roll call was taken with individual introductions and the organization they were representing. A quorum was met with 18 in attendance.

Approval of Minutes- October 7, 2016

Phil Pryde moved to approve the minutes of October 7, 2016 and Bill Michalsky seconded the motion. All in favor except Jacqueline Winterer, who abstained.

Chair's Report

Chair Barnouw would like to restate the first page of the meeting agenda. Chair Barnouw feels that some of the language is not necessary and would like to cut out everything before the sentence "The Chair cannot start the meeting until a quorum is present." All members agreed to this change.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director McKernan welcomed everyone and reported that a new ranger 1 has been hired. Her name is Hilary Mills and she will begin Monday, January 9, 2017. Hilary was chosen out of 60 applicants and will work primarily in the San Pasqual Valley. There are three new JPA board members: Barbara Bry replacing Sherri Lightner for the City of San Diego, Dwight Worden replacing Don Mosier for the City of Del Mar and Kristin Gaspar replacing Dave Roberts, Supervisor of the County of San Diego. The first JPA board meeting of the year will be January 20.

Public Comment

Mid Hoppenrath with the San Dieguito Planning Group reported about a new development is being planned in Harmony Grove and the developers are asking for a County general plan amendment. The developers would like a portion of Harmony Grove to be removed from the Old San Dieguito Community Plan. Ms. Hoppenrath stated that if the development goes through it would excuse them from local regulations and the need for mitigation. She stated that this has never been done before and wanted to make all of the members aware of this plan. The public comment period ends January 30. The subject area is north of Del Dios, is in the watershed and outside of the JPA Focused Planning Area. The Old San Dieguito Community Plan is a rural plan, 125 years old and requires one to two acre lots. This development plan is for higher density housing. The County Board of Supervisors will make the decision. Ms. Hoppenrath provided a copy of the official notice to Shawna. The JPA cannot respond to this action.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Committee Reports

a. Project Review Committee

Principal Planner Shawna Anderson reported that the committee met in November and a presentation was given by the Milan group property owners. The property is next to the polo fields on Via de la Valle. The notice of preparation for E.I.R. has just been released and the PRC will continue to be involved. The PRC has information on a scoping meeting for this project. The project is being presented as non-urban and therefore would not require a public vote as required by proposition A. The PRC has the option of attending the meeting or can send in a letter voicing areas of concern. The issue of raising the property out of the flood plain was discussed. The next PRC meeting will be held January 23rd.

b. Trails Committee

Carol Carr reported the results of the second zip code survey. Three volunteers conducted the survey at the San Dieguito Lagoon, the Sunset Drive Parking area and Bernardo Bay. Of the 216 people surveyed, 80% were frequent trail users and 20% visited less than four times a year. The trail users came from 23 different cities, with the City of San Diego 26%, Escondido 24%, Del Mar 10%, San Marcos 7%, Solana Beach 6%, Oceanside 6%, the remaining cities made up the

remaining 21%. The results were similar to the survey in April 2016. Chair Barnouw reported on his survey at the Lagoon Trail and Executive Director McKernan thanked the Trails Committee for doing these surveys. Trail patrollers report that approximately 50% of trail users are on bikes. The next Trails Committee meeting will be February 14 12:30 pm, at the River Park office.

c. Interpretation Committee

Leana Bulay, Manager of Interpretation and Outreach reported that at the last CAC meeting the mission statement of the Interpretation Committee was presented. Ms. Bulay presented a committee agenda with a list of possible committee member names. The ad hoc committee that was established for monuments in the park was incorporated into this committee. Bill Michalsky and Liz Gabrych asked for their names to be included in the list. A list of committee projects including the Founders Tribute and scholarship information is also available. The JPA received a grant in the amount of \$47,000 for a Founders Tribute recommend by Supervisor Roberts and the County Board of Supervisors. The funds for this project must be used within one year from February 2017. The Founders Tribute is to honor the people who started the concept of the San Dieguito River Park and will be a tribute as a monument at one location. A Founders Tribute planning committee was started two years ago with members of the CAC and community with Susan Carter as the chair. Shawna Anderson will be managing the project and will work with the original Founders Committee as well as the Interpretation Committee. The planned site will be near the future ranger station at the lagoon. Ms. Anderson stated that another aspect of the project is a video of interviews and information about the early days. The video may be used on the park website or at the future ranger station /or nature center. Leana Bulay will set the meeting date and location. The proposed members are: Carol Carr, Jeff Barnouw, Bill Michalsky, Liz Gabrych, Jacqueline Winterer, Leana Bulay, Tom Cook, Shawna Anderson and Terry Badger.

INFORMATION

2. Park Project Status

a. Coastal Ranger Station

Principal Planner Shawna Anderson reported that she and Executive Director McKernan will be meeting with the value engineer and architect. The original bids were sent to small group of contractors with only two bids returned and both were high dollar amounts. A cost estimator was hired and the job is valued at over \$1,000,000. A meeting is scheduled with the architect to determine if the design can be changed to bring the cost down closer to the JPA budget of \$750,000. Building costs are very high now however, staff will send the job out again to get more bids. The building design is unique, not extravagant. The project is 2400 feet including the garage and is a modest structure. The Dust Devil volunteers can do the landscaping to cut costs.

b. Pamo Valley Trail

Principal Planner Shawna Anderson reported that staff is very close to getting the grading permit from City of San Diego. Staff is waiting for the final approval from the Army Corps of Engineers and has not received the signed contract with the State of California to begin the project.

Executive Director McKernan clarified that a Riverscape article misstated that construction has begun on the project. The staging area is being permitted by the City of San Diego. There will be several small wooden bridges and the plan is to use the road bridges to cross two main creeks.

The subject of opening the gates on lower Santa Ysabel Road was discussed and John Barone agreed to look in to this issue. The gates stop horses and vehicles although hikers can go through the gates. The River Park Staff will maintain the Pamo Trail.

c. Horse Park Trail

Executive Director McKernan presented the issue to the 22nd DAA board to let them know that River Park staff was trying to get the trail connected and that staff had identified that a bridge could be installed and that the Coastal Commission would approve the plan. The 22nd DAA board went on a site visit and told their staff that they were not in favor of the bridge plan and asked the 22nd DAA staff to determine the best way to fix the blowout. The River Park staff is on hold waiting for the 22nd DAA to let us know what their solution will be. The horse park runoff water has also been diverted to ease the erosion.

d. W19 Lagoon Restoration

Principal Planner Shawna Anderson reported that an update will be given to the JPA board this month. The San Dieguito River Park JPA is the lead agency on the EIR that will be going out for public review this February. It is planned that construction will begin on the restoration at the end of 2018. The project design has not changed since it was last presented. Ms. Anderson reported that there is a plan for a new trail in this project. The new trail will connect the Dust Devil Nature Trail north along the west end of the restoration project west of El Camino Real. When the City of San Diego puts in the road bridge on El Camino Real, the trail will cross the river and connect to the Coast to Crest Trail and will be included in the restoration. The engineers and consultants have been working together to make sure the SCE restoration will not be negatively impacted. Fifteen acres of the W19 project is mitigation for the building of the bridge on El Camino Real. Unrelated to the W19 project, it was reported that the new owners of the Fairbanks Ranch Country Club, the Bay Club, are required to perform mitigation as part of the lease terms.

3. Communications – Phil Pryde announced that he will be hosting an introductory birding course this spring which is being sponsored by the San Diego River Park Foundation. Dr. Pryde offered to send the information to interested parties or information can be found at the San Diego

River Foundation website under Events. The classes will be held at Tecolote Nature Center beginning March 4th. Executive Director McKernan announced the Sikes Saturday Series kick off tomorrow, January 7th. The series will run every Saturday through the end of April. Executive Director McKernan thanked the Friends of Sikes Adobe for their support. He also thanked Leana Bulay and David Vidal for their hard work.

Adjournment

Chair Barnouw adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am with Terry Badger making the motion and Phil Pryde seconding the motion to adjourn.

DRAFT