

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of February 1, 2013**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Golich
Jim Kuhlken
Phil Pryde
Jan Fuchs
Judy Swink
Linda Oster
Jeff Barnouw
Jack Shelver
Margaret Schlesinger
Carol Carr
Michael Ahlering
Alice Brown
Mid Hoppenrath
Rand Newman
John Ingalls
Bill Michalsky
Pat Whitt
Colleen Bradley
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 Three
Del Dios Town Council
Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Julian Community Planning Group
League of Women Voters
San Diego County Bicycle Coalition
San Diego Wild Animal Park
San Dieguito Lagoon Committee
San Dieguito Planning Group
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Santa Fe Irrigation District
Sierra Club
Torrey Pines Community Planning Group
Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation
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
Shawna Anderson	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Jan Lines	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Linda Culp	SANDAG
Leana Bulay	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Dave Kreitzer	Self
Elayna Flanders	SDRP Volunteer/Intern
Mo Kantner	Office of Councilmember Lightner

INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Golich convened the meeting at 10:37 a.m. at the Hope United Methodist Church, 16550 Bernardo Heights Parkway, Rancho Bernardo.

Roll Call and Introductions

Deputy Director Susan Carter took the roll call. A quorum was met. There were 21 in attendance

Approval of Minutes of October 5, 2012- Jacqueline Winterer made a motion to approve the minutes and Margaret Schlesinger seconded. All in favor

Chair's Report- Chair Golich reported on business from the JPA meeting in December where a grant was obtained with the help of Supervisor Dave Roberts from Sycuan Band of Indians for two trailers. This grant was for \$10,000 and has provided much needed equipment for work in the park. After the JPA meeting we had a party in Tribute to Pam Slater- Price saluting her continued support of the River Park for 20 years. Mr. Golich announced that the nominating committee has recommended Jim Cunningham for the 2013 Chair and Lesa Heebner as vice chair. These nominations will become official at the February meeting.

Executive Director's Report- Director Bobertz stated that the other grants that we have received were \$5000 from the American Society of Landscape Architects for a site plan for Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead, \$40,000 from the San Diego Foundation in cooperation with the Conservancy for a Citizens Science program to begin monitoring different aspects of the River Park. \$227,000 was received from Supervisor Pam Slater- Price for the Lagoon Trailside Open Air Classroom. Mr. Bobertz said that the Conservancy is fundraising for the final part of the funding for the Open Air Classroom and we will be reporting on that project later today. Funding from the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program through Supervisor Slater-Price's office was granted to us for a new ranger truck in the amount of \$25K. Director Bobertz was pleased to announce that he and Supervisor Dave Roberts and Councilmember Jim Cunningham had a meeting with the new Mayor Filner to discuss restoring the funding to the River Park and the mayor has agreed to include the funding in his 2013/14 budget which will have to be approved by the City Council. Mayor Filner has asked us to submit a list of projects that would be implemented if the city of San Diego repaid the past three years of back assessments that were eliminated from our funding in 2009. Mr. Bobertz stated that the River Park has been in a lawsuit against the 22nd Ag District over the fairgrounds EIR along with the City of Solana Beach and Del Mar. That suit has been settled and the previous Consent Decree that was presented to the Coastal Commission took care of most of the River Park concerns and the lawsuit completed the issues.

Public Comment Phil Pryde said that there have been three new birds sighted in the wetland area. The new bird sighting included the American Golden Plover, Tropical Kingbird and the Thick Billed Kingbird. Mr. Pryde said that this area was not always known as a place for bird watchers to go but since the restoration it has been a haven for bird watching.

Cory Ha'o said the Protect San Dieguito River Valley Coalition which was formed to protect open spaces has significantly slowed down the progress of the Rancho Del Mar project. This project has been highly contested due to Prop A and the protected open space that was approved many years ago. Mr. Ha'o said that the coalition is proposing a fundraiser to help pay for the attorney fees that were paid out to help stop this project.

Bill Michalsky reported that the red tent at the Fairgrounds was sold at auction and it will be dismantled.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Committee Reports

- a. Project Review Committee (oral report)- Jan Fuchs said that the PRC is monitoring a Site Development Permit for the proposed expansion of the veterinarian hospital on El Camino Real. Ms. Fuchs said that Supervisor Dave Roberts was invited to the PRC's holiday party and he attended, plus Mayor Filner attended a Carmel Valley Board meeting showing interest in the concerns of the committee. Jacqueline Winterer said that there was no new information about the Rancho Del Mar at this time and she hopes this project will be denied a permit. It was reported that there is no information on the lease extension for the polo field which is a concern to us. The next meeting of the PRC will be on Monday, Feb 25th at 1:30 at Fairbanks Ranch.
 - b. Trails Committee (oral report)- Carol Carr said that the Trails Committee has been looking for places to put benches along the trails. On a field trip to the Santa Fe Valley Trail two sites were selected for benches and one for the picnic table. There were two bike racks made for the Dust Devil Trails by Boy Scouts. The long awaited Horsepark Trail is now open which adds a ½ mile section of trail and connects to El Camino Real. Ms Carr said that Tekada Pharmaceuticals had a work party of 150 people and planted 1000 trees in the Del Dios Gorge in cooperation with the Conservancy which was in charge of the project . Ms. Carr was pleased to announce that the Trail Patrol has contributed 300 hours and 400 patrol logs to monitor the trails in the park. The trail markers have been installed for 3 miles from Jimmy Durante Blvd.and the newly installed entry monument looks great.
2. Double-Tracking and Seasonal Platform Presentation- SANDAG- Linda Culp of SANDAG (619-699-6957 linda.culp@sandag.org) gave a PowerPoint presentation and spoke about the Caltrans North Coast Corridor Highway and Rail Improvements Project. This project will extend for 27 miles and go through 6 cities at a cost of 6.5 billion dollars. Ms. Culp reported on the double track rail system and their projected completion date of 2030. Due to the deterioration of most of the bridges along this corridor they will have to replace them and there is a proposed tunnel that will go through Del Mar. The goal of the double-tracking project is to get cars off the road. It will improve tidal flow in the lagoon when the bridge is replaced. It was reported that there will be a Special Events Platform constructed at the fairgrounds to bring patrons to events such as horseracing and the San Diego County Fair. A question was asked as to why it would take so long for the project to be completed and Ms. Culp said that the funding is holding up the project's completion timeline. At this time they only have \$400 million to complete the second tier and will look for future funding sources. Ms. Culp said that any questions about the project can be addressed to www.keepsandiegomoving.com/sddt and that they would be happy to come back and speak about the project anytime.

Chair Golich thanked Ms. Culp for the presentation.

INFORMATION

3. Citizen Science Grant Presentation- Leana Bulay, SDRP Interpretive Ranger- Interpretive Ranger Leana Bulay showed a PowerPoint presentation and spoke about the 2012 grant from the San Diego Foundation which will be implemented in cooperation with the Conservancy. Ms. Bulay said that in the past we have used Citizen Scientists to do some water quality testing with the help of Coastkeeper at the lagoon, but that this Citizen Science Grant will allow us to expand that effort significantly - to map and monitor open space, agricultural/ranching space and watershed areas. We will be assessing our priorities so that we can train volunteers to span the vast FPA that the River Park oversees. Part of the monitoring will include vegetation type, class and habitat type and ecosystem in the watershed along with wildlife crossings. In the future all this information can be analyzed and published for future projects and to better assess our needs in different areas of the park. Ms. Bulay said that we hope to work with students at local schools to encourage them to take an interest in the environment and create future naturalists. Ms. Bulay introduced our intern Elayna Flanders who has done many hours of monitoring in the park and will be determining our priorities in getting started with this important project. An app will help us with the research and we will be recruiting volunteers to help with the implementation of this monitoring.

4. 22nd DAA Coastal Development Permit Update- Deputy Director Carter said that when the Coastal Commission and Ag District agreed on the Consent Decree there were a number of things that the Ag District had to comply with. One item was to submit a Coastal Development Permit application within 6 months for the activities that the Ag District wants to do in the east overflow lot and golf driving range. In the decree the Ag District has agreed to restore the south overflow lot to wetlands and will be doing some development in the east lot, which would have to be approved by the Coastal Commission. Ms. Carter said that the Ag District has submitted a Wetland Delineation report to the Coastal Commission which shows the wetlands in the east overflow lot area. At this time the Coastal Commission has not accepted the submitted documents. Jacqueline Winterer said that the Ag District has appropriated a million dollars for restoring the western half of the south over flow lot. Ranger Bulay reported that the rangers will be moving into an office at the fairgrounds as dictated by the Consent Order and will use that site as an interim location until a permanent office is established that is closer to the trails and more accessible by the public. Director Bobertz said that the Fairgrounds Master Plan has to go through a review process because the Sierra Club won on a few points and the Ag District will resubmit the EIR for public review.

5. Park Project Status
 - a. Lagoon Trailside Open Air Classroom- Deputy Director Carter reported that the Lagoon Trailside Open Air Classroom proposal will be going to the Coastal Commission for approval. Ms. Carter showed a map of the first part of the project which has gone out to bid for the rough grading of the ADA trail leading to the amphitheater and the landings with a dry stream bed. Ms. Carter said that we must get the first part of the project done before bird nesting season on March 15 and then start back up in September ready for construction. In September we will have obtained the permit for fine grading, seating and the shade structure. She reported that we ran into a snag with the Coastal Commission's requirement that we keep the shade structure below the upper trail and out of sight from Via de la Valle. That meant that the structure must be no higher than 56 foot elevation, which caused us to redesign the plans to lower it.

Rand Newman said that the Conservancy funded the design of the Open Air Classroom and stated that they have been offered a donation from a real estate company which has a

proposed project that we might object to in the future. The Conservancy would like to take the donation but feels that this might be a conflict of interest situation.

- b. Bridge Lighting- Deputy Director Carter said that the lighting on the Dave Kreitzer/Lake Hodges bridge has not been working for the last 3 years. Recently we have reached conceptual agreement with Caltrans, SDG&E and the City of San Diego that we hope will enable us to get an electrical system connected to a power source in the near future. We will need to obtain a permit from Caltrans to complete the project, and a written reimbursement agreement with the City of San Diego.
 - c. Santa Ysabel Store- Deputy Director Carter urged everyone to visit the newly restored Santa Ysabel Store which was recently purchased by SOHO (Save Our Heritage Organisation) and jointly run by the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy, San Diego River Park Foundation, Volcan Mountain Foundation, Wildlife Research Institute and Anza Borrego Foundation. We have programs going on each weekend. The Conservancy's weekend is the 3rd weekend of the month, and they have a schedule of speakers who will give lectures on different topics.
6. Communications- Our next CAC meeting is scheduled for April 5th.

Adjournment Chair Golich adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.