

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of June 6, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Golich
Phil Pryde
Deborah DeBow
Jan Fuchs
Diane Coombs
Linda Oster
Margaret Schlesinger
Dorothy McLin
John Kowalski
Ben Hillebrecht
Carol Carr
Bob McClure
Mid Hoppenrath
John Ingalls
Bill Michalsky
Colleen Bradley
Arthur Schmitz
Jacqueline Winterer
Cory Ha'o
Terry Badger

REPRESENTING

CAC, Chair
Audubon Society
California Native Plant Society
Carmel Valley Planning Board
Citizens Coordinate for Century 3
Del Dios Town Council
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 Diego Zoo, Safari Park
San Dieguito Planning Group
Santa Fe Irrigation District
Sierra Club
Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation
Eastern Property Owner
Coastal 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
Brenda Miller	San Dieguito River Park JPA

Roll Call and Introductions

Chair Golich convened the meeting at 9:36 a.m. at the San Rafael Parish, 17252 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo.

Deputy Director Susan Carter took the roll call. A quorum was met with 16 in attendance

Approval of Minutes- April 4, 2014 - Jacqueline Winterer made a motion to approve the minutes with the following correction; page 5, Information, 3. SANDAG "W-19" Wetland Restoration at the San Dieguito Lagoon approximately halfway down the paragraph it should read "California Fish & Wildlife Services does not like the use of berms. California Fish & Wildlife states the berms look engineered and would like to see a design that does not use berms or only the use of berms in certain areas." Bill Michalsky seconded. All in favor unanimously.

Chair's Report Chair Golich said there would be a discussion regarding the City of San Diego's membership as a result of the meeting with Mayor Faulconer. The JPA Board passed the proposed 2014-2015 budget. The only other issue is the City of San Diego Development Service's Department's bill for engineering services for the work done on the Lake Hodges Bridge, which is being taken to mediation.

Executive Director's Report - Director Bobertz reported that we have been busy. The Birdwing open air classroom was dedicated on May 13th. It was well attended and everyone was quite impressed with the new facility. It has created the potential to bring school children and the community to learn about the lagoon. Director Bobertz stressed the importance of making the community aware of who and what the San Dieguito River Park is, in order to keep the Park going. Last Sunday at the Birdwing we had a volunteer appreciation event to thank all of our volunteers. Last Wednesday we had the dedication of the reconstructed Sikes Adobe Creamery. Supervisor Dave Roberts spoke at all three events.

A handout was given out about the EARTH 8 eco-ambassadors program. The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and the River Park are one of 8 finalists for this prestigious recognition and the chance to win up to \$25,000.00. The winner will be picked by a vote of the public. The handout has the link to vote: cbs8.com/ecoambassadors. You can vote once a day per device. The voting runs from 9 a.m., June 13, 2014 through noon July 2, 2014. The River Park and the Conservancy were chosen for the environmental programs we have such as; Connecting People with Nature, Lagoon Days, Citizen Science Monitoring and the free educational programs at the Birdwing Open Air Classroom.

Public Comment

No reports or comment.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Committee Reports

a. Project Review Committee

i. Ranger Station (Maintenance Building)

Chair Golich asked the CAC to consider a recommendation for the JPA Board to go forward with the plans for the Coast Ranger Station. Chair Golich asked Principal Planner Shawna Anderson to present an update on the project. Shawna showed drawings for the first Ranger Station in the Park. It will also have our first public restroom. The Ranger Station will be located at the northwestern edge of the restoration disposal fill site (DS32) that parallels Via de la Valle. Entrance will be via San Andres. When the wetlands restoration was planned it included the "park maintenance building" (Ranger Station) and a nature center. The proposed Ranger Station will be 1400 SF with an attached 1000 SF garage. The building will have space for ranger offices, interior work area, meeting room, employee restroom and a public restroom. Shawna said it will be a simple, single story structure made with fire resistant materials. The permit application for Substantial Conformance Review was submitted to the City of San Diego on June

5. A coastal development permit will also be applied for. There was discussion on porch shade, rolled asphalt on the sides of the building, the road, entrance and solar panels and shade.

Phil Pryde made the motion that the CAC endorse the basic concept of the design and included that the staff study the use of solar panels on this project. Second by Margaret Schlesinger. All in favor unanimously.

b. Trails Committee

Carol Carr reported on the work to find the best trail route at Lake Sutherland. She said that Jason Lopez, Park Resource Manager, says that he identified a route, but a large bridge would be needed below the dam. The challenge is that the trail and bridge are required to be a substantial distance from the dam. The trail route to the bridge site has been identified and the trail will follow what is left of some old roads, making it less expensive to build. There are a lot of steps before construction can begin.

2. CAC Review of Items Addressed by the JPA Board

Chair Golich asked that we review attachment 1 in the packet and determine if there is a need to appoint a subcommittee.

Director Bobertz reported that at the last JPA board meeting a Board member questioned if all appropriate items were being reviewed by the CAC. Attachment 1 is a list of all JPA agenda items for the 2013-2014 year noting whether they were reviewed by the CAC. Director Bobertz read the CAC bylaws (Section II A and Section II B.4) which broadly says that the CAC should advise the JPA on virtually all matters. Director Bobertz stated that staff would like to know if the CAC has been given the chance to see all items they would like to see before items are taken to the JPA board for approval. Director Bobertz asked everyone to look at attachment 1 and asked for an evaluation. Chair Golich opened the floor for discussion. Comments were made regarding: having a longer CAC meeting to cover more business, the urgency of responding quickly as in the letter from the San Pasqual Band about the Piedras Pintadas Pictographs, the issue of meeting every other month which can make it difficult to coordinate bringing all items forward. With respect to the budget, several members felt that the CAC should review the budget because that is where spending priorities are made. Suggestions included having staff review the budget and make a report to CAC, have a CAC budget review committee or attending the JPA budget subcommittee meeting. Consensus appeared to be that with the exception of urgent items, all items as may be obligated under the bylaws should come to the CAC, with administrative items being put on the consent agenda, and that some CAC members should participate on the JPA Budget Committee.

Jan Fuchs made the comment that the CAC supports the way the letter to Mayor Faulconer was handled and Dave Roberts deserves a pat on the back. She said she supports the way this emergency action was handled.

Chair Golich said he takes away three points which he will report to the JPA Board.

1. have a small group look at the budget before the CAC meeting
2. have CAC members, not Chair Golich sit in on the JPA budget subcommittee meeting
3. Look at more items besides the budget – some of the other items are important also

John Kowalsky said he would be willing to be on a CAC budget subcommittee.

Chair Golich stated that perhaps a couple members could review budget ahead or have a couple members sit in on budget meeting.

3. Coastal Commission Staff Letter re Proposed Removal/Elimination of Lagoon Boardwalk

Director Bobertz stated that the Cities of Solana Beach and Del Mar, the Conservancy and the San Dieguito River Park sent letters stating that the California Coastal Commission staff does not have the authority to require that the Boardwalk be removed. The Coastal Commission staff letter in the agenda packet says they have power to require the Boardwalk be removed based on Coastal Commission's previous actions, and if the JPA wants to change the situation the JPA will have to file a formal application to change the conditional use permit that approved the Boardwalk in the first place. The result that the San Dieguito River Park staff is looking for support for the JPA to bring this issue before the California Coastal Commission so that this decision will be made after full public discussion. The issue will go forward to the next JPA board meeting to ask for the board's direction to file an application to amend the conditional use permit for the Boardwalk.

Chair Golich asked for a motion to support staff's position to get this on the Coastal Commission's agenda. Shawna Anderson clarified that Coastal Commission staff would want the Boardwalk removed not moved. Jan Fuchs added that the Rotary Club made it their 100th anniversary project and it is an insult to Rotary volunteers. The Rotary has embraced the building of the Boardwalk, the group works on the project four – five times a year and has gotten the Boy Scouts involved also. Shawna stated that the 22nd Ag District has informed her that they will not remove the Boardwalk until this matter is resolved. The next Coastal Commission meeting in San Diego will be in August.

Jacqueline Winterer made a motion to support the JPA Board sending a letter as described. Terry Badger seconded. All in favor unanimously.

4. Del Mar Request for Sea-Level Rise Planning Grant Letter of Support

Director Bobertz said this is one example of an item that may be brought to the CAC as a consent item in the future. This is a request from the City of Del Mar to provide a letter of support for a grant application they are making to do Sea-Level Rise Planning.

Bill Michalsky made a motion to recommend that the JPA Board send the Letter of Support. Phil Pryde seconded. All in favor unanimously.

5. Appointment of Committee for Founders' Tribute

Chair Golich stated that at the last JPA meeting, based on suggestions from the CAC, that the JPA decided to form a committee to discuss a founder's tribute. Chair Golich asked for volunteers that would be willing

to be on this committee. Several raised their hands to volunteer, and Chair Golich selected Margaret Schlesinger, Jacqueline Winterer, and Art Schmitz. Chair Golich said he would contact JPA Chair Roberts regarding other committee appointments.

6. Review and Comment on Items Listed in the Mayor of San Diego's May 2nd Letter

Director Bobertz discussed the Mayor of San Diego's letter, listing 9 items that need to be negotiated in order for City of San Diego to agree to sign the new JPA agreement. He continued to explain that the first item concerns voting, as the City of San Diego is seeking weighted votes (instead of the current non-weighted votes). Director Bobertz stated that regarding the other eight items, we need additional information to understand exactly what is intended. Director Bobertz explained that the JPA is not a contentious board and is almost always in agreement on all items. One example of a weighted vote is used by SANDAG. A member of SANDAG board can call for a weighted vote if they think an issue requires a more fine tuned approach to the voting members. The JPA board could do something similar. If a board member called for a weighted vote, the City of San Diego's weighted vote would be 31%, the County of San Diego would be 31%, City of Solana Beach 6%, City of Del Mar 6%, City of Escondido 13% and the City of Poway 13%, instead of the current one equal vote per Boardmember. The issue is where does the CAC Chair come in since the CAC does not make a financial contribution. They could be made ex-officio, as is the 22nd Ag District. Comments were made that the CAC does contribute greatly in the form of volunteer hours. It was expressed that the County of San Diego would also have a weighted vote, not just the City of San Diego. The comment was made that we should know what the San Diego City Council's opinion is of this issue, not just the Mayor's.

Chair Golich stated that after discussion the consensus is that the CAC is opposed to a weighted vote. If the JPA did go to a weighted vote, the CAC would like some voting representation.

Art Schmitz made the motion that the CAC is opposed to a weighted vote. Terry Badger seconded the motion. All in favor unanimously.

INFORMATION

7. Park Project Status

a. David Kreitzer Lake Hodges Bike/Ped Bridge

Deputy Director Carter stated that the solar panels are in and that the Bridge gates and lights are working.

b. Sikes Adobe Creamery – Grand Opening June 4th at 4 p.m.

Shawna showed pictures of the Sikes Adobe Creamery ribbon cutting. The Creamery is dedicated to Ron Hall's wife, Marilyn, who recently passed away.

c. Other

South Overflow Lot Restoration - Shawna showed pictures of the South Overflow lot. She pointed out Phase one of the project showing the boardwalk, channel, bridge, wetland restoration, east berm and where the excavated material was used in a low long mound along the buffer area. She showed the conceptual plan of phase two, which has the boardwalk in the

design. Ag district is saying they prepared the concept and it is approved with the boardwalk included. In the fall the Ag District will be doing more planting and hydroseeding. The wetland restoration makes the Boardwalk an even more pleasant place to walk. River Park staff is gathering information on best material to use to replace the boardwalk name plates, some of which are bending and/or otherwise deteriorating. Shawna showed a picture of the Osprey nest with young on a platform in the south overflow lot.

Shawna gave an update on the Pamo Trail. Staff has been doing more fieldwork before re-submitting permits. Staff has updated the biology and has tweaked some of the trail to avoid cultural sites. The plan has been sent to City staff to look at before officially submitting for permits.

Director Bobertz reported that there was no damage to the trails from the recent fires. The fire did burn Lusardi Creek Open Space vegetation.

There was some discussion on the new SDRP.org website that came online last week.

8. Communications

No communications to report.

Adjournment

Chair Golich adjourned the meeting at 12:15pm.

Next meeting ?