

SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK

JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Minutes of May 18, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Grosch - Chair
Kristin Gaspar – Vice-Chair
Dwight Worden
Olga Diaz
Mark Kersey
Dianne Jacob
Judy Hegenauer
Jacqueline Winterer

MEMBERS ABSENT

Barbara Bry
Dustin Fuller

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Kevin McKernan
Wayne Brechtel
Shawna Anderson
Brenda Miller
Bill Michalsky
Steve Hadley
John Barone
Deborah Mosley
Michael Meram
Adam Wilson
Leana Bulay
Shannon Ayala
Keana Oldham
Grace Wesson
Ben Stone
Kai Johnson
Don Sutton
Tim Butrum
Chris Hatch

REPRESENTING

City of Poway
County of San Diego
City of Del Mar
City of Escondido
City of San Diego
County of San Diego
City of Solana Beach
Citizens Advisory Committee

REPRESENTING

City of San Diego
22nd District Agricultural Association

San Dieguito River Park JPA
JPA Counsel
San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA
Sierra Club
San Diego City Council District 1
City of San Diego
County of San Diego
San Diego City Council District 5
County Supervisor Office District 2
San Dieguito River Park JPA
Davis-Farr
Canyon Crest Academy
Canyon Crest Academy
San Diego Mountain Bike Association
San Diego Resident
La Jolla Resident
Ramona Resident
San Diego Resident

Introduction and Announcements

Chair Grosch convened the meeting at 11:02 AM in the County Administration building, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302/303, San Diego, CA 92101

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Grosch invited all to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes of April 20, 2018

Vice-Chair Gaspar made the motion to approve the minutes of April 20, 2018 and Boardmember Kersey seconded the motion.

Yes votes: Grosch, Gaspar, Jacob, Winterer, Worden, Hegenauer, Kersey

Absent: Bry, Diaz

Executive Directors Report

Executive Director McKernan showed the newly designed Birds of Lake Hodges brochure and mentioned the new sports betting issue and the possibility of this bringing additional revenue to Del Mar Off Track Betting, Cities of Solana Beach and Del Mar, and the San Dieguito River Park.

Boardmember Diaz arrived to the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Award Presentation of Scholarships to Canyon Crest Academy Seniors, Keana Oldham and Grace Wesson

Chair Grosch awarded the first annual San Dieguito River Park JPA scholarships of \$1,000 to Keana Oldham. The scholarship awards were established by the Interpretation Committee of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Public Comment – No Public comment

ACTION AGENDA

1. **Adopt Resolution 18-2 Declaring That Governing Body Members and Volunteers Shall be Deemed to be Employees of the District For the Purpose of Providing Worker's Compensation Coverage for Said Certain Individuals While Providing Their Services**

Executive Director McKernan introduced this agenda item. The board has been covered by the JPA workers compensation policy in the past. The insurance company is now requiring a resolution to continue to provide this coverage. The Board discussed the issue and decided that any board member that does not have insurance coverage will be covered under the volunteer insurance policy.

Vice-Chair Gaspar made the motion to not adopt Resolution 18-2 and to not provide worker's compensation coverage for the San Dieguito River Park JPA Board Members. Boardmember Worden seconded the motion.

Yes votes: Grosch, Gaspar, Jacob, Winterer, Diaz, Worden, Hegenauer, Kersey

Absent: Bry

2. Adopt Revised Personnel Policy

Executive Director McKernan explained the changes of chapter III of the employee personnel policy.

Boardmember Worden made the motion to adopt the Revised Personnel Policy. Boardmember Hegenauer seconded the motion.

Yes votes: Grosch, Gaspar, Jacob, Winterer, Diaz, Worden, Hegenauer, Kersey

Absent: Bry

3. Scoping Questions/Concerns for Proposed Orosco Ridge Mountain Bike Trail System

Principal Planner Shawna Anderson introduced this subject as proposed by the Cleveland National Forest, Palomar Ranger District staff with comments due by May 25, 2018. It is a project that is proposed for the west side of Pamo Valley (previously used as an outdoor shooting area), with a partnership of the Forest Service and the San Diego Mountain Biking Association (SDMBA). The SDMBA and Forest Service brought the project to the CAC Trails Committee in 2017. In the agenda packet is a draft list of comments that will be included in a comment letter to the Forest Service regarding this project. Part of the San Dieguito River Park's mission is recreation so the JPA is not opposed to mountain bike trails. This specific trail is not a typical mountain bike trail and is a unique mountain bike experience. The Forest Service proposal is not specific and has little detail. The Board discussed issues of; how the trails will be constructed, info on sensitive habitat in the area, biological surveys, the project will fall under a "categorical exclusion under NEPA", some scoping has been done, the project does need to be designed and managed right, are competitions planned, this is an opportunity to get ahead of any problems, it will be a popular destination, there needs to be designated parking, the rules need to be enforced, The JPA, Forest Service, and SDMBA need to have a partnership to make sure there are no problems with parking, rule enforcement, and operating hours. Speaker 1- Ben Stone, VP of SDMBA and project manager said the SDMBA enjoys the association with JPA staff, the members love the park, and the proposed letter has a negative connotation. Mr. Stone stated how many trails have been built in the County and named other areas of support including crowd sourcing funds for this project of \$72,000. Mr. Stone continued to report that SDMBA members are paying Forest Service staff time for this project and named all of the specialists that will be involved with the project. Eighty parking spots have been identified, the SDMBA will fund the maintenance of the road to the project, a modified plan is in place to draw people to the top of the hill, identified locations for trash and porta potties, and would like to see the CAC work with the Forest Service on this and future projects. Speaker - 2 Tim Butrum thanked Supervisor Jacob for her work in the Ramona area and said this project is different from Cedar Creek Falls in that the visitors to this project will be more recreational, The SDMBA members will be observing the area for people in trouble, illegal dumping, sees the positive nature of this project, and would like to see mountain biking trails in Ramona allowing the Ramona High School team to train in their community. Speaker - 3 Chris Hatch donated money to this project and has no problem with the questions or concerns written in document, just the tone. Mr. Hatch stated that the letter does not take into account that this area is currently unsupervised and accessible to anyone that wants to go to this location. Mr. Hatch stated that he would like the positive aspect noted. Speaker - 4 Don Sutton, retired UCSD researched and has lived in the County for many years taking advantage of

the County resources, stated that this is a tremendous opportunity, especially in the Ramona area where there are not many trails. Mr. Hatch is asking the JPA to take a neutral stance and said that a lot of concerns raised in letter are legitimate, the project is in the early planning stage and all of the answers are not known yet, there are no cause for concern, and asked to reconsider writing the letter with a more positive spin. Speaker – 5 Kai Johnson avid mountain biker thinks this is a fantastic opportunity for County.

Boardmember Jacob said that the County has developed a good relationship with the SDMBA. The SDMBA sticks with a project, maintains and patrols. Wants to make sure there is adequate parking and is not in favor of sending a letter, rather sitting down and working it out. This is a unique partnership. Boardmember Jacob recommends not sending letter. E.D McKernan responded that there have been sit downs and questions have not been answered, the letter is in response to the Forest Service project comment deadline of May 25. The Forest Service representatives that have met with are the acting director and recreation department staff; Lee Ham and Joey Martin, and more. Principal Planner Shawna Anderson added that JPA staff would like to continue to meet with Forest Service staff and SDMBA however this is the only opportunity to officially express concerns in writing. Previous communications have not addressed any of the questions written in the letter. Vice-Chair Gaspar would like to see letter modified to add expansion of more recreational opportunities and stated that she has worked with the SDMBA and wants letter to reflect that the JPA wants to be supportive of these opportunities so there is a balance of positive benefits as well as concerns and questions. Principal Planner Shawna Anderson said the letter can be written to show support. Chair Grosch spoke about the dedication of the SDMBA and care for the land. Boardmember Diaz said the tone of the letter did not strike her as negative, it is what the JPA does, the JPA staff's standard process of reviewing projects and expressing concerns, partly to get on record and partly to get answers. The letter is not taking objection to the SDMBA effort. Ms. Diaz continued to say that this public land should have public benefit and if it is as popular as reported, 80 parking spots is not enough. The concerns listed are legitimate concerns and if the JPA staff did not express them, staff would not be doing their job. Ms. Diaz stated appreciation for the SDMBA generosity, the comments are not personal, suggests making the matter as pleasant and professional as possible. Ms. Diaz does not object to the letter and agrees it should say support in context. Boardmember Worden said he supports the project and would like to see the letter be rewritten to add an introductory statement that the project falls within our mission, we want to see the project go forward, and the concerns need to be addressed.

After discussion Boardmember Worden made the motion that the Board is on record in support of the project, it falls within our mission, a good project for the area, and if it goes forward the JPA needs to have the questions answered and JPA staff will work with Forest Service and SDMBA to resolve any issues. A sub-committee of Boardmember Jacob, Chair Grosch and JPA staff has been appointed to redraft the letter, authorizing Chair Grosch to sign the letter and that the letter be sent by the deadline. Boardmember Hegenauer seconded the motion.

Yes votes: Grosch, Gaspar, Jacob, Winterer, Diaz, Worden, Hegenauer, Kersey

Absent: Bry

4. Receive and Distribute Third Party Audit Report for Year Ending June 30, 2017

Shannon Ayala, Senior Manager with Davis Farr presented the audit for year ending June 30, 2017. The audit issued an unmodified opinion, the highest level possible. There were no items of non-compliance. The audit adjustments were listed and the audit staff recommends that the JPA hire a CPA to reconcile records on a quarterly basis and prepare year end adjusting entries. Boardmember Winterer asked where the donations came from. Executive Director McKernan reported that the JPA was listed as a beneficiary of the Akin Family trust. Boardmember Worden asked if the JPA should be concerned that the revenues are going down and the expenses are going up. E.D McKernan explained that it is the way the numbers are recorded differently in the audit and the reports that are made to the board on a quarterly basis are the actual income and expenses. Ms. Ayala was asked if she saw anything of concern and she answered no. Boardmember Kersey said the investments looked like they did better than the previous year. Executive Director McKernan said that Rancho Santa Fe Foundation does a good job of managing funds and that it was a good investment year overall. The difference between budgets and audits was commented on and the unearned income was from the County of San Diego paying their assessment early.

Vice-Chair Gaspar made the motion to receive and distribute the third party audit report for year ending June 30, 2017. Boardmember Kersey seconded the motion.

Yes votes: Grosch, Gaspar, Jacob, Winterer, Diaz, Worden, Hegenauer, Kersey

Absent: Bry

Vice-Chair Gaspar left the meeting at 12:05 PM

Chair Grosch awarded the first annual San Dieguito River Park JPA scholarship of \$1,000 to Grace Wesson.

INFORMATION**5. Project Status Updates**

a. Founders Tribute – Principal Planner Shawna Anderson reported that the foundation for the art piece will be installed next week with the art being installed in early June. A small unveiling will be held. The video premier is being planned.

b. Pamo Valley Trail – Principal Planner Shawna Anderson reported that the trail is under construction.

c. Coastal Ranger Station – Principal Planner Shawna Anderson reported that the JPA will be going out to bid on this project soon. The permit can be pulled at this time.

6. Coordination Reports

- a. San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy- No Report
- b. Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley- No Report
- c. Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation- No Report
- d. San Dieguito Lagoon Committee-No Report
- e. Friends of Sikes Adobe- No Report

7. Jurisdictional Status Reports - Dwight Worden commented that future agenda items may be renaming W-19 and looking at the policy of no e-bikes on the Coast to Crest Trail. The current policy is no motorized vehicles except for accessibility.

8. Communications

Chair Grosch adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

These minutes approved by Board Action

8/1/2018

Date



Executive Director