

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of April 16, 2010**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Earnest -Chair
Sherri Lightner -Vice Chair
Dave Roberts
Pam Slater-Price
Dianne Jacob
Carl DeMaio
Tom Golich
Becky Bartling

REPRESENTING

City of Del Mar
City of San Diego
City of Solana Beach
County of San Diego
County of San Diego
City of San Diego
Citizens Advisory Committee
22 District Agricultural Association

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Wayne Brechtel	JPA Counsel
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
John Degenfelder	Ramona Trails Association
Arvie Degenfelder	Self

Introduction and Announcements

Chair Earnest convened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. in the County Administration Building, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302/303, San Diego, CA 92101.

Boardmember Golich introduced the CAC member in attendance as John Degenfelder.

Chair Earnest announced two events that the River Park will be hosting, first, the Volunteer Appreciation Event will be held at the Bandy Canyon Ranch at noon on May 8th, 2010 and the reopening event for the Sikes Adobe Farmstead will be held on June 26, 2010 at 10:00 am. He encouraged everyone to attend these events.

Approval of Minutes of March 9th, 2010

Boardmember Roberts made a motion to approve the minutes of March 9th, 2010 and Boardmember Lightner seconded the motion. All in favor

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Bobertz said that the River Park has 3 more awards to accept for the David Kreitzer Lake Hodges Bridge. Locally the American Society of Civil Engineers will be having a ceremony on May 15, 2010 at the San Diego Marriott La Jolla. Mr. Bobertz encouraged any boardmembers who wished to

attend this ceremony to let him know. We have also been nominated for the California Transportation Foundation for Pedestrian/ Bicycle Project of the Year and the winner will be announced on May 19th, 2010 and a ceremony will be in Sacramento. On the consent calendar today we are asking the boardmembers to authorize Board member Roberts to attend and represent the JPA Board at the American Council of Engineering Companies Award Ceremony in Washington, D.C. on April 27, 2010.

Public Comment- None

CONSENT

1. JPA Boardmember attendance at American Council of Engineering Companies Award Dinner in Washington, DC

Recommendation: Authorize JPA Board Member Roberts to attend and represent the Board at the American Council of Engineering Companies Award Ceremony in Washington, D.C. on April 27, 2010.

Boardmember Lightner made a motion to authorize Boardmember Roberts to attend and represent the JPA Board at the American Council of Engineering Companies Award Ceremony and Boardmember Slater Price seconded. All in favor

ACTION AGENDA

2. Report from Budget Committee

Recommendation: Review and Provide Direction to Staff.

Director Bobertz said that the March 30th Budget Committee meeting was cancelled but there was a meeting on March 19th with Gary Gallegos, Director of SANDAG which included Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler of Escondido, Boardmembers Slater Price and Lightner. The meeting was a good discussion on future potential funding for the River Park by the Quality of Life sales tax initiative that is planned for the ballot in 2012. Several of the Boardmembers in attendance were not encouraged by the meeting but felt that we still need to pursue the potential for future habitat management funds.

Mr. Bobertz reported on another important meeting that that was held with Mayor Sanders. Boardmember Slater-Price who was in attendance said that the nexus between the Hodges Golf Improvement Center funds and the River Park was a mitigation issue and funds should have been directed to the River Park not the San Diego Water Department. Ms. Slater-Price felt that further investigation into the documents should show where the funds need to be directed. Mayor Sanders is concerned that funding SDRP from the Water Department would subject the Water Department to criticism and legal exposure. Chair Earnest stated that he felt that the Mayor was not cognizant of how much City of San Diego property was in the FPA of the River Park. He said that the mayor stated that the budget year 2012 would not have structural deficits allowing more funding to be available for other obligations. Boardmember DeMaio said we should continue to pursue the trust fund option but felt that the Water Department would not be a source for the River Park. Counsel Brechtel said that the legal conclusion by the City Attorney is that the San Diego Council did not have the authority to bind the trust funds to the River Park when the funds really are lease

revenue from City of San Diego Water property. Boardmember Golich asked if the trust funds were in an account or already spent and Director Bobertz stated that there is about \$440,000 in an account at the City of San Diego. Boardmember Lightner said that a letter has been sent asking if any of these funds could be used to fund the River Park since many tasks are done on city property by the staff of the River Park. Boardmember DeMaio stated that in the San Pasqual Valley there are water quality related duties that may be done by the River Park as an independent contractor. Counsel Brechtel stated that the River Park does erosion control, invasive species removal, sanitary services and access control, all of which benefit water quality and quantity and could be a nexus for funding.

Boardmember Jacob asked when the City of San Diego might be able to get back on track as a member agency. Boardmember DeMaio stated that the City has no idea when funding will be available but city services would be the first to be restored. Ms. Jacob stated that the short term answer might be one time funding but that would not be for more than one year.

Boardmember DeMaio reported on the information on page 8 of the agenda and how his staff found some cost saving items which include benefit reductions. It was suggested that the employees could vote on leaving the County system and open up comparable 401 retirement accounts along with omitting the flex credit option. Director Bobertz said that he and Counsel Brechtel will be meeting with 9 human resources people from the County of San Diego this afternoon to discuss all the options and see what can be legally omitted from the benefit package. Mr. DeMaio stated that the River Park would like to keep all of its employees but a substantial reduction in pay and benefits would be necessary to keep the park in business and that the employees could be fired and rehired with less benefits if necessary. Counsel Brechtel stated that the River Park is in an agreement with the County of San Diego to follow the county regulations. There are complications when it comes to vested employees and what can be taken away.

Director Bobertz stated that the River Park has compensation comparable to other agencies but if we set up a compensation package that is dramatically different this will force us to hire the least qualified applicants for our positions. We have found in the past that when they are trained and have some experience they will be hired by other agencies who provide better benefits. Mr. Bobertz said that the River Park has been able to accomplish so much because we have great employees and we try to compensate them accordingly.

The JPA Board gave direction to staff and the Budget Committee to bring back to the next meeting a revised budget for review and discussion.

Boardmember De Maio left the meeting at 10:30.

3. Old Survey Road 97- Historic Assessment and Possible Trail Connection to Ramona Grasslands

Recommendation: Adopt attached resolution requesting the Historic Site Board's favorable consideration of the Old Survey Road 97 as a historical significant route and requesting that the County of San Diego Park and Recreation Department give strong consideration to using Old Survey 97 as a trail connecting San Pasqual Valley and the Ramona Grasslands.

Deputy Director Carter said that this item was brought to our attention by John Degenfelder. He gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the existing condition of Old Survey Road 97 and explained the value to the River Park of using this road as a connecting trail from San Pasqual Valley to the Ramona Grasslands. Deputy Director Carter explained that a concern has been raised that the route is too close to an active golden eagle nest.

Boardmember Jacob thanked John and Arvie Degenfelder for all their hard work on this issue. She said she was aware of the environmental issue, and expressed hope that a solution can be found.

Boardmember Jacob made a motion to adopt the attached resolution requesting the Historic Site Board's favorable consideration of the Old Survey Road 97 as a historical significant route and requesting that the County of San Diego Park and Recreation Department give strong consideration to using Old Survey 97 as a trail connecting San Pasqual Valley and the Ramona Grasslands. Boardmember Slater-Price seconded the motion. All in Favor.

4. El Camino Real and Via de la Valle Road Widening and Utility Undergrounding

Recommendation: Adopt attached resolution supporting the comprehensive approach the City of San Diego is taking with the proposed widening of El Camiono Real and Via de la Valle, supporting the use of roundabouts instead of traditional traffic signals, and commending the City and SDG&E on their plan to expedite undergrounding of the utility poles adjacent to Via de la Valle.

Boardmember Lightner requested that the name of Scott Peters and her name be removed from the resolution.

Shawna Anderson said that the River Park Staff is very pleased with the status of the proposed plans for the widening of El Camino Real. The recent improvements made possible by the widening from Sea Country Lane to San Dieguito Road will incorporate a wildlife corridor that the River Park and other community planning boards have been suggesting for many years. Ms. Anderson said that the River Park hopes to do some habitat restoration and ultimately a connecting trail will be added to the area. The City of San Diego is processing a permit for a trail from Gonzales Canyon and the project will be adding roundabouts instead of lights. It was also announced that the long awaited undergrounding of utilities has been approved and will be done this year.

Boardmember Slater-Price made a motion to adopt the attached resolution supporting the comprehensive approach the City of San Diego is taking with the proposed widening of El Camino Real and Via de la Valle, supporting the use of roundabouts instead of traditional traffic signals, and commending the City and SDG&E on their plan to expedite undergrounding of the utility poles adjacent to Via de la Valle. Boardmember Roberts seconded. Vote 5 Yes 1 abstention (Lightner)

A transportation planner for the City of San Diego discussed the plans for a wildlife undercrossing, bridge replacement, roundabouts and the undergrounding of the utilities.

Boardmember Roberts asked to be sent an electronic version of the plans. Director Bobertz said that the 22nd AG district has been a good partner in the plans for this area and thanked Becky Bartling for all her efforts.

5. CAC By-Law Amendment

Recommendation: Modify the CAC by-laws to enable further amendments by 2/3 of CAC membership present at meetings as opposed to 2/3 of entire CAC membership.

Boardmember Jacob made a motion to approve the modification of the CAC By-Laws and Boardmember Slater-Price seconded. All in favor

Boardmember Slater Price handed out information on a lot split on Gatun Drive in Del Mar that will impact the area around the Grand Ave Bridge. She said that she was concerned that this project had gone to the Del Mar Planning Commission without notice to the San Dieguito River Park JPA. Shawna Anderson thanked Boardmember Slater-Price for the information, and said she would investigate right away.

INFORMATION

6. Coordination Reports

- a. San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy- None
- b. Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley- None
- c. Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation- None
- d. San Dieguito Lagoon Committee- None

7. Status Reports

a. River Park Projects

Deputy Director Carter said that construction of the West Bernardo Bike Path has finished up until Sept 16th, 2010 after Bird Nesting Season is over.

Ms. Carter said that the roof is going on the River Park office this week. Ms. Carter reported that Sikes Adobe will be completed by the June 2010 grand re-opening event.

It was announced that County Parks is having a public meeting regarding the proposed visitors center in Santa Ysabel at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at the Julian Library.

8. Jurisdictional Status Reports: Boardmember Lightner said that the City Council will be considering the Greenway issue. Becky Bartling stated that they will be meeting with Senator Kehoe to discuss the difficulties that her Greenway bill will cause for the fairgrounds. Ms. Bartling said that the 22nd District Agricultural District opposes the bill.

Chair Earnest adjourned the meeting at 11:15.

These minutes approved by Board Action

Date

Executive Director