

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**REPRESENTING**

City of Del Mar  
City of San Diego  
City of Escondido  
City of Solana Beach  
County of San Diego  
County 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
Dan Winne	Happy Trails
Freda Reid	Del Mar Resident
Tom Cook	Rancho Bernardo Historical Society
Jacqueline Winterer	Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Deborah DeBow	CAC/PRC
Phil Pryde	Self
Margaret Schlesinger	CAC/PRC
Jan Fuchs	PRC
Bill Michalsky	PRC
Terry Badger	CAC/PRC

**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

**Approval of Minutes of June 18, 2010**

Boardmember Golich requested that the minutes be changed on page 7, second paragraph to 'Tom Golich asked Executive director Bobertz to explain his recommendation to reduce the Environmental Planner position to ½ time.' With that change Boardmember Golich made a motion to approve the minutes of June 18, 2010 and Boardmember Slater-Price seconded the motion.

6 Yes and 1 abstained

Boardmember Golich introduced the CAC members in attendance as, Jacqueline Winterer, Freda Reid, Craig Adams, Phil Pryde, Tom Cook.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Director Bobertz reported that on June 26<sup>th</sup> we had a very successful Sikes Adobe reopening. This was a very well attended event and many people were excited to have the farmstead open again. Mr. Bobertz said that the farmstead was furnished with many wonderful pieces thanks to the generous Community Enhancement Grant provided by Supervisor Slater-Price in the amount of \$19,000. We have been awarded another grant by Boardmember Slater-Price for the interpretive signage and displays which will educate the public on the significance of the site.

Boardmember Slater-Price stated that these funds come from the “slush fund” that has been so controversial and she wanted everyone to know that they serve very useful purposes.

## **Public Comment-**

Speaker, Phil Pryde stated that he served on the Citizens Advisory Committee for 20 years along with the Audubon Society Board. During that time he always put the River Park first and he hopes that the current Boardmembers would do the same.

## **CONSENT**

Supervisor Slater-Price made a motion to approve the Consent items and Boardmember Roberts seconded.

1. Resolution Accepting State Coastal Conservancy Grant Funds

**Recommendation:** *Adopt Attached Resolution Accepting Grant Funds*

All in favor

2. Resolution Modifying Employee “Offset” Contribution from 7% to 3.5%

**Recommendation:** *Adopt Attached Resolution Confirming your Board’s Action of June 18<sup>th</sup>.*

6 Yes 1 No ( Lightner)

## **ACTION**

3. Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead Master Plan

**Recommendation:** *Staff recommends that your Board approve activities in concept, direct staff to identify which activities can be implemented immediately and which need further investigation, authorize the in-house preparation of a Master Plan for the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead and authorize the Executive Director to enter into agreements as necessary to carry out those proposed activities which can be implemented immediately.*

Deputy Director Carter said that at last months meeting two speakers, Tom Cook and Dan Winne, asked the Board to look at Sikes Adobe Farmstead as a resource and the potential for earning additional funds through various methods which were discussed at a later meeting. After an inspection of Mr. Winne’s Southbay operation, some concerns were made about crossing a fine line at the farmstead with resources that were not

appropriate for the site. Ms. Carter said that after the meeting with Mr. Cook and Mr. Winne it was advised to establish a master plan to sort out the issues and define the concepts that were being raised to bring in additional funds for the site. In the interest of time and the shortfall in our budget pressing on the Museum Managers position we felt that a decision sooner than later is needed to implement this program. Ms. Carter asked Anne Cooper, Sikes Museum Manager to elaborate on this plan.

Anne Cooper thanked the Board members that attended the Sikes reopening. She showed a map of the Sikes perimeter and how areas are proposed to be used for the different resource funding. Ms. Cooper stated that there will not be any permanent structures on the site for the activities but she felt that everything will fit in the outside space of the parcel and not disturb the original Sikes Adobe structure. Part of the map that Ms. Cooper showed the Board showed the resident volunteers that are caretakers on the property and their living quarters.

Boardmember Jacob said that she appreciated the master plan theory and asked how much the pony rides will generate on the site. Ms. Jacob felt that a dollar amount was needed to help the board decide if this is something that will bring the additional funding that will keep the Museum Managers position available. Mr. Winne said that the pony rides will generate the most money and that he will personally provide a 3 million dollar insurance policy for the rides. Ms. Jacob applauded Mr. Winne and Cook for their efforts and hopes that we can have a written agreement to back up this proposal. Mr. Cook stated that he knows that we can generate funds for Sikes and he hopes that all the cultural differences can be addressed so they can move ahead.

Boardmember Roberts asked about the volunteer residents on the property. Anne Cooper said that the residents are instrumental in keeping the grounds safe and they have played a necessary part in the gardening center and the wagon rides. Mr. Roberts asked for a timeline for the completion of the master plan. Ms. Cooper said that she could have a status report on the master plan in 3 months but she felt that the San Pasqual farmers could make a difference in how the plan goes. Boardmember Lightner asked about permits that would be necessary and how the property would be used. Becky Bartling stated that the 22<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural Association has experience with agricultural farming and she offered to help with questions that might arise.

Boardmember Slater-Price thanked Tom and Dan for their effort and asked them not to get discouraged by discussion of this board and we are very appreciative of their efforts.

Boardmember Jacob made a motion to approve the recommendation along with the status report in 3 months including any agreements and any contracts be brought back to the board for approval. Boardmember Roberts seconded. Mr. Winne asked the board to authorize him to clear the weeds on the parcel so that they can be ready to get started on the activities when the contracts and agreements are signed. All in favor.

#### 4. Issues Relating to Work on City of San Diego Property or in City Jurisdiction

***Recommendation:*** *Consider modifying direction to staff to suspend any work on property belonging to the City of San Diego.*

Director Bobertz said that on January 15<sup>th</sup> of this year a motion was made and adopted to discontinue working on any City land when the City of San Diego made their final assessment payment. The following month Mr. Bobertz said that he brought forward a recommended modification pointing out the fact that most of the River Park trail system is located on City of San Diego land. This would cause the River Park to shut down most of the operation on the 25 miles of land in the central part of our trail system

that has already been built and maintained by us. We also have about 2 million dollars worth of funding for projects in the same area that are ongoing.

Craig Adams, Executive director of the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy said that the monies for the Heritage trail are private and he felt that not working on this trail because it falls on City of San Diego property would be irresponsible due to the fact that a private donor paid for the trail segment.

Boardmember Slater-Price made a motion to approve agenda Option 1. Boardmember Jacob seconded.  
All in favor

#### 5. FY 2010/12 Budget Issues

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends that your Board adopt the attached amended FY 2010/11 operating and project fund budgets, authorize the Executive Director to withdraw funds as specified from the Fidelity Endowment Fund, and assign responsibility for identification and development of alternative funding sources to your Board's ad hoc Acquisition and Financing Strategies Committee.

Director Bobertz said that following your budget determination from the last meeting a number of things have occurred which we are bringing back to you that are incorporated into this amendment. Starting off is the Board's action to direct staff to use any unanticipated revenue to reinstate the Environmental Planners position to ¾ time. After the last JPA Board meeting revenue came into the River Park sufficient to maintain the planners position until January, 2011. Mr. Bobertz reported that the offset changes will not be implemented until the August payroll along with a charge to the River Park to amend their computer system to accommodate our changes in payroll. We are adding into our budget the \$19,000 Community Enhancement Funds. We are following up with the Water Department grant for invasive species removal which would allow \$21,000 for the environmental planner position for the rest of the fiscal year. The grant is for \$184,000 but phase one specifies \$21,000 for a plan to remove the invasive species which could be done by our Environmental Planner. It was reported that the well at our office reconstruction was compromised and it cost \$1500 to fix the problem. The sum of these actions and revisions is \$37,052 that needs to be borrowed from our endowment fund.

Mr. Bobertz said that a letter from the chair of the PRC, Jan Fuchs, was not included in the agenda packet last month and he apologized for the error. Mr. Bobertz said that there are some members from the PRC in attendance here today who would like to speak about the Environmental Planner position.

Boardmember Roberts asked about the HR delay in adjusting our payroll and asked if they can retroactively take the funds from payroll after they have the computers adjusted. Mr. Bobertz said that he would follow up and find out if that is possible.

Speaker, Jan Fuchs stated that the most vital work that is done by the PRC on projects is reinforced by the environmental planner. The PRC meets almost every month and they feel that this committee as a team works most efficiently with staff and will not be as effective if the planner is not involved. Ms. Fuchs said that the PRC works very hard to review proposed projects before they get too far along and with all the expertise that the group has makes a significant difference in the focused planning area. Ms. Fuchs suggested that the Board should invite Mayor Sanders to see the River Park FPA.

Speaker, Margaret Schlesinger who serves as a representative on the CAC for the League of Women Voters said that the PRC dropped the ball by not attending the previous meeting to explain how important the Environmental Planner position is to the PRC. Ms. Schlesinger hopes that the Board will reconsider the cut to this position and find the funds to keep the Environmental Planner position at ¾ time.

Speaker, Bill Michalsky felt strongly that the PRC could not continue doing all the work that it does reviewing projects if the Environmental Planner left her position due to the budget cuts.

Deborah DeBow said that the PRC works very closely with the Environmental Planner and it is critical that the funding is restored for the ¾ time position of the planner. Ms. DeBow felt that Ms. Anderson has the knowledge and background on River Park projects that is vital to the success of the PRC. She was concerned that the Museum Manager position was funded but not the Environmental Planner position.

Speaker, Terry Badger stated that he has been on the PRC and CAC for 15 years. He explained that the Environmental Planner does so much work for the PRC and it is her expert knowledge that guides them to make successful decisions. Mr. Badger said that the JPA has a lot of money invested in the position and he hopes that the Board can find the funding to keep this position in place.

Chair Earnest asked Director Bobertz about the opportunities for future funding. Mr. Bobertz reported that staff is working with the Navy on mitigation credits that may bring in additional funding. The proposed events for Sikes Adobe is another source of funding and there is the possibility of Bingo monies through the 22<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural District.

Chair Earnest explained that Bingo has to be approved by the City of Del Mar and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Agr. District may distribute some of the funds to several 501C organizations.

Becky Bartling said that there will be many opportunities for Bingo to be implemented and she hopes that our organization will receive some of the revenue.

Boardmember Jacob thanked all the PRC members that spoke today and appreciates the work that they do. Ms. Jacob suggested that the PRC members send letters to Mayor Sanders and go to the City of San Diego council meetings and make them aware of the situation.

Speaker, Freda Reid said that the rangers and rest of the staff are just as important and should be appreciated for all they do.

Brian Albright with the County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department said that the County will assist in any way that it can through volunteer efforts.

Tom Golich asked about the Edison monies in the trails budget and how the transfer occurred. Deputy Director Carter said that of the \$273,000 a year of SCE coastal funds \$168,000 is transferred into the operating budget for staff time. Mr. Golich also asked why we had \$1000 in the uniform line item when the budget for uniforms had been cut. Director Bobertz said that the \$1000.00 was set up for the new ranger that we are hiring and the fact that it is necessary to initially outfit new employees with boots and uniforms. Boardmember Lightner said that she was disappointed that the environmental planner position was cut after she felt that it was very clear how important her position is to the park. Ms. Lightner stated that she has taken the brunt of the criticism for the City of San Diego decision to withdraw from the assessment funding and noted that the City of San Diego has spent over \$2 million over the years to assist with the goals of the park. Ms. Lightner made it very clear that the City has to initiate priorities and they have cut police and lifeguards and suggested that the River Park look at job descriptions and tighten up on expenses to the point of a 0 based budget. This did not happen and she does not understand why in such a small organization

there are several levels of management. Executive Director Bobertz responded that the Board had acted on his recommendation to eliminate funding for one of the two management level positions of the River Park.

Boardmember Lightner noted that another item of concern is the line item showing that the City of San Diego owes their assessment and it is a receivable on the budget since there is no requirement that any member agency pay their assessment. Boardmember Lightner noted she could not support the staff recommendation because the environmental planner has not been restored to ¾ time and she does not agree with the line item showing the City of San Diego as an accounts receivable.

Boardmember Roberts stated that he appreciated Ms. Lightner comments but felt that as long as the JPA members are signed up that the assessments are due. Mr. Roberts has spoken to 5 council members who support the River Park funding and in most legislative bodies the majority rules and cuts are made elsewhere. Mr. Roberts said that all the agencies are struggling and they seem to make their payments so it is very frustrating to see the City of San Diego cut the River Park funding. Mr. Roberts noted that he supported the motion that was made by Boardmember DeMaio at the previous meeting to change the employee retirement system because something needed to be done to cut expenses but the employees rejected this option leaving the Board to look elsewhere to reduce funding. The Board cannot just do what it wants so we are proposing to cut the offset from 7% to 3.5% this year allowing a gradual decrease in the budget of about \$40K

Boardmember Diaz stated that she appreciates that Ms. Lightner and Mr. DeMaio have been at the meetings and make helpful suggestions but felt that the JPA Board might not know how to channel their frustration over this large budget crisis. Ms. Diaz stated that it would have been easier for the JPA Board if the City of San Diego had slowly reduced the assessment instead of cutting the full assessment.

Boardmember Lightner said that the City of San Diego does not have the money to pay their assessment so the JPA needs to cut the expenses that have grown over the years.

Boardmember Roberts made a motion to support staff recommendation to adopt the attached amended FY 2010/11 operating and project fund budgets, authorize the Executive Director to withdraw funds as specified from the Fidelity Endowment Fund, and assign responsibility for identification and development of alternative funding sources to your Board's ad hoc Acquisition and Financing Strategies Committee. It was also moved that any additional unexpected funds be prioritized to restore the Environmental Planner position first.

Boardmember Slater-Price seconded

Seconded 6 yes 1 no (Lightner)

## **INFORMATION**

### 6. Coordination Reports (oral)

- a. San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy- No report
- b. Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley- Jacqueline Winterer thanked to the Board for all their hard work on the budget. She reported on an unfortunate incident that happened at the underpass at I-5. Mr. Winterer said that this underpass was painted by unknown artists and was a source of enjoyment for the trail users but was painted over by Caltrans which was a disappointment to those who appreciated it.

- c. Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation – No report
- d. San Dieguito Lagoon Committee – No report

7. Status Reports(oral)

a. River Park Projects

Deputy Director Carter stated that the River Park is starting on the Coastal trail system which includes Reach the Beach study, Mesa Loop Trail and the Horsepark Trail.

8. Jurisdictional Status Reports

Boardmember Jacob thanked the staff for the jobs that they do everyday, noting that the staffing organization should not be an issue since we get major results from a very small staff.

Boardmember Roberts thanked Anne Cooper for her great grand opening at Sikes Adobe.

Chair Earnest stated that he attended a staff meeting at the River Park and the employees are enthusiastic about new projects in the park and moving into the rebuilt office. Mr. Earnest was impressed that the staff is looking forward to the future even though budget cuts are a hindrance.

9. Communications

Chair Earnest adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

These minutes approved by Board Action

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Date

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Executive Director

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