

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK  
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
Minutes of September 2, 2014**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dave Roberts- Chair  
Don Mosier -Vice Chair  
Olga Diaz  
Mark Kersey  
Dave Zito  
Tom Golich

**REPRESENTING**

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

**VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT**

Wayne Brechtel  
Dick Bobertz  
Susan Carter  
Shawna Anderson  
Brenda Miller  
Cheryl Goddard  
Ed Spaeth  
Bill Michalsky  
Jacqueline Winterer  
Peter Shapiro  
Trish Boaz  
Phil Pryde  
Jeff Barnouw

JPA Counsel  
San Dieguito River Park JPA  
San Diego County Parks  
Ramona Trails  
Sierra Club  
Friends of San Dieguito River Valley  
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy  
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy  
CAC  
Friends of San Dieguito River Valley

**Introduction and Announcements**

Chair Roberts 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**

Boardmember Zito made a motion to approve the minutes of July 18, 2014, Boardmember Kersey seconded the motion. All in favor. Yes votes: Roberts, Mosier, Golich, Zito and Kersey. Absent: Jacob, Diaz, Cunningham and Lightner.

**Executive Director's Report** – Executive Director Bobertz provided a handout of the San Dieguito River Park September Events.

**Public Comment** – There were no public comments.

**CONSENT**

1. Revision to Memorandum of Understanding between JPA and San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy (page 3)

**Recommendation:** Recommend Approval of the Amendment to the Existing Memorandum of Understanding between the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and the JPA

Executive Director Bobertz explained the language change in item #6 regarding Endowments in the Amended Memorandum of understanding. The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy wants to start an endowment. He explained that CAC had supported the change.

Boardmember Diaz arrived at 9: 39 a.m.

Boardmember Zito made the motion to approve the recommendation. Boardmember Kersey seconded the motion. All in favor. Yes votes: Roberts, Mosier, Golich, Diaz, Zito, Kersey. Absent Jacob, Cunningham and Lightner.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION**

2. Lagoon Boardwalk – Response from California Coastal Commission (page 15)

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends: 1) Authorize Chair to send letter to CCC requesting hearing in front of Commission in San Diego and inviting Commissioners on a visit and walk on the Boardwalk; 2) Discuss whether to propose a compromise position that would truncate the existing Boardwalk but not remove it.

Deputy Director Carter introduced the issue. The Coastal Commission replied to our Coastal Development Permit Amendment Application No. 6-04-088-A12 asking us to provide restoration plan alternatives. She reported that doing this work would require hiring consultants and the cost would be tens of thousands of dollars. She explained that she and Executive Director Bobertz and Shawna Anderson had met with the 22nd DAA. The 22<sup>nd</sup> DAA submitted a conceptual plan (included in this packet) to the Coastal commission. The River Park and 22<sup>nd</sup> DAA are both asking that this matter go to the Commissioners. Staff is recommending the board send another letter to the Coastal Commission requesting that this item be scheduled for public hearing at the next meeting in San Diego and inviting the Commissioners to tour the Boardwalk. She said that an alternative would be to truncate the Boardwalk leaving most of it in place, but eliminating its use to get from one end to the other. Since the purpose of the Boardwalk is for nature study, it would still fulfill that purpose, without also serving as a trail.

Counsel Brechtel arrived at 9:47 a.m.

Comments

Phil Pryde with the CAC and Audubon Society mentioned he has recently visited boardwalks in Florida. Dr. Pryde explained that he has previously said that boardwalks do not cause impacts on the birds at the site, and the more water surrounding the boardwalk the better for this purpose.

Trish Boaz – The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy supports keeping Boardwalk where it is and not moving or truncating it.

Vice -Chair Mosier - All agencies involved are in alignment to keep the Boardwalk. He feels the Commissioners should make the decision in this matter and not Coastal Commission staff.

The Board discussed the idea of truncating the boardwalk, but there was no support for the idea.

Vice-Chair Mosier made the motion to send a letter reinforcing the JPA board's position that the Boardwalk should not be moved, stating that the issue should be subject to a full commission hearing in San Diego and to invite the Commissioners to visit and walk on the Boardwalk. Boardmember Golich seconded the motion. Five yes votes: Roberts, Mosier, Golich, Zito and Kersey. One abstain: Diaz. Absent: Jacob, Cunningham and Lightner.

3. Naming Opportunities for San Dieguito River Park Interpretive Center at the Lagoon (page 34)

**Recommendation:** Review proposed Naming Opportunities and provide direction to staff.

Chair Roberts stated that the board would like interpretive centers at both ends of the park starting at the west end and thinks it is important to begin the plan.

Deputy Director Carter introduced the idea of the naming rights. She explained that the design concept was started several years ago with a public design workshop and the board ultimately approved Scheme B, a reduced-in-size design for the Lagoon Center. The staff report describes the Interpretive Center design, explains the purpose, cost and capital campaign ideas. She said that the design for the center is to tuck it into the slope between the existing trails with an earthen roof covering part of it. The concept is similar to the Visitors Center at Anza Borrego. She explained that the original business plan suggested that operations funding (including staffing) would be raised through revenue-generating events at the site. However, it has since been determined that this would be too speculative and not appropriate for long-term funding. Therefore, it is now recommended that an endowment should be established that would provide annual income to pay for staff and utility and maintenance costs. It is also recommended that the endowment should be raised as part of a capital campaign at the same time that construction funds are raised. The combined amount that must be raised for construction and the endowment is \$12,400,000. She also pointed out that the original concept was that the Center (then called the "Lagoon Center") would focus on the lagoon restoration. However, current thinking is that the Center should inform visitors about the natural and cultural resources of the entire San Dieguito River Park, and not just the lagoon area.

Comments

Jacqueline Winterer – Friends of San Dieguito River Valley – Is there a contingency plan if the costs are higher than expected?

Jeff Barnouw – Friends of San Dieguito River Valley – Has heard talk of an Interpretive Center. He has not heard of any public discussion. Feels this is overwhelming, is concerned about the size, and thinks CAC is an obvious place to discuss this project.

Bill Michalsky – Chair, San Dieguito Lagoon Committee - Likes the idea of the Interpretive Center and thinks it is needed. But he feels it has grown too large. Thinks the project should go back to PRC and CAC for more discussion. Thinks it is great if we can gather enough funds.

Principal Planner Shawna Anderson explained that the Interpretive Center building will be closer to the Birdwing not in the corner behind the bank building.

Executive Director Bobertz stated that it is being pushed east because of the widening of Via de la Valle, the creation of the wetlands, and the construction by SCE of a maintenance road. The original area (at the far west end of the site) is now too narrow to accommodate the Center. The new proposed site is at the widest part of the property. He added that when the plan was developed in 2009 there was extensive public input.

Boardmember Golich suggested that the Rangers could be in the Interpretive Center and not in a separate Ranger Building. He states that he has been approached by people asking why we are making a huge building that is going to cost so much. He thinks it should go to the CAC.

Boardmember Kersey stated that it may be appropriate to take this back to the CAC. He thinks \$1200 per square foot sounds like a high price. He is less concerned by the naming rights and more concerned about the concept.

Boardmember Zito stated that there does not seem to be alignment around this issue and we may need to rework the idea.

Chair Roberts stated that he thought the Interpretive Center would be behind the bank building with the Ranger station and Alvarado house. He is not sure he would support it at the new location. He does not think the donors would want to litter the park with buildings and stated that he had a different understanding of where the Interpretive Center would be located.

Vice-Chair Mosier stated that this is too big and too high in structure for location. He said the naming rights should be in perpetuity and that the numbers seem small for naming rights.

Chair Roberts stated that we can't ask for money unless we have a plan. The whole board needs to understand and maybe walk the site.

Boardmember Zito stated that most naming is in perpetuity with the exception of stadiums.

Boardmember Kersey made the motion to take this to the CAC, provide feedback on the Western Gateway Interpretive Center to include size, location, funding, and ideas proposed for naming rights. Boardmember Golich seconded the motion. All in favor. Yes votes: Roberts, Mosier, Golich, Diaz, Zito and Kersey. Absent: Jacob, Cunningham and Lightner.

#### **INFORMATION**

4. Status of Multi-Agency Discussions re JPA Revised Agreement (page 41)

**Recommendation:** Receive information. No Action Required.

Executive Director Bobertz reported that four meetings have been held; two with no River Park staff attending and two that Executive Director Bobertz and Deputy Director Carter attended and participated in. Executive Director Bobertz and Deputy Director Carter were able to clear up misconceptions and gave additional information that will help resolve issues raised by the City of San Diego. One of the recommendations that the multi-agency working group is leaning toward is that the River Park should adopt operating guidelines that cover standard operating procedures that cover many of the issues raised in the Mayor's letter. Mr. Bobertz went on to say that we are optimistic with the outcome.

5. Notice of Preparation/Scoping Meeting for W19 Wetland Restoration Project (page 43)

Shawna Anderson reported that there is a Notice of Preparation/Scoping meeting for the W19 project. This project has been before the board in the past. This is the beginning of the CEQA process. The Scoping Meeting will be next Tuesday, September 9, 6:00 pm at the Carmel Valley public library. This is the early stage of the project (concept stage). The EIR will be prepared, and the comments received will be incorporated in the EIR analysis. Comments should be sent to Shawna by September 26, 2014. Shawna showed on aerial photo the location of the new wetlands (both fresh water and tidal wetlands). The project will provide mitigation for the I5 widening as well the LOSSAN corridor, and the freshwater restoration area will be mitigation for the City of San Diego's El Camino Real bridge replacement. There will be alternative designs in the EIR.

6. Park Project Status (oral)

- a. Ranger Station – No Report
- b. Signage at Piedras Pintadas/Bernardo Bay Trails

Deputy Director Carter stated that the Trails committee had identified trails that were not marked well at Piedras Pintadas / Bernardo Bay. The committee provided a very detailed list of additional signage that would be helpful to visitors. Coincidentally the Rancho Bernardo Community Council sent a letter to Chair Roberts regarding signs at this location as well. Deputy Director Carter met with the Rancho Bernardo Community Council to discuss the signs that will be similar to "for your safety, buddy up" at the trail access points. The Trails Committee and River Park Rangers will coordinate the installation of these signs.

- c. Pamo Valley Trail – No Report

7. Coordination Reports (oral)

- 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

8. Jurisdictional Status Reports – No Reports

9. Communications – No Communications

10. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION TIME CERTAIN 10:30 A.M.

Counsel Brechtel made the following statements and Chair Roberts adjourned the meeting at 10:30A.M.

- 1) “Closed session to interview candidates and consider the appointment of an Interim Executive Director pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)”
- 2) “Conference with Legal Counsel to discuss liability claim pursuant to California Government Code Sec. 54956.9(d)(2): City of San Diego Fee Dispute.”

The Board resumed the public meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Counsel Brechtel announced that the Board had voted to hire Mark Ochendusko as Interim Executive Director.

Counsel Brechtel announced that there was no reportable action regarding item #2.

The Board voted unanimously to bring Mr. Ochendusko’s contract for action at the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, with his pay retroactive to October 1<sup>st</sup>. All in favor. Yes votes: Roberts, Mosier, Golich, Diaz, Zito and Kersey. Absent: Jacob, Cunningham and Lightner.

These minutes approved by Board Action

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Date

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Executive Director