

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of Sept 21, 2007**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dianne Jacob -Chair
Dave Roberts -Vice-Chair
Dick Daniels
Richard Earnest
Betty Rexford
Scott Peters
Phil Pryde

REPRESENTING

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

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
Jim Johnson	Camp Hope
Roberta Spoon	YMCA
Chloe Schmitz	Ramona Resident
Woo Jin Shim	Office of Scott Peters
Jacqueline Winterer	Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Leslie Woollenweber	San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Freda Reid	Lagoon Committee
Tamar Sekeps	San Diego Foundation Justice Center
Jenniferr Bodine	self
Craig Adams	San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Midge Constanza	SD District Attorney office
Jackie Dietz	
Andrea Pierson	Serenity Fund
Debbie Collins	Camp Hope
Mickey Stone	Camp Hope
Casey Gwinn	San Diego Foundation Justice Center/Camp Hope

Introduction and Announcements

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

Roll call was taken by Executive Director Bobertz.

Approval of Minutes July 20, 2007

Boardmember Rexford made a motion to approve the minutes of July 20, 2007 and Boardmember Pryde seconded the motion. All in favor.

Boardmember Pryde introduced the CAC members in attendance as Freda Reid, Jacqueline Winterer, Leslie Woollenweber, Craig Adams and Arthur Schmitz.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Bobertz said that the San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan was brought before the Board a few months ago and the Board directed staff to work with the Conservancy to establish a group to implement the plan. Director Bobertz said that presentations have been given to Solana Beach and Del Mar and they have approved resolutions of support. We are on the docket for several other cities in October and November and will seek grant programs to accomplish some of the goals of the watershed plan.

Public Comment- Craig Adams, SDRVC, spoke about the watershed council and how grant monies will help fund 2 projects that the council has suggested. Mr. Adams said that the Conservancy is buying land for trails and part of the responsibility of having these trails is to communicate with the public about the opportunities that are out there for them to enjoy. Several brochures have been printed with information on the birds of the River Park, activity schedules and now we have produced a new brochure on the plants of the River Park.

ACTION AGENDA

1. Award Contract for Construction of Coastal Trail and Water Quality Treatment Ponds

Recommendation: *Award construction contract to lowest, responsible bidder.*

Deputy Director Carter said that there are two components to the coastal trail that will be contracted out, one being the work to be done under I-5 freeway and the other for the Treatment Ponds. Ms. Carter said that we went out to bid for the construction job last month, and the bid deadline was this week. We received 4 bids and the lowest bid was R.J. Bullard Construction with a base bid of \$1,264,284. The other bids were higher but we recommend that the Board authorize staff to award the bid to the second place bidder, Sukut Construction, in the event that the lowest bidder does not have the correct bond and insurance capabilities. She explained that we have secured 3 grants to fund this project: Caltrans TEA Grant, Coastal Conservancy and Regional Water Quality Control Board grant. One alternative of the project was landscaping/revegetation, which is an essential part of the project, but the bids were too high to include in this bid so the revegetation design will be re-evaluated and probably re-bid.

Boardmember Peters made a motion to approve staff recommendation to award the contract to the first two bidders as recommended by staff and Boardmember Earnest seconded. All in favor.

2. Camp Hope Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration

Recommendation: Send attached letter to City of San Diego regarding comments on the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Boardmember Peters said that he would not be voting on this item today because it would be coming to the City Council in the future. He left the meeting before the vote was taken.

Shawna Anderson said that in 2002 the JPA Board supported Camp Hope's temporary camp proposal at Lake Sutherland. The lease to operate a temporary summer camp with teepees on wooden platforms was in place for the last 5 years but their lease agreement said that they could propose a permanent camp in the future. Ms. Anderson said that this is a joint program of the City of San Diego and the Family Justice Center. This project is on city owned land and is a city project so although the site is in County jurisdiction it will be processed by the City of San Diego under City regulations. Ms. Anderson explained that the JPA supports camping in the San Dieguito River Park and we supported the temporary facility but we are concerned about the plans for the permanent project as they include large structures with eight two story cabins that are about 3000 sq. ft. each and a 7,000 sq.ft. lodge. This project will sit on 17 acres on unincorporated land. Access to the camp would be on the Lake Sutherland road along the alignment of the Coast to Crest Trail.

Ms. Anderson explained that our concerns are listed in the attached letter. The CAC's Project Review Committee met with the applicant and reviewed the plans on Monday after the agenda had gone out. They raised a couple of additional issues which Ms. Anderson said were included in the revised letter before the Board. The PRC raised concerns not only on the size and scale of the buildings but also that the River Park was not mentioned in the MND. In our letter we ask whether the caretaker be there all year and if the project will be leased out to other organizations when Camp Hope is not in use for more than 6 months each year. She said that comments on the MND are due September 25th.

Speaker, Mickey Stone, Director of Camp Hope said that they have 70 volunteers that come out in the summer and she presented a PowerPoint presentation about the camping experience for the abused children. She explained the purpose of the camp and that there is a reason for the larger cabins which is because most of the children come from very meager existence and these larger facilities are helpful to their healing.

Speaker, Debbie Collins explained the particulars of the architecture and the landscaping. She explained the plans of the lodge, interpretive center and cabins to promote an uplifting and healing environment for the children. Ms. Collins said that a key element would be to integrate the camp into the environment with minimal impacts. She stated that the original plans will be modified to remove the second story on the cabins as requested by the PRC.

Speaker, Casey Guinn said that the 5 year journey has been amazing. We are working on a vision which is breaking the cycle of family violence. He explained that they also hope to accommodate children with disabilities and families. He explained that they are now downsizing the plans but

wanted to stress that need for larger units so that family units can camp in comfort. Mr. Guinn stated that they have spent major funds on environmental studies and will mitigate for impacts.

Speaker, Arthur Schmitz said that he is not against the temporary unit but there are issues that are not addressed in the MND. He felt that this project should have a EIR not just a MND because there are sensitive issues not addressed. He stated that there is no septic tank in the plans and the leach lines come very close to the shore with the potential to pollute the lake. He spoke about the fire, sheriff and emergency care that are not addressed and discussed the time for any of the emergency units to respond to an emergency.

Speaker, Jacqueline Winterer said she supports the letter staff has written and is concerned about the alignment of the Coast to Crest Trail along the road into Camp Hope.

Andrea Peirson, Executive Director of Serenity Fund which is a non-profit foundation that has donated 1.5 million dollars to Camp Hope stated that she supports the vision of love, support and healing that the camp provides.

Speaker Jackie Dietz with Childrens Hospital Family Violence Program has worked with domestic violence victims and has sent children up to the camp in the past. These children have not only witnessed domestic violence but been abused themselves. Most of the families that will be going to the camp live in very small quarters every day and really need larger accommodations at the camp.

Jim Johnson, resident of Pine Valley, has devoted many years to camping and has volunteered at Camp Hope from the beginning asked the JPA Board to revised the draft letter after hearing the explanations that were offered today.

Roberta Spoon, Board President of the YWCA, Becky's House, has gone to Camp Hope and it makes a life changing experience.

Midge Costanza from the San Diego County District Attorney, Bonnie Dumanis. She read a letter from Ms. Dumanis supporting Camp Hope and asked that the River Park support Camp Hope as a powerful opportunity. A priority of the District Attorneys office is to support domestic violence prevention programs and she feels that Camp Hope is a model of the kinds of programs that help stop family violence in San Diego County .

Chair Jacob said that Board had heard and appreciated the applicant's comments that they would change the plans in response to the PRC's concerns, but that the River Park needs to address the MND as it is written.

Boardmember Pryde said that he did not have time to see or evaluate the slides that Ms. Collins' presented of the "revised" structures.

Boardmembers Rexford and Daniels said that they do not support the letter and hopes that staff will sit down with the Camp Hope and discuss the project further.

Boardmember Earnest suggested that we make it clear that we are commenting on the current MND and we reserve the right to comment in the future when the changes that were verbally discussed here today are developed in more detail.

Boardmember Roberts said that the comments made in the letter are necessary to address the MND as it was presented to us and we need to state our concerns. He felt that since we have a deadline on Monday that we need to work with the documents that are before us today.

Boardmember Roberts made a motion to support the letter with the additions that were discussed plus the direction for staff to soften the language and add additional wording. Chair Jacob seconded the motion.

Vote 4 Yes 2 No 0 Abstained

Motion passed

INFORMATION

3. San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy North Bank Restoration Project-

Leslie Woollenweber made a presentation about the re-vegetation on the north bank of the Del Mar estuary, a project that has just begun. She explained that the project was funded with a grant from the Wetland Recovery Project. She spoke about the efforts of the Conservancy to help the River Park with public outreach programs and the grants that the Conservancy has received to fund projects in the area.

4. Status Reports (oral)

a. River Park Projects:

- i. Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead- Deputy Director Carter said that the Escondido Kiwanis has shown an interest in the fence project that would install an authentic picket fence around Sikes. Ms Carter said that the City is still updating the appraisal of the property for the JPA's purchase from the City of San Diego.
- ii. Lake Hodges Bike Ped Bridge- Deputy Director Carter said that we are on the San Diego City Council agenda next Tuesday for approval of the lease. Part of what was holding up the lease was the State Department of Health

Services permit which the City has now received. Ms. Carter said that there are some clauses in the permit that are of concern to staff if they are not eliminated by the time the bridge is opened to the public in Spring of 2009. The Department of Health Services are requiring that portapottys be installed every 500 feet along the trail and that there be a boat patrol of the entire lake twice a day every day of the week. She said that we will attempt to get these requirements reduced or eliminated but that it is important for the Board to recognize that these are potential obligations to which the Board is agreeing as part of the lease. Ms. Carter stated that there is some good news - we have been working with our electrical engineers on using solar power on the bridge which will be incorporated into the roof of a park kiosk at the north end of the bridge. Using solar power is expected to save as much as \$100,000 because we will not need significant trenching to hook up to SDGE.

- iii. Pamo Valley Trail- Shawna Anderson said that we have benefited from private grants that were provided to the Conservancy for the trail. This trail would connect the existing upper and lower truck trail in Pamo Valley along the side of Pamo Road. The proposed alignment will meet the concerns of the San Diego Water Department and the lessees on the property. A site visit was conducted with City staff, U.S. Forest Service, and the CAC's Trails Committee. We are currently doing habitat assessment in the area.
- iv. Heritage Trail Link - Shawna Anderson said that the trail segment from Poway via Evergreen Nursery to the Coast to Crest Trail has several issues of concern, one is safely crossing Highland Valley Road and secondly we need to address the wetland impacts on the other side of Highland Valley Road. Ms. Anderson said that we are applying for a site development permit from the City of San Diego.
- b. Via de la Valle/El Camino Real Road Task Force- No information.
- c. Rancho Santa Fe Polo Club- Executive Director Bobertz said that the Polo Club was required to process a conditional use permit for their illegal grading of a trail segment along the north side of the river, and other impacts to the river. Because they refused to provide information that the City of San Diego required they have been referred back to Code Compliance which has scheduled a hearing before an administrative law judge on October 4, 2007.

Jurisdictional Status Reports Boardmember Rexford said the Gooden Ranch grand opening will be on October 26, 2007 at 1 p.m. Ms. Rexford wanted to invite the public to see this environmentally friendly building.

Boardmember Roberts congratulated Shawna Anderson on the article in the paper about her husband's promotion with the City of San Diego.

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

These minutes approved by Board Action

Date

Executive Director

DRAFT