

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of December 9, 2011**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sherri Lightner -Chair
Olga Diaz -Vice Chair
Don Mosier
Jim Cunningham
Mike Nichols, Alt.
Pam Slater-Price
Dianne Jacob
Tom Golich

REPRESENTING

City of San Diego
City of Escondido
City of Del Mar
City of Poway
City of Solana Beach
County of San Diego
County 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
Leana Bulay	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Jacqueline Winterer	Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Jeff Barnouw	Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Cory Ha'o	Coastal Property Owner
Jan McMillan	San Dieguito Lagoon Committee
Rand Newman	San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Lynne Baker	San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
John Degenfelder	Ramona Trails Association

Introduction and Announcements

Chair Lightner 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 members in attendance as, Jan McMillan, Jacqueline Winterer, Jeff Barnouw, Cory Ha'o, Rand Newman and John Degenfelder.

Chair Lightner dedicated the JPA meeting to the memory of Robert Sensibaugh, an early Conservancy Board member, who passed away November 6th. Bob was instrumental to the creation of the San Dieguito River Park JPA.

Approval of Minutes of September 16, 2011

Chair Lightner asked for any corrections to the minutes, seeing none deemed the minutes approved. All in favor.

Executive Director's Report- Director Bobertz reported on the River Park's recent event-filled months that started with the dedication of the Old Coach Trail link to the Poway trail system and Transcounty Trail that was highlighted with a 10 mile walk with Deputy Mayor Jim Cunningham and a number of hikers to the staging area. There were a number of newspaper and television reports on this trail opening and it was a very exciting day for the River Park adding this link of the north south trail system. On October 28, we received 2 "Orchids" from the Orchids and Onions Architectural Foundation Program for reconstruction of our office and for the David Kreitzer/Lake Hodges Pedestrian Bridge which acknowledged our architectural design excellence. Mr. Bobertz said that on November 7th there was a Wetland Restoration dedication ceremony representing the completion of the wetland restoration project as viewed by California Coastal Commission. SCE and SDGE hosted this event and now will maintain the area for the next 40 years until it is turned over to the River Park.

Public Comment- None

CONSENT

1. Award Contract for Mesa Loop Trail Construction

Recommendation: Award contract to Trinity Grading, Inc.

2. Approve Citizens Advisory Committee Election of Chair and Vice

Recommendation: Approve CAC Chair (Tom Golich) and Vice-Chair (Rand Newman) as recommended by CAC.

3. Appointment of Nominating Committee

Recommendation: Appoint Nominating Committee for next year's Chair and Vice-Chair & Committees.

Chair Lightner appointed herself, and Boardmembers Tom Golich and Pam Slater-Price to the nominating committee, with Boardmember Golich as chair of the committee.

4. Ad Hoc Committee Report and Recommendations

Recommendation: Approve Ad Hoc Committee recommendations to preliminarily approve the revised JPA agreement and request that each representative take the agreement to their respective legal counsels for input, to be returned subsequently to the JPA for final approval; and to approve Option C to update the Member Agency Contribution Formula.

Boardmember Cunningham made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Boardmember Diaz seconded. All in favor.

Chair Lightner requested that the Action Item on the Polo Club lease be tabled until the end of the meeting because she needs to recuse herself from this item and will be leaving at 11:00 a.m.

ACTION AGENDA

5. Polo Club lease/Request for proposals

Recommendation: Approve letter to City of San Diego requesting lease conditions be included in RFP.

Chair Lightner recused herself and Vice Chair Diaz took over the meeting. Shawna Anderson discussed the concern that had been raised that negotiations were being held between the City of San Diego and the Polo

Club that are not open to the public leaving the details of the new Polo Field contract viewed behind closed doors. Ms. Anderson said that we have been informed that the City Real Estate Assets Department is planning to present a Request for Proposals to the City's Land Use committee in the near future for consideration but staff and the CAC felt that we need to comment on the conditions that should be addressed in the RFP. She explained that staff is recommending that the JPA board send a letter with conditions outlined in the staff report along with several additional CAC bullet points (the CAC meeting was held after the JPA agenda staff report was written):

- Shall provide public access to the entire property for passive recreational uses
- Compliance with CEQA would include a biological assessment along the river channel with minimal impacts to the river and wildlife
- The 100 ft buffer would all for the public trail
- No amplified sound would be allowed
- Address storm water issues
- Recognize the future relocation of El Camino Real with potential roundabouts
- No night lights

Boardmember Slater-Price made a motion to approve the letter to the City of San Diego and Boardmember Golich seconded. All in favor

6. El Camino Real Bridge-

Recommendation: Approve JPA staff recommendation to reject ownership.

Shawna Anderson reported that the item before the board is the replacement of the El Camino Real Bridge by the City of San Diego. In March of 2010 the JPA board approved resolution # R10-2 which supported the concept of the JPA taking over ownership and maintenance of the existing bridge for a trail link use, conditioned on several items of information regarding hydrology and maintenance requirements to be provided by the City. The JPA took this action because the City of San Diego had proposed that the JPA keep the bridge and take over maintenance of the site. After reviewing the additional information provided by the City of San Diego, staff is recommending the JPA reject ownership. The current information on the existing bridge's condition has led staff to rethink the liability and maintenance expense issues, and therefore we feel that it would not be within the JPA's financial capability to accept the ownership. Ms. Anderson discussed the alternatives that will be presented in the new EIR that will be distributed next year by the City of San Diego.

Chair Lightner recused herself from this agenda item and Vice-Chair Diaz chaired the meeting for this item.

Ms. Anderson stated that the CAC considered all the information about the bridge and agreed with JPA staff that this would be a liability to the park. Director Bobertz said that the other alternatives proposed would accommodate horses and bikes on a cantilever at the side of the proposed new bridge, and it was essential that the preferred alignment also provide a separated cantilever for trail use.

Boardmember Slater-Price made a motion to approve staff recommendation not to take ownership of the bridge, and send the letter that was included in the agenda packet to the City and Boardmember Jacob seconded. All in favor.

Ms. Lighner returned to the meeting and Ms. Diaz turned the meeting back over to the Chair.

7. Reach the Beach Alternatives Study presentation

Recommendation: Give conceptual approval to the preferred trail alignments presented today and direct staff to proceed with the feasibility study using the identified trail alignments.

Shawna Anderson introduced the item as the “Reach the Beach Feasibility Study” made possible by a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy to study alternatives for extending the Coast to Crest Trail to the beach at Del Mar. Ms. Anderson reported that staff has held public workshops and met with different groups to get input on the best alignment for the section of trail that will allow trail users to access the beach area. A PowerPoint presentation was given showing the alternatives that might be considered which may be altered by the proposed LOSSAN Rail System that will be implemented in the future. The grant does not allow for any construction but only allows us to study what might be possible with alternatives extending from the Del Mar Riverwalk or around the Fairgrounds and possibly tunneling through a berm. Ms. Anderson said that there were a number of environmental issues that must be evaluated, along with traffic analysis that will be required, but this study has a deadline of February 29 and needs to be completed. The CAC members were concerned that we did not have concurrence from the Del Mar Lagoon Committee on the proposed alignment but Ms. Anderson said that she will be attending their next meeting on December 21st so that they can review the alternatives.

Boardmember Slater-price made a motion to give conceptual approval to the preferred trail alignments presented today and direct staff to proceed with the feasibility study using the identified trail alignments and work with the Del Mar Lagoon Committee on the study. Boardmember Jacob seconded. All in favor.

Suggestions were made that handicapped parking needed to be installed at the Boardwalk and it was noted that there is a concern about having horses and dogs on the beach at the same time and the issue needs to be addressed more fully.

Boardmember Cunningham thanked Shawna Anderson and staff of all their hard work on this study.

INFORMATION

8. Coordination Reports (oral)

- a. San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy- Rand Newman, President of the Conservancy, introduced Lynne Baker, the newly hired Executive Director who has an extensive background in environmental issues and has worked with many of the JPA Boardmembers in the past. Mr. Newman said that the Conservancy is delighted to have Ms. Baker as their Executive Director. Director Baker said that the former Director, Craig Adams, was able to secure a private donation to complete designs for the Lagoon Center’s proposed, shaded outdoor amphitheater project. Ms. Baker said that Southern California Edison has an obligation to provide a coastal ranger maintenance station, and the Conservancy is working on the Amphitheater. She said that the two projects will be near each other and complement each other, and CEQA analysis can be done on both projects at the same time. Ms. Baker noted that the Conservancy has allocated about \$76,000 in private donations for the JPA staff to plan the Pamo Valley Trail and the Lusardi Creek Trail segments of the Coast to Crest Trail.
- b. Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley- None
- c. Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation- None
- d. San Dieguito Lagoon Committee- None

9. Status Reports

- a. Interpretive Ranger Report (Presentation)- Leana Bulay, Interpretive Ranger, showed a PowerPoint presentation and introduced the rangers and spoke about the school groups and the underserved educational projects that she has been working on. Ms. Bulay discussed Scout projects that are in the works along with guided hikes and bird lectures. Habitat restoration is a priority in the park and we have many volunteers from schools, churches and general public that join us on the trails to keep our trail system maintained and restore habitat. Research projects with High Tech High School and UCSD are evaluating the high saline content in our water system. Dust Devils (regular volunteers) come out a couple times a week and plant and clear our trails. Ms. Bulay gave a recap on several large projects like Mesa Loop and planting in the lagoon area that are continuing.

Deputy Director Carter said that our Rattlesnake Viewing Platform has been completed with funding from the Del Dios Riparian and Restoration Grant. Part of the viewing platform has interpretive signage on how to learn more about the Lake Hodges Dam and other areas in Del Dios, as well as understanding the place that rattlesnakes have in our ecosystem.

Shawna Anderson said that another part of the Del Dios grant is the eucalyptus removal and it has received a lot of press recently.

- b. River Park Projects- Deputy Director Carter said that we have begun work on the Horsepark Trail which will connect the Lagoon Trail all the way to El Camino Real.

Ms. Carter reported on the Santa Ysabel General Store which has been purchased by SOHO to preserve and restore the 1884 building. It is still intended that a variety of groups including the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy, San Diego River Park Foundation, Volcan Mountain Foundation and Wildlife Research Institute will pool their resources to provide information and interpretation materials and volunteers and help SOHO with operating costs. SOHO will utilize part of the structure for a museum store with retail sales.

- c. Proposed Trail Parking/Staging Area in Del Mar- Nothing to report

10. Jurisdictional Status Reports- Boardmember Jacob said that she received a letter from the Bureau of Land Management and suggested we look into a possible swap of property for some high value property that they own. Dick said that he will work with BLM to follow this property.

Boardmember Cunningham said that the Old Coach Trail grand opening was a success and felt that Ranger Borchardt was instrumental in getting him through the 10 mile hike. Mr. Cunningham appreciates all the work done at the Old Coach Trail segment and enjoyed the day.

Boardmember Jacob said that she is very happy that the Santa Ysabel General Store had been acquired. It was so great that all the entities will work together, including SDRP staff, to provide an interpretive site for that region. She reiterated her firm intent to proceed with future plans for the proposed Santa Ysabel Nature Center, which she sees as complementary to the plans for the Santa Ysabel General Store.

11. Communications- None

12. Closed Session: Conference with legal counsel pursuant to Government Code Sec. 54956.9(a) regarding pending litigation; City of Solana Beach et al. v. 22nd District Agricultural Association. A closed session was held and no action was taken.

Vice-Chair Diaz adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

These minutes approved by Board Action

Date

Executive Director

DRAFT