

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of July 8, 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeff Barnouw
Phil Pryde
Diane Coombs
Linda Oster
Leonard Haynes
Liz Gabrych
Dorothy McLin
Don Wendt
Carol Carr
Charlie Jancic
Alice Brown
Dave Kreitzer
Bill Michalsky
Arthur Schmitz
Jacqueline Winterer
Brant Bassett
Cory Ha'o

REPRESENTING

CAC, Chair
Audubon Society
Citizens Coordinate for Century 3
Del Dios Town Council
Julian Community Planning Group
League of Women Voters
Lomas Serenas Property Owners
Equestrian - Ramona Trails Association
San Diego County Bicycle Coalition
San Diego County Farm Bureau
San Dieguito Lagoon Committee
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Sierra Club
Eastern Property Owner
Coastal Property Owner
Central Property Owner
Coastal Property Owner

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Kevin McKernan	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Shawna Anderson	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Brenda Miller	San Dieguito River Park JPA

INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Barnouw convened the meeting at 10:32 a.m. at the San Rafael Parish. Office Manager Brenda Miller took roll call. A quorum was met with 16 in attendance.

Approval of Minutes of March 4, 2016

Bill Michalsky made the motion to accept the minutes of March 4, 2016. Carol Carr seconded the motion. All in favor.

Chair's Report

Chair Barnouw reported that July 1 the City of Solana Beach celebrated its 30th anniversary. Margaret Schlesinger was honored at the event. Liz Gabrych stated that Margaret was a community activist, the first Mayor of Solana Beach, was active at the beginning of the San Dieguito River Park (door knocking to ask people if they wanted the trail in their back yard), and was a huge part of the League of Women Voters. Margaret will be truly missed.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director McKernan welcomed the members and reported that the fiscal year has just ended with the JPA finishing the year slightly under budget, the fee dispute with the City of San Diego has been resolved, and the JPA is in a better financial position now. The items required by the renewal of the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement have been completed with the exception of two items; the master trails agreement and the use permit which need to be completed by the City of San Diego. The fee dispute was discussed by the JPA board members in closed session and negotiated through a mediator. The amount of the settlement will not be made public and the settlement has been paid.

Phil Pryde quoted a newspaper article from the San Diego Union Tribune regarding funding in the San Diego City budget. Dr. Pryde asked why the San Dieguito River Park was not mentioned. Executive Director McKernan stated that he was aware of this article and thanked Dr. Pryde for bringing it to the attention of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Public Comment

Phil Pryde introduced Surf Cup representatives: Robert Haskell, Bryan Thistle, and Teresa Acosta. Dr. Pryde met with Surf Cup representatives to choose birding spots near the polo fields. Chair Barnouw welcomed the Surf Cup representatives to the meeting.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Committee Reports

a. Project Review Committee

Principal Planner Shawna Anderson reported that the Project Review Committee has a meeting scheduled for July 18. One item on the agenda will be the Milan property. The developers of this property have submitted a proposal to the City of San Diego.

b. Trails Committee

Carol Carr commented that three volunteers conducted a survey in April. Four staging areas at popular trails were visited and the volunteers simply asked people for their zip code. The results were 219 people from 22 cities. The City of San Diego made up 30% of the results with large numbers from the cities of Escondido and Del Mar. The survey was reported at the JPA meeting and the JPA Board requested that the survey be continued periodically. Executive Director McKernan explained that it is a good metric to look at. One example is the property around Lake Hodges is owned by the City of San Diego and Escondido residents get the benefit of use.

Julie Klein, representing a Del Mar equestrian group stated that the group has been hesitant to come out on the trails because of a lot of cyclists. Ms. Klein said the group is excited to get involved and would like to participate in the Citizens Advisory Committee. Principal Planner Shawna Anderson stated that the trail patrollers count the type of trail users and report accordingly.

2. Update on Polo Fields City Lease to Surf Cup

Executive Director McKernan introduced the topic, stating that the notice for review of the Surf Cup lease was published approximately five days prior to the hearing of the Smart Growth Land Use Council Committee. Prior to the public notice, JPA staff had read the Request for Proposals and met with Surf Cup representatives. The JPA wrote a letter December 13, 2011 making comments about concerns relating to provisions requiring restoration of the coast to crest trail and habitat restoration. The JPA concerns and the responsibility of lessee regarding the trail were in the language of the RFP. However, when the Surf Cup lease was produced for public review, the lessee responsibility language had been removed. Surf Cup previously verbally stated that they were committed to building and maintaining the trail. A letter was sent on June 28, 2016 from JPA staff in response to the proposed Surf Cup Lease. The JPA board will discuss this issue at the July 15, 2016 meeting. Executive Director invited the CAC to discuss the issue and provide a recommendation for the JPA Board. Surf Cup representative Rob Haskell stated that Surf Cup was surprised that the language in the lease was removed and said Surf Cup plans to uphold their agreement. Mr. Haskell presented a letter from Surf Cup stating their commitment to performing the work in the Site Development Permit # 618626. Principal Planner Anderson stated that the site development permit expires in 2018. The lease has passed the Smart Growth Committee and will now go to the City Council for approval.

Phil Pryde made the motion to recommend that the JPA Board recommit the June 28, 2016 letter addressing it to the City Council and Mayor Faulconer. Bill Michalsky seconded the motion.

All voted in favor except Jacqueline Winterer, abstaining.

3. Discuss/Recommend Policies Regarding Memorials within San Dieguito River Park

Jacqueline Winterer stated that the River Park has a donation policy for benches and interpretive features. Ms. Winterer is recommending that the CAC recognize volunteers. Ms. Winterer is asking who should be recognized, how is it determined, and how should they be recognized. What kind of policy does the CAC want? The donation policy is a good model to look at.

Phil Pryde made the motion to create a subcommittee to look into a policy for volunteer recognition within the park. Jacqueline Winterer seconded the motion.

All voted in favor.

The subcommittee members are chair Jacqueline Winterer, Liz Gabrych, Bill Michalsky and Dave Kreitzer.

INFORMATION

4. Park Project Status (oral)

a. Coastal Ranger Station

Executive Director McKernan reported that the Coastal Ranger Station project is completely designed, fully permitted (except building permit), and a financing plan has been written to construct the building without the need for a loan. The project has not gone to bid to get an exact amount. The estimated amount is approximately \$550,000 - \$600,000. Funding will be repurposed from a previous grant, reserves from Southern California Edison payments, and a new grant. The financing plan will go to the JPA Board next week for approval and staff is hoping to break ground late summer or early fall.

b. Pamo Valley Trail

Principal Planner Shawna Anderson happily reported that the San Dieguito River Park was awarded a River Parkways Grant for \$280,000 with additional matching funds. The site development permit is scheduled to go before the City of San Diego hearing officer August 10th. Work is being done on the restoration mitigation plan for the small amount of impact from the trail. The grant contract should be received by September or October 2016 and construction is planned to begin soon after. The grant is from the State Natural Resources Agency. The trail will be the three miles from the Upper Santa Ysabel Truck Trail to the Lower Santa Ysabel Truck Trail. A large staging area will be located at the bottom of the trail. The staging area will be designed to accommodate horse trailers. The estimated time of completion will be one year. There was a discussion regarding locked gates on the trail.

c. Horse Park Trail

Executive Director McKernan provided an update on the Horse Park Trail failure and reported that thanks to a generous donation it was possible to have experts assess the situation and provide some ideas and estimates of \$300,000 - \$500,000 to repair the blow out. The estimate for the railroad flat car bridge alone is \$139,000.00 and it will span the width of the bank failure parallel to the river, with pilings on the ground, not in the river. The soft engineered fix for the bank is soil filled burlap bags in a stair step design with live willow branches growing together, around the burlap bags. This idea may be acceptable to the Coastal Commission. Currently there is runoff from the Horse Park creating additional erosion. River Park staff has put out more signs and the bank is inaccessible, making it impossible for trail use. The funding for rebuilding, if approved by the 22nd Ag District and the Coastal Commission, will have to come from grants or donations.

d. W19 Lagoon Restoration

Principal Planner Shawna Anderson reported that work is continuing with SANDAG and the design team. The EIR will be coming out in the fall of this year. This project is to restore the wetlands on the south side of the San Dieguito River, known as the Boudreau property. The construction will begin in 2017 or 2018. In 2000 when the park master plan for the coastal area was adopted, JPA staff identified all of the land west of El Camino Real in the lagoon area that could be used for restoration of some sort, tracking by wetland, upland, salt marsh, etc and a numbering system was created. The W19 area is south of the Horse Park between El Camino Real to the west, the river to the north and east to where power line

goes through. W19 is a SANDAG project which is part of mitigation for the coast corridor – I5 widening project.

5. Communications

Liz Gabrych asked about issues with the right of way near the Jenny Craig property. It was reported that there was no easement previously because staff was not sure where the trail would go however, staff is working on an easement now. John Degenfelder asked if trail users can get to the reservation land from the new trail in Pamo Valley. Executive Director McKernan answered that staff has been speaking with both tribal chairmen.

Adjournment

Chair Barnouw adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM