

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Minutes of October 7, 2016**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jeff Barnouw  
Phil Pryde  
Deborah DeBow  
Laurilyn Burson  
Ed Greene  
Liz Gabrych  
Ed Spaeth  
Ruth Coddington  
Ben Hillebrecht  
Carol Carr  
Charlie Jancic  
Alice Brown  
Mid Hoppenrath  
Dave Kreitzer  
Jessica Parks  
Bill Michalsky  
Colleen Bradley  
Arthur Schmitz  
Brant Bassett  
Cory Ha'o  
Terry Badger

**REPRESENTING**

CAC, Chair  
Audubon Society  
California Native Plant Society  
Del Dios Town Council  
Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley  
League of Women Voters  
Ramona Trails  
Rancho Bernardo Community Planning Board  
San Diego City Agricultural Advisory Board  
San Diego County Bicycle Coalition  
San Diego County Farm Bureau  
San Dieguito Lagoon Committee  
San Dieguito Planning Group  
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy  
Santa Fe Irrigation District  
Sierra Club  
Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation  
Eastern Property Owner  
Central Property Owner  
Coastal Property Owner  
Central 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
Leana Bulay	San Dieguito River Park JPA
John Barone	City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department

**Roll Call and Introductions**

Chair Barnouw convened the meeting at 10:32 a.m. at the San Rafael Parish.  
Office Manager Brenda Miller took the roll call. A quorum was met, with 19 in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes - July 8, 2016**

The minutes were corrected to reflect the following change. On page 5 of minutes, agenda item number 5 (Communications), sentence 3 was changed to read: John Degenfelder asked if trail users can get to the reservation land from the new trail in Pamo Valley.

Bill Michalsky moved to approve the minutes of July 8, 2016 with the correction stated above and Carol Carr seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Chair's Report – No Report**

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director McKernan reported that the boardwalk at the San Dieguito Lagoon has been partially decommissioned and that the 22<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural Association is working on the restoration of the South Overflow Lot. The Coast to Crest Trail at this location is being re-routed to Jimmy Durante Boulevard. The remaining boardwalk and new viewing platform is temporarily closed due to active construction.

Public Comment

Phil Pryde reminded everyone of the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy event, the River Fest, Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at Fairbanks Ranch Country Club.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Approve Friends of Sikes Adobe for CAC Membership with Jim Lyon as Representative  
Chair Barnouw stated that due to family emergency, Jim Lyon was unable to attend this meeting. Executive Director McKernan reported that the Friends of Sikes Adobe is becoming more active and would like to become members of the Citizens Advisory Committee. On September 2 the Friends of Sikes Adobe issued a check in the amount of \$20,000 to the San Dieguito River Park to help pay for the cost of purchasing a portable restroom for the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead.

Terry Badger made the motion to accept the Friends of Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead as members of the Citizens Advisory Committee. Liz Gabrych seconded the motion. All in favor.

2. Committee Reports

a. Project Review Committee

Principal Planner Shawna Anderson reported that no meeting was held in September. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 at the Fairbanks Ranch HOA Clubhouse. A proponent of the Hacienda Del Mar project may attend the meeting.

b. Trails Committee

Carol Carr reported that a zip code survey of trail users was done in April 2016. A request was made to repeat the survey. Four volunteers will conduct surveys at the 4 most popular trails on a weekend morning when the trails are the busiest. The surveys will be completed by October 31. In addition to collecting zip codes, the surveyors will add how often the person uses the trail. The Trails Committee reviews the Coast to Crest Trail gaps at their monthly meetings and it is a high priority of the committee. To learn more about the gaps Carol invited everyone to visit the SDRP.org website, select the "Trails" tab and then click on the "Coast to Crest Trail status". The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 13, 12:30 p.m. at the River Park office.

3. Discuss Akin Family Unrestricted Donation of \$110,000 to the San Dieguito River Park  
Executive Director McKernan reported that the San Dieguito River Park was a beneficiary of the Royal and Perla Akin Trust. The initial distribution of the trust in the amount of \$110,000 was received in August 2016. The Akins lived in the Lake Hodges area and were big supporters of the San Dieguito River Park. Staff looked at project funding gaps to determine where the highest priorities for the use of these funds are. Executive Director McKernan presented the list of priorities to the JPA Board at the September 15, 2016 meeting. The highest priority is funding the Coast Ranger Station. To update; the two bids for the project came back two to three times higher than budgeted. Staff is in the process of getting a construction estimate for the project to get a new estimate and determine how to proceed. The second highest priority is the Horse Park Trail blowout project. Executive Director McKernan explained that in June 2015 the JPA had a negative bank account of \$60,000 with the County of San Diego. This was due to a number of factors including; the City of San Diego not paying dues for a number of years and a shortfall from rebuilding office after the fire. Executive Director McKernan asked the JPA Board to borrow money from an endowment (long term reserve fund). The JPA Board agreed to borrow \$200,000 from the endowment and deposit in the accounts at the County of San Diego to bring all accounts into a positive balance. For the last year the JPA has been on budget and all accounts have remained positive. The third option is to use the donation to pay back a portion of the amount borrowed from the endowment fund. The JPA Board asked that this topic be brought to the CAC for discussion. The CAC members thoroughly discussed many aspects and issues regarding a use for this gift.

Bill Michalsky made the motion that the CAC is in support of using the Akin Family Trust gift to fund the Coast Ranger Station first, fund the Horse Park Trail repair second and to not use this money to repay the Fidelity endowment account. The motion was seconded by Liz Gabrych.

19 yes votes. 2 no votes.

4. Establish Interpretation Committee

Manager of Interpretation and Outreach, Leana Bulay reported that an Interpretation Committee, with the same status as the Trails Committee and Project Review Committee, be formed as part of the Citizens Advisory Committee, to review policies, projects and programming relating to the River Park's Interpretation and Education Program. The topic was discussed.

Deb DeBow made the motion to approve the establishment of an Interpretation Committee of the Citizens Advisory Committee with the same status as the Trails Committee and Project Review Committee. Bill Michalsky seconded the motion.

19 yes votes. 1 no vote. 1 abstain vote.  
The motion was rescinded.

Bill Michalsky made the motion to form an Interpretation Committee and that the ad hoc subcommittee formed at the July 8, 2016 to create policies for volunteer recognition, will be rolled into the Interpretation Committee. The motion was seconded by Phil Pryde.

19 yes votes. 1 no vote. 1 abstain vote.

#### INFORMATION

##### 5. Park Project Status

###### a. Coastal Ranger Station

Principal Planner Shawna Anderson reported that staff should receive the construction cost estimate today.

###### b. Pamo Valley Trail

Principal Planner Shawna Anderson reported that staff is in the process of getting the final grading permit and staff has not received the final paperwork for the state grant.

###### c. Horse Park Trail

Executive Director McKernan reported that staff is getting more information on a lighter, pedestrian bridge with removable pilings to go across the river in the area of the trail closure. The next step is to get geo-technical borings at this location.

##### 7. Communications

Ed Greene reported that the Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley are suing the City of San Diego over the Surf Cup Lease of the polo fields. Arbitration is scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup>. The reason for the lawsuit is the omission of an environmental impact report. Executive Director McKernan showed the members a copy of the new Coast to Cactus book written by the Canyoneers group of the Natural History Museum.

##### Adjournment

Chair Barnouw adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.