

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of December 1, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Khoury
Rich Risner
Phil Pryde
Bob Byrnes
Candice Bowman
Linda Oster
Maggie Brown
Liz Gabrych
Adrienne Brown
Victoria Touchstone
Jeremy Blakespear
Jennifer Dissler
Julie Klein
Udo Wahn
Sharon Fogg
Peter Shapiro
Pam Heatherington
Jim Smith
Jeff Barnouw
Sue Carr, Alternate for Jan Fuchs
Bob Dudley
Bill Adelson
Neil Meyer

REPRESENTING

CAC, Chair
American Society of Landscape Architects
Audubon Society
California Native Plant Society – SD
Carmel Valley Planning Board
Del Dios Town Council
Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
League of Women Voters
Lake Hodges Native Plant Club
Rancho Bernardo Planning Board
San Diego Bicycle Coalition
San Diego Mountain Biking Assoc.
San Diego Trails Alliance
San Dieguito Lagoon Committee
San Dieguito Planning Group
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Sierra Club
Torrey Pines Community Planning Group
Coastal Property Owner, CAC Vice Chair
Coastal Property Owner
San Pasqual Property Owner
Eastern Property Owner
Eastern Property Owner

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Shawna Anderson	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Dewanda Vandermost	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Megan Hickey	City of San Diego Public Utilities Dept.
Paul Bernstein	Lake Hodges resident
Dan Smith	Lake Hodges resident

Introductions and Announcements

Chair Khoury called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM.
Khoury introduced two of his neighbors, Paul Bernstein and Daniel Smith, for today's presentation.

Approval of Minutes- 10-6-23

Phil Pryde moved to approve the minutes of October 6, 2023, and Jeff Barnouw seconded the motion. All members were in favor.
Abstain: Julie Klein, Vicki Touchstone

Chair's Report – Chair Khoury attended the Del Mar Fairgrounds water treatment opening ceremony reception on 10-24-23 and shared that Senator Toni Atkins stated her support for the San Dieguito River Park.

Chair Khoury also mentioned that the Conservancy will be sponsoring a speaker's series open to the public beginning January 3, 2024, monthly, with five different subjects.

Chair Khoury gave news about the passing of David Kreitzer and his importance to the park's history.

Executive Director's Report –Director Anderson emphasized the impact that David Kreitzer had on the Park, including the Hodges Ped/Bicycle Bridge which is named in his honor for his financial support, and his support of the Sikes Adobe.

Anderson introduced the JPA's Senior Interpretive Ranger, Leana Bulay, who will be giving a presentation during today's meeting.

Director Anderson shared that SDRP is one of the charities for the Red Nose Run in Del Mar on December 9, 2023. She mentioned that volunteers were needed, and she encouraged attendance.

Anderson updated the status of the JPA staff including two new ranger aides, Tyler and Nicolas.

Director Anderson reported that the user-friendly new and improved SDRP website will be launching later in December.

Public Comment - None

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Presentation - City of San Diego Public Utilities Department on Lake Hodges Level and Status of Dam Project

Chair Khoury introduced Megan Hickey from the San Diego City Public Utilities Department. Ms. Hickey presented an informational power point with facts and reports of an overview of the Lake Hodges Dam planning, repairs and replacement, and an update on the managed water level and the Grebe monitoring program.

The final Consequence model was requested to be made available to the CAC by a committee member and Ms. Hickey agreed to provide the report.

The CAC members and visitors had many questions and remarks regarding the lake level, project timeline, and the Consequences model findings that were discussed with Ms. Hickey.

2. **Presentation – SDRP JPA Senior Interpretive Ranger, Leana Bulay**

Senior Interpretive Ranger Leana Bulay presented on the educational programs offered by the JPA and affiliated partners. She shared the influence these programs have on interest and involvement with the Park and updated the CAC on the Outdoor Equity Escondido Explorers program and the opportunities the state grant funds have provided thus far.

Ranger Bulay explained the many avenues available for involvement with the park, such as volunteers and volunteer enrichment and training, interns, community service, Scouts program, restoration events, teens in action, community events, research projects, water quality testing, bird surveys, citizen's science, bio blitzes, camera trap partnership, mobile app, interpretive walks, Sikes Festive Farmhouse, and the Watershed Explorers Program.

3. **Reach the Beach Fairgrounds Trail and SDRP Western Gateway**

Executive Director Anderson provided an update on the progress and details of this project thus far. She referenced the Hubbell-designed Eastern Gateway at Volcan Mountain and the JPA Board's support for a western gateway at the coast designed by the same artist James Hubbell.

Anderson presented the project background including the CTC Reach the Beach trail, and 2012 feasibility study and shared design concepts of the future trail improvements and project components including the ADA ramp at Jimmy Durante in collaboration with the City's Public Works Department.

Anderson expressed the importance of claiming the buffer that was set aside by the Del Mar Fairgrounds designated for public use and has not yet been used.

CAC members discussed the timeline for eventually bringing the CTC Trail to the beach and concerns about alternative routes on the north and south sides of the river and how this project fits into the larger plan.

The CAC expressed their overall approval of the project and their support to continue pursuing its implementation.

4. **Committee Reports**

a. **Project Review Committee** – no report.

b. **Trails Committee** – Candice Bowman announced that she is the new Trails Committee Chair and that the next meeting will be held December 12th at noon at the Ranger Station.

c. **Interpretation Committee** - Liz Gabrych shared that the next meeting will be on the second Wednesday of January 2024.

INFORMATION

4. **Park and Project Status and Updates (oral)** – Phil Pryde shared his long history on the CAC as a founding member and many years as its Chair but that that he now will be stepping down for personal reasons.

Jeff Barnouw made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Peter Shapiro seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 pm.