

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 9, 2008

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – 8:30 am by Marilyn Wilkinson
2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER
 - Marilyn Wilkinson - I would like to introduce our new member, Rob Hutsel to the committee.
 - Rob Hutsel – I have lived in San Diego all of my life and am very involved and dedicated to the area. I am also the Executive Director for the San Diego River Park Foundation. I look forward to participating on this committee.
 - Doug Goad – I was just wondering if there is any conflict of interest for you because of your affiliation with the San Diego River Park and that this is a public committee.
 - Rob Hutsel - I don't think that will be an issue as they are separate issues and if there were ever an item that directly related to the foundation I would abstain from the item.
 - Roger Utt – I would just like to say that Jim Peugh like myself was a representative on this committee for District 4 and served on this committee since 1995 and I just want his great years of service to be commemorated. I really enjoyed working with him over the years.
 - Marilyn Wilkinson – I sent Jim an email thanking him for his years of service on this committee and if you don't mind I would like to send him a letter on our behalf thanking him for his time and service on this committee.
 - Consensus from all members present that they would like to have this letter of thanks sent.
3. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON ANY ITEM ON TODAY'S AGENDA
 - Joe Margolis – I have been involved in government one way or another for about 30 years and I have some knowledge on how construction and design is done. I am here to talk about the design of the Santa Ysabel West Staging Area. Currently, I am denied access to the existing staging areas at Santa Ysabel East and Barnett Ranch because the approaches are too steep or they have single lane entrances and no pull-throughs and not enough space to turn around. I do have a 3-hour trailer which is larger than most, but I still think that the staging areas should not preclude me from accessing the areas. What I would like to see happen at the Santa Ysabel West Staging Area is a design that allows for pull-through parking with a double lane entrance so that all size trailers can get in and out of the area even if the lot is full.
4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA
 - Roger Utt – I am a member of the Mission Trails Park Advisory Committee and they are about to open the Stoneridge staging area and will also include trails of which will connect to Goodan Ranch and Sycamore. I have also been informed that we are working on the land acquisition with Miramar for a connection from Mission Trails to south Goodan as well in 2011.

- Rick Landavazo – Distributed flyers from the Friends of Hellhole Canyon. The Friends are trying to get funding to acquire land in the area and would encourage any donations.
- Marilyn Wilkinson – There is an opportunity that has come up very quickly with the upcoming possible closure of a school in my area. If the school closes they are planning to keep the land and I think that it is something that could be a possible park and recreation opportunity to try and keep some type of programs and activities going for the community.
- John Degenfelder – I am involved with an air center in Ramona that is going to be building some hangars and they are also thinking about restoring the yellow house at the top of the hill on the Ramona Grasslands.
- Doug Goad – There are 80-miles of trails planned for the City of Encinitas and we currently have 40-miles completed and are working to get the remaining miles completed.

5. APPROVAL OF APRIL 11, 2008 MINUTES

- Approval of April 11, 2008 Minutes
MOTION TO APPROVE APRIL 11, 2008 – Doug Goad, 2nd Rod Groenewold
ALL IN FAVOR – 6-0-1

6. DEPARTMENT REPORT – Sean O'Neill

- Distributed the April monthly accomplishments.
- During the month of April 2008, DPR started work on 1 project having a total value of \$367,000, and completed 3 projects with a total value of \$475,000.
- Agua Caliente Housing Improvements – We will replace 3 dilapidated housing units with new modular homes, including improved utility service and shaded patio areas.
- We completed construction on the Lake Morena PCT Staging and Camping area – Providing 5 new primitive campsites, a group picnic and fire area, and water tolerant landscaping for privacy. Improvements specifically serve users of the Pacific Crest Trail which passes through Lake Morena Park.
- Whitaker Volunteer Pad Relocation and Site Improvements – We relocated and upgraded the existing volunteer pad and improved site access.
- Lakeside Linkages Habitat Enhancement – We installed perimeter fencing around MSCP lands and removed trash and debris.
- We also had a couple of recreation activities occur this month.
On April 5, 2008, the Department of Parks and Recreation in collaboration with the Health and Human Services Agency held the 3rd Annual "It's How We Live!" Health Festival in Lindo Lake Park in Lakeside. The event featured over 35 information and activity booths, healthy food, cooking demonstrations, rock climbing, 7 different health screenings, opportunity drawings, and entertainment and attracted over 1,300 participants. DPR partnered with the Lakeside Union School District's Run for the Arts in order to combine the events and increase attendance for both.
- On April 25-27, 2008 we hosted the 10th Annual Day Zero Pacific Crest Trail Kick Off event at Lake Morena County Park. This year's event brought over 1,500 hikers and trail enthusiasts from all over to start this hiking adventure.

Participants were also able to take advantage of the recent improvements to the PCT trail and hiker camping area.

7. PLDO and CSA Fund Balance Reports – Beth Baroy

- Distributed the PLDO and CSA reports.
 - ◆ Roger Utt – It looks like the Rancho San Diego CSA is still in the red?
- This area passed a Park Maintenance Assessment District fee to increase the funding for the parks in the area, however by doing this instead of increasing the actual CSA fees they are listed as two separate accounts, which is why they are listed this way.

8. LINDO LAKE BOATHOUSE – Mark Massen

- A few months ago I came to the group and presented two concept plans for the restoration of the Lindo Lake Boathouse.
- Since then I have met with the Lakeside Historical Society and Lakeside Revitalization Committee and incorporated their input and comments into a final concept plan.
- We are working on a Board Letter to authorize us to go out and bid for a consultant contract for the project.
- Distributed concept plan and drawing for the project.
- We wanted to try and go back to the 1900 – 1920's time for the boathouse. Now we couldn't put the boathouse back into the water as it was during that time period, but we are still going to have a boardwalk out to the boathouse and items that will still give it the same look and feeling.
 - ◆ Marilyn Wilkinson – So both the Historical and Revitalization committees approve of this plan?
- Yes, they both have reviewed and approved.
 - ◆ John Degenfelder – What is the fence going to be made out of and how long is it expected to last?
- It is Cedar which is treated and it is expected it should last 30 to 50 years. This was recommended by the historical consultant we have working on this project.
 - ◆ Roger Utt – I just want to make sure that we have hidden rafter ties. I also noticed that the consultants are not from San Diego County and I think that it is important to always try and hire from within the County for our projects.
- Part of the plans are to hide all of the rafter ties to make sure that the roof is secure.
 - ◆ Rod Groenewold – Cedar is a fairly soft wood and I don't really know the area, but we have experienced problems in some of our areas about vandals carving into the wood which could significantly decrease the life of the wood.
- That is a good point because we have had our share of issues at Lindo Lake Park, but it hasn't had considerable vandalism problems.

MOTION TO APPROVE THIS CONCEPT PLAN AND PROJECT – Rick Landavazo, 2nd

Rod Groenewold

ALL IN FAVOR – 7-0-0

9. RAMONA GRASSLANDS – Maeve Hanley

- I have previously come to this committee and given information about the Ramona Grasslands and our acquisitions. We have acquired Oak Country which is 230 acres and Davis-Eagle which is 946 acres.

- I have more good news that we will also be acquiring Gildred and the remainder of Oak Country II, which will give us over 3,518 acres of land in the grasslands.
 - The Oak Country II property was originally slated for a housing development, so there environmental compliance in terms of CEQA for the property is complete as there is a certified EIR. This will allow use to prepare 15162 could allow us to have completion of this area by the Summer 2009.
 - We asked the Board of Supervisors for \$1.2 million for the biological and cultural surveys of the Davis and Gildred properties as well as trail planning. This amount was approved on Wednesday of this week. Our goal is to have completion of these reports and trail planning in the Summer 2010.
 - There are also plans for a one-acre multi-use staging area on the Oak Country II property, which would be a large figure eight trail to give a short and long trail opportunity for trail users.
 - ◆ Roger Utt – Would that figure eight trail link to the TransCounty Trail?
 - The goal is to have trail connections to the TransCounty, Coast to Crest and other regional trails in compliance with the adopted Community Trail Map.
- MOTION TO APPROVE THIS PLAN – Rick Landavazo, 2nd Doug Goad
ALL IN FAVOR – 7-0-0

10. SANTA YSABEL WEST PRESERVE STAGING AREA – Mike McFedries

- Distributed draft design for the Santa Ysabel West Preserve Staging Area.
- The conservation easement that is part of the property does limit us to a 1-acre staging area. This also prohibits us from any grading on the site, so we will be just doing an extremely low mow of the area which will still allow people to drive over the area without any problems.
- There is a section in the center of the design area that will have split-rail fencing to protect the sensitive habitat.
- In the current design plan there is also a picnic area included.
 - ◆ Doug Goad – I would really encourage the inclusion of a picnic area to be able to accommodate other users aside from equestrians.
 - ◆ Rob Hutsel – Is there any plans for a restroom facility at the staging area?
- Due to the conservation easement restrictions we cannot have an in-ground restroom facility, but will look at the options of possibly having a portable facility.
- We are looking at completion of this in the Summer 2009.
 - ◆ Doug Goad – There is a staging area in Olivenhain that has this type of set-up and they use some planks of wood in the ground as guides for trailers, but can be easily driven over and maneuvered around.

MOTION TO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT – Doug Goad, 2nd Rod Groenewold
ALL IN FAVOR – 7-0-0

11. PROPOSED PARK USER FEES – Matt Bohan

- I am back again to present the proposed park user fees. As I presented previously the current fee range that we are using was adopted in 2001 and we have reached the top of all of our available ranges.
- Today we would like to get your comments and feedback on our proposed park user fee changes.
- Our intent is to then finalize the recommendations and go to Board of Supervisors in Fall 2008, get approval and have the new fees start on January 1, 2009.

- ◆ Rod Groenewold – Is this something that will cover a range for so many years? I think that it would be helpful and get more support from the public if we state that there is a range and timeline for the fees.
- Yes, we have made ranges for all of the categories some of which are recommended to have immediate fee increases and some to just approve a range that would allow us to increase the fees in the future within the specified range. It should allow us to go for at least another 5 years before having to revisit the fees again.
 - ◆ Marilyn Wilkinson – I think that there should be some type of discounts for disable and senior citizens. These people are on fixed incomes and with inflation I think that we should accommodate them somehow.
- The recommendation before you would eliminate the senior, disabled and resident discount cards.
 - ◆ Rick Landavazo – I think that you could make an argument for all kinds of groups that would be in need of a discount, because a young family starting out could use a discount. I think that if you look at the cost, these fees are still extremely low and affordable compared to most activities in San Diego.
 - ◆ Rod Groenewold – I agree with this because I think that we really should be looking at a discount/program that would encourage the youth to get out and camp and experience the outdoors instead of just the traditional discounts for seniors or residents.
 - ◆ Rick Landavazo – I see that there is a discount fee for non-profit groups to rent areas and was wondering if there is still an option for the director to waive these fees as well?
- There is still the option for the Director to waive fees in special circumstances.
 - ◆ Doug Goad – I think that we really need to try and keep the resident discount card because the residents are putting money back into this system with taxes and think that there should be a benefit out there for them.
 - ◆ Rob Hutsel – if you look at the numbers there were only 150 resident discount cards sold last year, so it really doesn't make a big impact on the bottom line.
 - ◆ Marilyn Wilkinson – What are the costs and discounts of the various discount cards?
- The resident discount card is \$35 for one year and you get \$1 off per camping night and a waiver of \$5 reservation fee. Then senior/disabled discount card is \$15 for one year and you get \$4 off per night (Sun-Thurs) partial hook-up, \$3 off (Sun – Thurs) non hook-up, and \$1 off per night (Fri-Sat), and waiver of the \$5 reservation fee. The Sun-Thurs discounts always have the caveat that they are not valid the day before or after a holiday as well.
 - ◆ Rob Hutsel – Is there any kind of discount for volunteers?
- No, we do not have a program or discount for volunteers.
 - ◆ Rod Groenewold – I think that there is still a lot of room in the fee range that is acceptable and this is a good plan.
- So we will plan our June meeting to be held at San Dieguito County Park, the July meeting will be cancelled and then the August meeting at Sweetwater Summit Regional Park and will have the proposed park user fees on the June and August agendas and invite the public to attend as well to give their comments and feedback.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE FEE MATRIX WITH RECOMMENDATIONS NOT TO ELIMINATE SENIOR, DISABLED AND RESIDENT DISCOUNT CARDS, Rick Landavazo, Rod Groenewold
 ALL IN FAVOR – 5-1-0

12. Opportunity for Members of Public to Speak on Any Items Not on Today's Agenda

- None

13. Adjournment at 9:45 am

ATTENDEES:

Marilyn Wilkinson, District 2

John Degenfelder, District 2

Doug Goad, District 3

Roger Utt, District 4

Rob Hutsel, District 4

Rod Groenewold, District 5

Rick Landavazo, District 5

Brian Albright, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Sean O'Neill, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Sabrina Hicks, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Beth Baroy, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Mark Massen, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Frank Special, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Maeve Hanley, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Matt Bohan, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Mike McFedries, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Joe Margolis, Public