

**Minutes of the Meeting of the March 21, 2024
Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force was held on Thursday, March 21, 2024.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Councilmember Raul Campillo, City of San Diego
Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe, County of San Diego
Councilmember Dustin Trotter, City of Santee
Kevin Loomis, CAC Chair

Members Absent

Supervisor Joel Anderson, County of San Diego
Councilmember Colin Parent, City of La Mesa
Councilmember Kent Lee, City of San Diego

Staff

Rob Wheeler, Senior Park Ranger, Mission Trails Regional Park
Vicram Vettiyil, Office of Councilmember Campillo
Erika Ferreira, Deputy Director, Open Space Division
Nick Chavez, Community Services Director, City of Santee

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Task Force Chair Raul Campillo at 1:08 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (Montgomery Steppe/Trotter) to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2024, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: It was moved/ seconded to amend the minutes of the January 18, 2024 meeting to reflect the following updated Open Space Division Staff Report: 5 supervising ranger positions department wide. Motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES - None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT- *Councilmember Campillo*

- Councilmember Campillo welcomes CAC Chair Kevin Loomis to his new role.

COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable)

- *Susie Murphy, Executive Director of SDMBA* – Thanks MTRP staff and Foundation for their partnership to make the park's trails better for all.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Approval of the Conceptual Design for the San Diego River Crossing Bridge project – PRJ 105070 – *Ben Lenail, Project Applicant and Evan Lakin, PE, KPFF Consulting Engineers*

- Councilmember Campillo acknowledges the CAC's recommendation to refer plan back to City staff to better understand impact on the environment. (re: MTRP guidelines, CEQA issues and design aesthetics) Staff will await the submitted conceptual design for approval.
- The 4th year of the project has seen significant progress. Made borings at site and produced a geotechnical report with conceptual design. Pedestrian bridge includes a metal cage with prefabricated elements; appears bolder with intrinsic benefits for the park, increase access and respect the spirit of the site. The team has produced deliverables to City agencies/ Developmental Services including biology and hydrology reports.
- Construction window is October 2024 to February 2025
- PowerPoint presentation included various perspectives of the bridge at the proposed site.

MOTION: Campillo motioned to approve the conceptual design to be approved by DSD and park staff (Campillo, Steppe).

- Loomis addressed some concerns about the wood type/required maintenance and potential obstruction of wildlife flight paths/the felling of existing trees.

102. Approval of Event Guideline Modifications – *Councilmember Campillo, MTRP Task Force Chair*

- Campillo's Office proposed an amendment that would allow for MTRP Foundation and City to avoid standard event permitting application process.

MOTION: Campillo motioned to approved amendment; Loomis seconds. (4-0, motion carried unanimously)

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. Antenna Fund Income Sources/Amounts and Current Antenna Fund Balance/Unencumbered Balance – *Erika Ferreira, Deputy Director, Open Space Division, Parks and Recreation Dept.*

- Total balance in antenna fund is \$1,178,609.29. Unallocated funds (which would require an admin move) include \$195,332.00. The remaining \$983,276.00 must go to Council for approval.
- Real Estate Assets Department manages the leases. Currently, only SDG&E lease is current through 2028. The other two leases are in holdover, to be rewritten by Real Estate Assets Dept. to make current and up to legal specs. Drafts coming soon.

302. Cowles Communications Tower/Power Pole Replacement Update – *Erika Ferreira, Deputy Director, Open Space Division, Parks and Recreation Dept.*

- City has initiated a project intake form. Engineering Capital Projects will determine if it's a repair/replacement project or make it a Capital Improvement Project. Funding for phase 1 (scope, time and cost) of the project will come from antenna funds. A rough cost estimate (sans official documentation) is about \$1.5 million.

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303. Oak Grove Trail Improvements Status Report – *Rob Wheeler, MTRP Senior Park Ranger*

- A test patch of 30 feet was installed. Area proved successful during recent rains. A month of foot and bike traffic will determine how it holds up long-term. SDMBA will likely be involved in construction of a boardwalk, project date TBD.

304. Bilingual Signage Program – *Rob Wheeler, MTRP Senior Park Ranger*

- Facility ops meeting scheduled for April to discuss updates

305. Old Mission Dam Dredging Project Status Update – *Erika Ferreira, Deputy Director, Open Space Division, Parks and Recreation Dept.*

- 60% of the plan reviewed and completed by Engineering and Capital Improvements Department and Parks and Recreation Department. One more round of revisions and reviews; Request for Proposal should be out by spring/early summer and the work completed by fall.

STANDING REPORTS

Staff Representative Reports:

City of Santee Community Services Department – *Nick Chavez, City of Santee Community Services Director*

- In the process of filling a new position, the In Services Open Space Coordinator: posting encampments, cleanup of areas, abandoned waste disposal, working with Police captains and deputies; will be filled in the next few weeks.

MTRP Senior Ranger Report – *Robert Wheeler, MTRP Senior Park Ranger*

- Park staff has been resurfacing parking lots/ filling potholes, working on storm remediation, and recently reopened the concrete bridge at the Kumeyaay Lake. Rangers have been leading crews at the Cowles Mountain Staging Area, planting 100 natives in the campground and tending to other restoration projects.
- Park Ranger interviews will take place in April. There were almost 350 candidates; 2 positions for MTRP will hopefully be filled within the fiscal year.
- As of March 15, the Cowles Mountain vending machine is up and running.

Open Space Staff Report – *Erika Ferreira, Deputy Director, Open Space Division, Parks and Recreation Dept.*

- The P&R Department and Real Estate Assets are working on acquiring 3 parcels totaling 26.5 acres in East Elliot. The priority 1 list includes parcels with the potential for connecting trails.
- Supervising Park Ranger interviews have concluded: 2 in the Open Space Division, 5 in the entire department.

MTRP Foundation Report– *Jennifer Morrissey, Executive Director, MTRPF*

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- Applied for 2 grants: \$1.8 million for invasive brush removal and one to support the bilingual signage initiative.
- Upcoming events: Founders Dinner, Community Night, free Earth Day clothing swap and the 31st annual Photo Contest
- Foundation recently purchased two parcels and donated the land to the City of San Diego.
- Applied for \$2 million from River Conservancy.

Citizen's Advisory Committee Report – *Kevin Loomis, Citizens Advisory Committee Chair*

- Thanks everyone for sharing their time, knowledge, and willingness to work together.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 18, 2024, 1:00 PM (no TF meeting in May)