

MINUTES OF THE MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 MEETING OF THE  
TECOLOTE CANYON CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TIME AND PLACE

This meeting of the Tecolote Canyon Citizen's Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:30pm at the Tecolote Nature Center.

ATTENDENCE

Members Present

Darrel Madison

Eloise Battle

David Harpster

Anitra Kaye

Niki Ahrens

Robert Mathers

Wilbur Smith

Absent

Marc Schaefer

Suzy Ellison-Logan

Jim Roberts

Guests

N/A

City of San Diego Staff

Monica Graves, Parks & Recreation Department

CALL TO ORDER

Darrel Madison called the meeting to order at 6:43pm

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

1. (MADISON), Do I have a MOTION to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024? (Harpster) **MOVED** to approve, and (Kaye) **SECONDED**. (MADISON) asked, all those in favor? (All) were in Favor. All those opposed? None. Any abstentions? None. The motion to approve the minutes passes.

## CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

None present.

1. Darrel gave an update from City Council member Jennifer Campbell. They are in the middle of budget hearings for fiscal year 2025 and the Department of Transportation is working on the five-year street re-paving plan. Environmental services will be offering bulky item curbside pickup events in Bay Ho, Ocean Beach, and Mission Beach.

## CHAIR PERSON'S REPORT- DARREL MADISON

1. Darrel stated Meet-Up group is now up to 814 members.
2. Darrel said he will direct new members with an interest in birding to Anitra.

## RANGER'S REPORT- PARK RANGER MONICA GRAVES

1. Monica stated Steve's attempt to upgrade Marla's position from a CDII to an Interpretive Park Ranger was denied.
2. Monica stated Marla's position will not be filled until FY25 in July and even then it is unknown if the position will be opened due to budget cuts.
3. Monica stated Nature Center hours have temporarily been altered to 11-2 Wednesday through Saturday. Staff, interns and volunteers are doing their best to keep it open during those times.
4. Monica stated the city is on a spending freeze, so trails are having to be cleared by staff as compared to the contractors who have typically done the bulk of it. (please be patient, we will get to it all.)
5. Monica stated Canyon Connection Day is set for June 1<sup>st</sup>.
6. Monica stated TCIG and staff are working towards utilizing some of the donation funds for the Nature Center to create a master plan for the Nature Center and surrounding grounds. We are working with the same group that designed the mural in the Nature Center, Artefact.
7. Monica stated the last restoration site finished had a total of 750 plants added to it.

## WILDLIFE REPORT

1. Darrel said he saw a fox in his backyard leading into the canyon.
2. Anitra said on their monthly hike in Tecolote Canyon, they saw a bobcat near the kestrel box at next year's restoration site (site 10).

## ACTION ITEMS

*101. None*

## WORKSHOP ITEMS

*201. Outreach Efforts*

1. Darrel expressed a desire to ramp up outreach efforts and utilize the large audience on Meetup, get coordinated in social media presence and communications, and reach out through various platforms to gather interest.
2. Darrel proposed getting community support for a safer crossing at Balboa Avenue as the current crossing through the storm drain is not always safe.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### *301. Tecolote Canyon Trunk Sewer Project*

1. Darrel spoke with Mark Burninger who said the interns have been helping to make progress ahead of the awarding of the Trunk Sewer Project to a contractor. Bridges are required by the Natural Resource Management Plan but very expensive as they will impact the riparian corridors and require mitigation. If the trunk sewer project can install the bridges under their budget it will save a significant cost to the Natural Resources Management plan. The Trunk Sewer Project and design is 95% done but requires the contractor to weigh in for the final planning stages.

### *302. Natural Resource Management Plan/ Master Plan Update for Tecolote Canyon Natural Park*

1. Darrel was told by Berninger that they City Planning Department just got a grant to do the City Trails Master Plan that will be assessing key trails and missing linkages to them.
2. Eloise stated there are four federally endangered species in the Canyon that require adequate attention and funding in the canyon.

### *303. Friends of Tecolote Canyon Update/ fund raising events*

1. Eloise stated the Friends of Tecolote Canyon are participating in the Canyon Connections event on June 1<sup>st</sup> and financing some of the programs.

### *304. Tecolote Creek Flow Monitoring*

1. Darrel stated Al Caldwell contacted him regarding the installation of a creek flow monitoring system in the Tecolote Creek. The proposed system would monitor the flow rate of the creek in real time and would need to be placed permanently in the creek. The data could be useful monitoring the flow rate in the canyon as climate change effects rain events. Darrel will invite him to speak in person about the project more in depth at the next meeting.

### *305. Canyon Connections*

1. Monica suggested TCCAC could attend Canyon Connections Day to connect with community members and potentially recruit new citizens to the council.

### *306. Open Discussion*

1. The mission statement still needs to be finalized and adopted.
2. David expressed he is writing a letter stating his position requesting when the lease is renewed for the Tecolote Golf Course that it adopts more environmentally friendly practices. It was suggested that his letter could be used to gather signatures in the community in favor of his position and more eco-minded business practices such as water conservation, planting of native species, and so on.

## COMMUNICATIONS

1. None.

## ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.

NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING: July 17<sup>th</sup> 2024 @ 6:30p.m.

Please Note: If there are questions regarding this agenda, please contact Staff Representative Park Ranger Steve Smith at 858-581-9961.

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