

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2025**

**TIME AND PLACE**

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center.

**ATTENDANCE** Members Present

David Boyer, USMC  
Jessi Brown, City of La Mesa  
Cynthia Cornelius, Member-at-large  
Glenn Farber, San Carlos Area Council  
Rick Gulley, City of Parks and Recreation Committee  
Ryan Hartegan, MTRP User Group (alternate)  
Rob Hutsel, Co of SD Parks and Recreation Committee  
Kevin Loomis, Chair  
Lane MacKenzie, MTRP Foundation  
Dick Murphy, Vice Chair, Special Member  
Scott Penwell, City of El Cajon  
Marilyn Reed, Navajo Community Planners  
Kin Searcy, Scripps Ranch Civic Association  
Gary Strawn, City of Santee  
Richard Thesing, Tierrasanta Community Council  
Mickey Zeichick, San Carlos Area Council

**Members Absent/Excuse**

David Lipson, SDSU  
Mike Pent, Special Member

**City of San Diego**

Ed Christensen, Open Space Division District Manager, Parks and Recreation Department  
Rob Wheeler, Senior Park Ranger, Parks and Recreation Department

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:35PM by CAC Chair Kevin Loomis.

**ROLL CALL**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Gulley/Thesing) to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 29, 2024. The motion passed unanimously with Boyer abstaining.

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**CHAIR'S REPORT – Kevin Loomis**

- Met on site to discuss exterior/interior improvements to Visitors Center

**STAFF/RANGER'S REPORT – Rob Wheeler**

- A busy start to the year with heavy visitation and several rescues over the past few weeks
- The three new park rangers are off to a great start and have hit their stride leading field trips and volunteer crews, they will be starting trail guide training this week
- We are hoping to fill our last park ranger vacancy but are waiting for approval to move forward

**FOUNDATION REPORT - Lane MacKenzie**

- By the end of this month the Foundation will be closing on a third parcel, with a total of 105 acres across five parcels acquired since April
- The second cohort of the Eco Ambassadors program starts this Sunday from high schools all over the county
- The Foundation welcomed over 3000 students on field trips last year and the field trip program will start up again in a few weeks
- This weekend we are hosting a New York Times bestselling author for two sold out presentations about the importance of creating habitat in our communities

**COMMUNICATIONS –**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**101.** MTRP Ad-hoc Subcommittee Visitor Center Improvement Recommendations (interior)- *Kevin Loomis, Chair*

- **MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Cornelius/Murphy) to approve the interior improvement recommendations with the inclusion of at least four gender neutral restrooms. The motion passed unanimously with Boyer abstaining.

**102.** MTRP Ad-hoc Subcommittee Visitor Center Improvement Recommendations (exterior)- *Kevin Loomis, Chair*

- **MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Gulley/Strawn) to approve the exterior improvement recommendations. The motion passed unanimously with Boyer abstaining.

**WORKSHOP ITEMS – None**

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**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**301.** Visitor Center Recommended Improvements Overview – *Jennifer Morrissey, MTRP Foundation*

- Discussed in Action Items

**302.** Bridge For Max Project Update – *Evan Lakin KPFF, Kevin Legge*

- In comment exchange phase with the City of San Diego
- Bridge height, location, has been approved
- Flatiron construction has been selected as contractor
- Environmental mitigation measures have been outlined with all of it occurring within MTRP
- Goal is to mobilize September 2025 and complete by February 2026

**303.** East County Advanced Water Purification Project Update – *Rebecca Abbott, Engineering Manager, East County Advanced Water Purification Joint Power Authority*

- CEQA addendum is complete, project now has all approvals necessary for construction
- JPA board of directors project approvals are complete
- City of San Diego approval on the JPA city cost sharing agreement is in process
- The agreement has passed at the environmental committee
- The agreement has passed at the first city council reading in December
  - Second city council reading is next week
- The 100 percent design plans are being reviewed
- The City's engineering team which is the Strategic Capital Projects Department, will be sharing the plans with Parks and Recreation staff shortly
- Notice to proceed with construction is anticipated by March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Proposed schedule:
  - Clearing, grubbing, to occur late February – March
  - Install wet weather bypass pipeline install estimated May-July 2025
  - Drain the force main – July 2025
  - Sliplining construction July 2025 – end of 2027

**304.** Old Mission Dam Dredging Project Update – *Rob Wheeler, Senior Park Ranger, MTRP*

- Dredging project is complete

**305.** Oak Grove Loop Trail Resurfacing Project Update – *Ed Christensen, Supervising Park Ranger, Open Space Division*

- Met with in-house Open Space support crew to discuss an in-house approach to completing the project
- Additional \$100k attached to the project has spending criteria limitations
- Meeting set up tomorrow to get more clarification on available funds

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- Hoping to complete by March 1<sup>st</sup>

**306.** West Sycamore Staging Area Project Update – *Ed Christensen, Supervising Park Ranger, Open Space Division*

- Mark Callaran –
  - We've received some additional funding in November and anticipate an additional \$765,000 through the mid-year budget adjustment
  - Hoping to get out to bid before the Spring then award by Fall with construction shortly thereafter

**307.** CAC ad hoc Stowe Trail subcommittee update – *Kevin Loomis, Chair*

- No update

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, March 4th, 2025, 6:30 PM.