

# PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 11, 2018

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## MINUTES

1. Call to Order – 8:33 am
2. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK
  - None
3. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA
  - Committee Member Hutsel reminded everyone that this weekend kicks off the annual San Diego River Days. There will be more than 40 events up and down the length of river, including tree-planting and hikes. The event involves many community groups and public partners.
  - Committee Member Hutsel also announced that the Shot Hole Borer has been identified along the San Diego River.
  - Committee Member Utt mentioned that Mission Trails is almost done with their Master Plan. It includes trail revision alignments in the area where the landfill is, north of the 52.
  - Committee Member Long spoke with Chelsea Jander for an update on the Sweetwater Community Garden. The design should be 90% completed next week.
  - Committee Member Spaeth announced that the Kearny Trail will be open this fall to the public after the eagle fledging.
  - Chairman Goad asked if anyone attended the MSCP presentation on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Deputy Director Jason Hemmens reported it went well, and it was accepted.
4. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 13, 2018 MINUTES  
MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 13, 2018 MINUTES WITH COMMENTS AND REVIEW  
– Chairman Doug
  - No comments. Committee Member Hutsel motioned to approve; Committee Member Utt seconded.ALL IN FAVOR – 6 – 0 – 0
5. PLDO & CSA FUND BALANCE REPORTS
  - Distributed the monthly CSA and PLDO reports.
  - Committee Member Spaeth would like an update on the Santa Ysabel Nature Center since its budget increased \$1.5M. He would also like to inquire further on the possibility of a 79 underpass connection of Santa Ysabel east and west. Chairman Goad asked that this be an agenda item for the next meeting.
  - Committee Member Utt commented on how the Bonsall, Fallbrook and San Dieguito parks are evolving. He asked that DPR keep track of development and see where the needs are.
  - Committee Member Hutsel inquired about the risks to sunset spending and how the County deals with it. He wants to support DPR in making sure the needs of the community are met. Chairman Goad asked if Director Albright can explain or report on sunset spending at the next meeting.

- Committee Member Spaeth wants to understand the percentage of money spent on land acquisition versus money spent on park improvements and projects. Chairman Goad encouraged that it would be left to Director Albright to explain what can be explained, but not to dig into the specifics of planning policies. Goad reminded that the PAC's role is advisory, not planning; it is the planning group's responsibility to reach out to the PAC for advice if needed. Spaeth thinks the PAC should have a policy discussion on where the PLDO funds are going, but Goad said to allow planning groups their responsibility. Deputy Director Hemmens advised to wait on the Board's stance on PLDO. Spaeth explained further that he would like to see an overview of what County Parks is doing and how the PAC can advise on a big-picture basis. The PAC members settled on differences of opinion and will let Director Albright weigh in at the next meeting.

#### 6. DEPARTMENT REPORT – Deputy Director, Jason Hemmens

- Upcoming Board Hearings
  - June 20 – Bike Skills Park at Sweetwater Regional. The park is open to all ages and is connected to trail system (before the campground).
  - June 27 – Comprehensive PLDO Update
- Summer Movies in the Park will kick off on June 19<sup>th</sup> at University Heights. This year's series will include 150 movies in 10 cities and the USS Midway.
- Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup> is the Bi-Annual Warrior Hike. Deputy Director Hemmens explained the growth the event has seen, from starting with only 17 hikers to hosting 150 hikers last Veterans Day.
  - Committee Member Hutsel asked to ensure proper coordination is had with SDRPF, who owns part of the land. Hutsel thinks the top of the mountain is off limits because of fledging eagles and would like communication so properties are appropriately protected. Hemmens assured that DPR has many trained volunteers and staff who keep participants on the trail.
- Kamala Slight, member of the public, joined the meeting during Item #5. Chairman Goad welcomed her and invited her to introduce herself. Ms. Slight informed the PAC that she was notified of the vacancy for D1. Chairman Goad encouraged her to continue attending meetings to get a sense of the committee and make sure it is something she'd like to be a part of. Ms. Slight is interested in maintaining open space and is involved with SD MBA and the Elfen Forest conservancy. Committee Member Hutsel encouraged her to talk to her District Supervisor, who will ultimately make the appointment.

#### 7. PARKS AND RECREATION CHAMPION AWARDS PROGRAM – Jessica Geiszler

- Jessica presented on the Parks and Recreation Champion Awards Program. The program is DPR's way of saying "Thank You" to volunteers all across County. The nominations period is currently open until May 31<sup>st</sup>, and Jessica encouraged PAC members to identify a volunteer to nominate. The nomination form is available at [sdparks.org](http://sdparks.org), and a completed packet can be sent to Jessica via mail or e-mail. Jessica hopes to work with the San Diego Foundation to select finalists and a Champion. This year's awards ceremony will be at Heritage Park (always hosted at a County Park), and is an invitation-only event. Jessica is currently finalizing the invitation and waiting on additional sponsors.
- Committee Member Hutsel, on behalf of SDRPF, confirmed a \$250 table sponsorship for the event. All other sponsorship inquiries can be made to Jessica directly.

- Committee Member Utt asked how many volunteer hours were reported last year. Deputy Director Hemmens stated the overall monetary value of volunteer hours last year was \$2.45M, and the County is on track to reach this again. Committee Member Utt commented that he has received an equivalent award from the City in the past, and it is a great way to honor volunteers.

#### 8. SAVING OUR TREES – Dario Lombardo & Andy Quinn

- Dario Lombardo, Agricultural Scientist, presented a comprehensive look at what DPR is doing to save San Diego’s trees from infection. Dario explained the history of oak tree deaths due to the Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB) and the bug’s life cycle. Dario displayed a map showing areas of infection that is spreading north of San Diego. Committee Member Hutsel expressed concern that the map does not show ownership within the forests, which could be misleading – Dario said this is an official map from CalFire, who is in charge of trapping. Dario discussed best management practices for storing wood, as recommended according to the GSOB website. Dario also discussed Shot Hole Borers – a different species that brings fungi with them as they bore tunnels within the Oak tree bark – and the South American Palm Weevil, which infects palm trees. Dario ended his segment with good news that trees in TJRV are re-sprouting.
- Andy Quinn, Region Manager, presented on three different programs that DPR has created to save our trees. The Comprehensive Tree Program involves maintenance and removal of dying and infected trees. The number one priority is customer safety, so removal of trees happens only in high access zones. The GSOB Integrated Pest Management Program involves spraying oak trees with more than 25 GSOB exit holes. Since 2015, DPR has sprayed the same 582 trees at 8 different parks once a year; after the third year of spraying (2017), only 42 have died. The Comprehensive Tree Planting Program focuses on a 3:1 no net loss – for every one tree that dies, three trees are planted. Committee Member Spaeth asked where donations could be made to the program. Deputy Director Hemmens said donations can be made directly to Parks Society.

ADJOURNMENT – 10:09 A.M.

#### ATTENDEES:

Doug Goad, Chair District 3

Ed Spaeth, District 2

Ron Gaines, District 2

Bert Long, District 3

Rob Hutsel, District 4

Roger Utt, District 4

Kamala Slight, member of the public

Jason Hemmens, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Jessica Geiszler, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Dario Lombardo, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Andy Quinn, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Joanne Emerick, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation