

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 08, 2019

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – 8:35am
2. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK
 - Roger Utt, now a member of the public, commented that he is glad to have Dr. Susan Hector as his replacement to the PAC. Utt commented that DPR Director Albright has been great Director and facilitator of this committee and wishes everyone well. Utt will still be involved in park development planning with the Mission Trails Committee as a special member, but hopes either Committee Members Hector or Hutsel can be the new PAC representative. Chairman Goad said reappointment can be made formally at the April PAC meeting.
3. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA
 - Chairman Goad introduced Dr. Susan Hector, the new appointed member from District 4.
 - Committee Member Murphy thanked the County for a great experience at DPR's Annual Awards Ceremony at El Monte County Park on February 28th. Committee Members Utt and Hutsel were also in attendance.
 - Committee Member Hutsel announced that the San Diego River Park Foundation is holding River Kids Discovery Days today and tomorrow, which consists of 206 kids releasing baby steelhead trout into the river that they raised in their classrooms, as well as other events.
4. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2019 MINUTES
MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 8, 2019 MINUTES – Chairman Doug
 - Committee Member Long motioned to approve; Committee Member Hutsel seconded.ALL IN FAVOR – 7 – 0 – 1
5. PLDO & CSA FUND BALANCE REPORTS
 - No comment
6. DEPARTMENT REPORT – Dave Knopp, Chief of North Operations
 - Public Meetings
 - March 26th: 4 Gee Park 2nd Public Meeting
 - March 28th: Sycamore Canyon PAP 2nd Public Meeting
 - Board Items
 - March 27th
 - Mt. Woodson 2nd hearing. Committee Member Hutsel asked if there has been concern related to Thornbush and the staging area challenges at Cedar Creek trail. Hutsel asked if the Board has expressed concern that once the Mt. Woodson staging area is built, even more people will appear and cause more problems; and will there be a land management plan? Hutsel is concerned that the Potato Chip Rock may break if even more

people show up. Chief Knopp said the process for a land management plan would not happen until after purchase.

- Calavo Property Acquisition 1st Hearing. This acquisition is for 9-10 acres in Spring Valley for new park space.
- Park Champions Awards will be on July 11th at Heritage Park. Nominations will be open in April and processed in May. This is a Countywide award – nominations are open to the entire County .

7. CIVICS – Andy Quinn, Region Manager, DPR

- CIVICS stands for Community Involved Vocational Inmate Crew Service Program.
- County Staff member Quinn gave an overview of the history of the program, which is a collaboration between the Sheriff's Department and DPR. CIVICS supports the County's strategic plan goals for Safe Communities and Sustainable Environments. Its objective is for inmates to have successful reentry into society.
- Quinn provided insight on the components and logistics of the program. Quinn provides a list of DPR projects to the CIVICS coordinators, then the Sheriff's deputies schedule the projects.
- Committee Member Spaeth asked about the budget. Quinn answered that the program is funded through an Inmate Welfare budget. DPR will assist if needed.
- Quinn shared several before-and-after photos of projects that CIVICS has improved, such as the runway at Smuggler's Gulch. Also projects that CIVICS has implemented on its own, such as the Green House Facility at East Mesa Detention Center.
- The Uniform Bicycle Program is a CIVICS component where inmates are trained in bike repair and maintenance by working on bikes donated from various police departments. Most of the bikes are stolen or have gone through the system, then rehabilitated to be donated to children in the community.
- For Fiscal Year 2017/18, CIVICS provided almost 3,000 hours of service, equating to more than \$70k in cost savings.
- Committee Member Hutsel inquired about wage laws and whether there are labor concerns with the CIVICS participants doing work for DPR for less than minimum wage that the public would get paid minimum wage to do. He shared that he is aware that volunteer groups in other agencies are dealing with this question. Chief Knopp answered that this was not a DPR initiated program but a Sheriff Inmate program to lower recidivism of the participants and to give them job skills that they could use after their release. Committee Member Hutsel asked that DPR report back to the committee on this question.
- Public Member Utt commented that the program may be a good opportunity to train inmates as future park rangers.

8. SAN ELIJO LAGOON RESTORATION – Lorrie Bradley, Land Use/Environmental Planner, DPR

- County Staff Member Bradley presented on the restoration project at the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. Bradley gave a history of the reserve, landscape changes over the centuries, past infrastructure and development that impacted the lagoon and why it needs to be restored to its natural environment now.
- Increased sedimentation has led to loss of open water in the lagoon. Mudflat reduction for migratory birds in the Pacific Flyway has seen major impact in just the last seven years. All of this is included in plans for restoration.
- Restoration Plan will open up channels, change habitat types to historic levels, and remove sludge beds. The I-5 is being reconstructed over the lagoon, and CalTrans

agreed to widen the opening underneath the bridge to allow better tidal flow. This is a big win for the lagoon, and CalTrans will be funding this improvement. There will also be a hanging bridge implemented to allow for north-to-south pedestrian and bike access.

- Bradley shared a map of existing trails throughout preserve and Manchester, then an overlay map of new trails that will complete full loop access to pedestrians. A tunnel will be built underneath the railroad track for safe access.
- This project is a major mitigation and collaboration effort amongst different agencies. Every moving part had to be done at the same time to minimize impact to the lagoon. It was headed by Dave Gibson of the SEL Conservancy years ago. The project is funded by TransNet through SANDAG and estimates a \$100M cost.
- The PAC would like an update on this project when it is complete.
- Committee Member Davis would like to nominate Doug Gibson for the Park Champion Award for this effort.

9. ROUNDTABLE INTRODUCTIONS

- To get acquainted with the newest PAC member, each member introduced themselves and provided some of their background and involvement in community and how they came to the PAC.
- The meeting adjourned in appreciation of all of Roger Utt's contributions to the PAC.

ADJOURNMENT – 10:08 am

ATTENDEES:

Doug Goad, Chair District 3

Mike McCoy, District 1

Susie Murphy, District 1

Ed Spaeth, District 2

Bert Long, District 3

Rob Hutsel, District 4

Susan Hector, District 4

Paul Davis, District 5

Roger Utt, Member of the Public

Dave Knopp, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Andy Quinn, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Lorrie Bradley, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Joanne Emerick, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation