

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 12, 2018

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – 8:34 am
2. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK
3. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA
 - Committee Member Hutsel announced that Phil Pryde was honored as California Cox Conserves Hero, and he is now up for the National Award. Hutsel shared the link to vote, and voting is open until October 15th. Pryde is the only nominee from California.
 - Committee Member Hutsel also announced that the San Diego River Park Foundation did receive the permit for the Discovery Center after their hearing last month.
 - Committee Member Utt noticed the new facility being built in Santa Ysabel. DPR Director Albright will share a webpage with its design and concept plan. Committee Member Hutsel remembers being part of the review panel years ago and is excited for the project to be built.
 - Committee Member Davis asked if there is something the County is doing about the north county water surge along the ocean due to glacier melting. Director Albright stated there are no directly related County Parks projects in that area. The County is involved in a large sediment management project in the south county at the Tijuana River Valley.
4. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2018 MINUTES
MOTION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2018 MINUTES WITH COMMENT AND REVIEW – Chairman Doug
 - Committee Member Hutsel motioned to approve; Committee Member Spaeth seconded.ALL IN FAVOR – 7 – 0 – 0
5. PLDO & CSA FUND BALANCE REPORTS
 - Director Albright noted completion of the 2-year effort of comprehensive fee study and revision to the methodology of fees. This week, the Board approved one recommendation that looks at different ways to apply residential impact fees for housing. The change is in the methodology of applying fees, not solely based on square footage. Albright does not believe this will have a major impact to PLDO. Instead, it may incentivize affordable housing.
 - Committee Member Spaeth asked if it is even possible to have affordable housing within the city. Director Albright emphasized that the County's focus is in unincorporated areas.
 - Committee Member Hutsel noticed that the numbers and balances are high and asked if this is a comfortable level for County? Director Albright affirmed that the balances are monitored regularly. The Board gave some flexibility to have the funds higher before initiating a spending plan, hopefully enabling what the ordinance intended which is to build new parks and new amenities.

- Committee Member Spaeth asked if the County is getting enough opportunity to use the funds and acquisitions. Director Albright said yes. Every project needs to get on the County's CINA, which happens every April and is presented to the Board. The Board then decides which projects will move forward, needing the support of 3 Board members. DPR submits every project by community, staff or PMP.
- Chairman Goad asked if there were any recommendations from District 3. Director Albright said there is one: the Planning Group is supportive of pursuing a park in Harmony Grove that would use most of the money in that account. DPR and the Board do not think it is the most beneficial area because of already existing new parks. Chairman Goad asked if this could be a future agenda item.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORT – Director Brian Albright

- Director Albright reviewed upcoming Board items.
 - Oct 31: Active Transportation Plan – County Trails Plan is big part of the ATP. Approval of the ATP would make the County eligible for certain outside funding sources. Director Albright will send an executive summary to the PAC if anyone wants to comment or come down.
 - Nov 14: Acquisitions near Lakeside Linkage and West Alpine; Grant for State HCF for Nature Explorers Program
- Chairman Goad mentioned that the Alpine community seems to stray away from trails now. Director Albright stated that Alpine does have many existing trails, but their Planning Group is now focused on community parks.

7. MSCP – Deputy Director Mark Slovick, Planning & Development Services

- PDS Deputy Director Slovick shared a map that outlined the County's MSCP areas. He explained how each area is treated and how draft findings are presented to the Board.
- The Regional Conservation Plan, more commonly known as the South County MSCP, was adopted in 1997. Segments within the MSCP have different requirements, such as in "Take Authorized" locations, finding are made and no further biological work is necessary.
- Chairman Goad asked how endangered species are protected while they are developing. Slovick answered there has to be an equal ratio of land taken and land given. Committee Member McCoy asked if that is based on like-for-like land. Slovick answered that land is categorized by tiers in the MSCP, so it is not necessarily like-for-like, but based on tiers of vegetation.
 - One of the findings needed to be made is that it connects to open space, in order to preserve the value of open space. This concept is called "Continuity of Environment".
- Slovick also discussed the draft North County MSCP (NC MSCP), in which projects within this MSCP are subject to the Planning Agreement with wildlife agencies. Reviews are based on principles that will formulate the NC MSCP. Chairman Goad asked if the two MSCP's are comparable. Slovick affirmed that yes, the intent is to function similarly.
 - Cities also have MSCP programs that all function together to maintain proper corridors. The jurisdictions work together, and all go through state wildlife agencies.
 - Committee Member Davis asked if the tribes assist. Slovick answered there are tribal consultations involved in projects, but these are separate from the MSCP and are voluntary.

- Projects must receive “take authorization” from the state. PDS works really hard with state and federal government on what is the appropriate approach to a project, they receive concurrence, then present to the Board. Rarely will there be projects that need revision or do not have agreement, and projects can be taken forward with conditions.
- The East County MSCP is also currently in the draft phase.
- Committee Member McCoy wants to look to the future, considering climate and population changes, amongst many other things to hold ecological function and integrity. McCoy asked Slovick if it is conceivable to maintain both ecological integrity and the demand for housing.
 - Director Albright answered that this is a Policy-level discussion. There is a disparity between what is best for biodiversity and the long-term eco system, and what the law says may or may not be done. PDS’s role is that all criteria are met and a project is legal under CEQA and consistent with the County’s General Plan. PDS has no choice but to bring projects to the Board.
 - McCoy believes we will be addressing survival issues in the near future. He encouraged the finalization of the other MSCP plans. We need to act now to protect the future.
- Committee Member Hutsel inquired about wetlands, vernal pools, and mitigation.
 - Slovick answered there are mitigation ratios for wetlands. They require separate state and federal permits. The County has its own separate policy to protect wetlands. Vernal Pools not covered in the existing SC MSCP.
 - Director Albright mentioned that mitigation banks were actively spoken about 7-8 years ago. The Board approved a policy that enabled us to use MSCP lands we have acquired as a large mitigation bank. Our team would provide an analysis and appraisal, and then we would sell credits for that type of habitat. We would then take the funding and put it into an acquisition account to buy more land. This allows projects to move more quickly.
 - Committee Member McCoy asked about carbon credit, in which wetlands can gain credit for reducing CO2. Director Albright stated we cannot double count into the mitigation bank.
- MSCP Workshop on a Saturday this year – November 3rd. It will be in Rancho Penasquitos and is jointly managed by the City and the County.
 - Theme is to build the next generation of environmental stewards. This is the workshop’s 20th year so there will be more activities such as hikes, a bike ride, games, and food trucks.
 - We are hoping to attract a wider range of ages. Significant change in timing to include more participants. Committee Member Spaeth will have the flyer published in the Ramona paper. The Workshop will still have all educational aspects, including info booths from multiple agencies.
 - Committee Member McCoy asked if there will be opportunity for dialogue. Each agency will have a short presentation with Q&A afterward.
 - Committee Member Davis asked how this is being promoted to local communities. Director Albright relies on the PAC to please do so in their respective communities.

8. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- PAC member terms are through the end of the year, regardless of Board elections.
- At the November meeting, we will decide on whether we will have a December meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

- Committee Member Spaeth motioned to adjourn; Committee Member Long seconded.
- ALL IN FAVOR – 7 – 0 – 0

ADJOURNMENT – 10:00 A.M.

ATTENDEES:

Doug Goad, Chair District 3

Mike McCoy, District 1

Ed Spaeth, District 2

Bert Long, District 3

Rob Hutsel, District 4

Roger Utt, District 4

Paul Davis, District 5

Brian Albright, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Deb Mosley, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Mark Slovick, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Joanne Emerick, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation