

# PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 14, 2019

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## MINUTES

1. Call to Order – 8:30am
2. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK
  - None
3. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA
  - Committee Member Hector commented about the "San Diego Day" event on July 13th and presented a schedule about the upcoming summer events happening in Old Town San Diego.
  - Committee Member Davis presented a recent newspaper article about "the farmer's school" being held in Encinitas.
  - Chairman Goad discussed an article in Horse Trader magazine which detailed information regarding trails and organizations such as the San Diego Trail Alliance and San Diego Mountain Bike Association. The purpose of the event is to promote trail safety, especially on multiuse trails, between different user groups.
  - Committee Member Murphy brought up the progress on Sweetwater bike park, which is moving along wonderfully, as well as the community garden. She mentioned there may be some work needed on the trail near Plaza Bonita & the nearby washout area, but overall great progress is happening. She was happy to see the County was represented at the 30-year San Dieguito river park celebration, which was held in conjunction with the farmers market and was a large scale event that was very well attended.
  - Committee Member Murphy made members aware of a fact sheet that the County came out with about e-bikes and the 1-year trial they are testing for Class 1 & Class 2 e-bikes. She mentioned her appreciation for the County trying something progressive like this trial. Committee Member Hutsel proposed that this topic be discussed further on a future agenda.
  - Chairman Goad brought up City of Encinitas cost recovery review. Chairman Goad asked if the County has any data regarding running and owning swimming pools because he is in discussions with Encinitas regarding if they should have a public pool. Director Albright responded that the County is happy to share any data with the Chairman as well as the City of Encinitas as it is requested.
  - Chairman Goad brought up a news article in the San Diego Union Tribune about the sale of the Salt Creek golf course and how the County was mentioned within the article regarding developing a trail on that property.
  - Chairman Goad noted that there have been recent requests from local leaders of the Elfin Forest area about using staging areas in emergency situations for large animal evacuations. The committee discussed about what practices are currently in place during an emergency and if the County would be able to help with this type of proposal. Director Albright requested further contact with the water district which operates in the area and the County would be happy to help.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 10, 2019 MINUTES

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 10, 2019 MINUTES –

- Committee Member Spaeth requested a change to comment #3 in the May 10, 2019 minutes. Director Albright clarified the motion to make an amendment to dot #3 to change the statement to “Community members would like better communication from parks and recreation with property owners so that things can be done in a non-confrontational manner”.
- Committee Member Hustel motioned to approve the minutes as amended and Committee Member Spaeth seconded.

IN FAVOR, AGAINST, ABSTAIN – 7- 0 - 1

5. PLDO & CSA FUND BALANCE REPORTS –

- Director Albright went through the PLDO report for the new members on the committee to clarify what each column represents. It is a year to date report fiscal year and it reflects two things: the new homes that paid fees and the interest that accumulated during the fiscal year.
- Director Albright noted that the CSA’s, are in a much better place financially, therefore, DPR does not have to dip into the fund balance this year.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORT – Brian Albright, Director

- Director Albright reviewed the upcoming board meetings and items which included the upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing on June 26<sup>th</sup> for 267 acres of Hermes Copper habitat, also known as the skyline acquisition.
- At the same hearing, DPR will bring forward a recommendation for a project for improvements to the outdoor roller hockey rink at 4S Ranch.
- Director Albright mentioned that on July 10<sup>th</sup> DPR hopes to bring forward an acquisition for 160 acres that are adjacent to the Iron Mountain preserve. When DPR initially began to pursue it with City of Poway there was an agreement in place that the County would own the land and the city would manage it. Currently, the new city manager and DPR are discussing this agreement. City of Poway manages the adjacent property.
- Director Albright spoke about the next set of Prop 68 grant funds that have been released. DPR is recommending the board authorize DPR to pursue grants under this program that are in alignment with our mission, rather than having to go forward on every individual grant opportunity. Committee Member Hutsel questioned if the state would sign off a general resolution regarding this and Director Albright replied that there is still a list of programs that would not be covered under this.
- Director Albright mentioned that DPR will also bring board letters forward on July 24<sup>th</sup> for all the Community Facilities Districts and a project at Otay Lakes using PLDO to construct a natural playground. This playground will feature a collection of bouldering features made of synthetic materials, showcasing natural looking playgrounds.
- Director Albright emphasized that DPR wants to be a best practice agency with the concept of these natural playgrounds. He hopes to develop truly natural playgrounds that meet safety requirements and risk-taking encouragement philosophy.
- Last item mentioned was DPR’s Park Champions event on July 11<sup>th</sup> at Heritage park from 4:00pm-6:30pm and the committee is encouraged to attend.

7. APPOINTMENT TO MISSION TRAILS COMMITTEE

- Chairman Goad put forward a discussion for who would like to apply for this the volunteer position on the Mission Trails Committee and he would put forward a motion to nominate a member for that position.
- Committee Member Hector moved to nominate Committee Member Hutsel. Committee Member Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously voted upon and approved for Committee Member Hutsel to be appointed to the Mission Trails Committee.

ALL IN FAVOR 8 – 0 – 0

#### 8. SD NIGHTS

- Director Albright introduced this program to the committee with the background of how SD Nights program has evolved from a prior program called Summer Night Lights. This is a youth diversion program providing positive alternatives during the evening hours to high school youth. At the budget meeting on 06/13, Supervisor Fletcher made a motion to approve increasing the program to 300 events next year.
- Brandon Schroeder, Region Manager for DPR and program lead for SD Nights, gave a presentation to the committee about the SD Nights Program.
- Committee Member Davis inquired about the program connecting with any religious or military groups with SD Nights. Director Albright elaborated that the faith-based community was pushing for the expansion of this program and that they have been great partners. He also commented that the military is a great suggestion to pursue for future relationships and partnerships.
- Committee Member McCoy inquired about the cultural sensitivities when working in these communities to make sure the program is successful and Brandon Schroeder and Deputy Director Hemmens commented that the make up of our staff represents the community it serves which has been a part of the program's success.
- Committee Member Spaeth commented on the capabilities of this program to serve as a catalysis agent to build up the youth and how it is a terrific concept.
- Chairman Goad asked if the participants were taken out of their own communities to other environments while participating in this program. Deputy Director Hemmens answered that the large majority focuses on their own community for civic engagement. Director Albright mentioned that there are opportunities for that type of outside engagement in different communities in the future, such as beach trips or overnight camping.
- Committee Member Hutsel asked if during the development of this program if DPR is looking at the kids you are already serving or for touch points in a larger range at a program level. Director Albright responded that this was direction given to DPR to expand to new areas geographically. DPR wants SD Nights to be a long term program where we can demonstrate sustainability with success stories to encourage other cities to set up.
- Committee Member Hutsel had a follow up question for the program to emphasis the benefits in terms of tackling the problem of childhood obesity and consider that one of the success factors. Director Albright mentioned that the statistics for childhood obesity correlate directly with crime statics.
- Committee Member Long had questions about the program's target audience and if it tailored at all to pre-teens. Director Albright responded that the program does involve pre-teens, not by intent, but to maximize the opportunities for the target audience of high schoolers because they are the primary caregivers of their younger siblings.

They are welcome to attend the events and the program has age appropriate activities for them.

- Community Member Murphy asked about expanding the program in the Chula Vista/Castle Park area and Deputy Director Hemmens confirmed and noted the program is working to expand to several high schools in that area.
- Committee Member Davis questioned whether the program had a gardening aspect and Director Albright responded that since these events are hosted at night, that it is not a gardening focused program but DPR has other programs that are.

#### 9. LIVE WELL ADVANCE OCTOBER 28

- Director Albright informed the committee about the Live Well Advance taking place on October 28. The Live Well San Diego initiative is currently nine years old. Approximately 5 years ago, the County began hosting an annual Live Well Advance with targeted programs within the Live Well initiative for the coming year. This year the event will be held at the Marriott Marquis in Downtown San Diego. DPR received a request from our Board that advisory committees within the County that advise on the Live Well could participate in the event. Director Albright suggested that in lieu of having a PAC meeting in October, instead attend all or park this all day event. The PAC would be there as attendees and can attend specific sessions or exhibits that are of interest.
- Committee Member Murphy moved to support the proposal, Committee Member Davis seconded.

ALL IN FAVOR 8 – 0 – 0

10. In closing, Director Albright mentioned the list of future agenda items would include use of e-bikes on trails.

ADJOURNMENT – 10:00am

#### 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

Brian Albright, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Jason Hemmens, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Brandon Schroder, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Joanna Truex, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation