



**OTAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK (OVRP)
JOINT POLICY-CITIZEN'S ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 30, 2020
2:00 P.M.**

Meeting called to order at 2:06 pm by Policy Member Cox.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

AGENDA ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 30, 2019
MOTION TO APPROVE SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 MINUTES with minor edits – Policy Member Moreno, 2nd Policy Member Diaz
ALL IN FAVOR – 3-0-0
2. CAC VACANCIES
 - Vacancies (County of San Diego-1, City of San Diego-2, City of Chula Vista-2)
 - ◆ County nominates Rick Richardson. Policy Member Cox, 2nd Policy Member Diaz
 - ◆ ALL IN FAVOR 3-0-0
 - ◆ City of SD nominates Joan Schneider for second term. Policy Member Moreno, 2nd Policy Member Diaz.
 - ◆ ALL IN FAVOR 3-0-0
 - ◆ City of CV nominates John Zarem for second term. Policy Member Diaz, 2nd Policy Member Moreno.
 - ◆ ALL IN FAVOR 3-0-0
3. 2020 Calendar
 - MOTION TO APPROVE ON APRIL 23rd MEETING – Policy Member Moreno, 2nd Policy Member Diaz
 - ◆ ALL IN FAVOR 3-0-0
 - Joint Staff to confirm July and November dates at the next meeting.
4. PROJECT UPDATES
 - Alternative to Friends of the OVRP
 - ◆ Options discussed with the CAC and are continuing to be worked through. Full update will be provided at the April PC meeting.
 - Otay Trail Alignment Study
 - ◆ The environmental study is estimated to cost more than \$0.5M, which hopefully could be broken up through the programmatic EIR. No budget estimated yet.
 - Otay Lakes Campground

- ◆ The draft environmental document is currently out for public review. Comments are being accepted until Feb 3rd.
- ◆ Police Member Cox reported that the Boy Scouts have raised almost \$1.8M in fundraising. They have \$228k left to raise.
- Active Rec 6, Bike Skills Park
 - ◆ County's Board of Supervisors approved advertisement of award of construction contract and the environmental document on January 29th. Construction documents are expected to be finalized in Spring 2020 and must be approved by Chula Vista City Council this spring as well.
 - ◆ County budgeted \$500k to cover basics of this project. Looking for another \$500k for second phase of added elements.
- I-805 to Heritage Trails and Staging Area
 - ◆ Groups walked the northern route on December 12th. On January 27th, they walked the southern route that would be most appropriate location of trail. Southern route is more straightforward. City of Chula Vista will try to complete the environmental document this year to move forward.
 - ◆ County continuing to work with property owner to acquire staging area. Once the acquisition is made, County will have better idea of size and early design. County expects staging area to be on the eastern south side by the existing parking lot and will intend for enough room for horse trailers. County will report back on acreage of staging area.
- Community Garden
 - ◆ City of Chula Vista staff member Kelly Broughton reported on the community garden site being recognized as a potential homeless shelter site. This idea is in the very preliminary stages of evaluating legal restrictions to see if it will be possible to put a homeless shelter on a portion of the property. Whether or not this proceeds, it would not preclude a community garden being at the location but would affect configuration of size and positioning. Potential operator has experience with other homeless shelters, and there could be an opportunity to synergize operation of community garden. If preliminary evaluation of legal restrictions looks good, the City will proceed with looking at funding opportunities to construct shelter.
 - ◆ The shelter would be located on the south side of the 2.43-acre parcel and would only take up one-third of the site.
 - ◆ CAC members had several questions, to which staff member Broughton assured the City will look at all opportunities if planning moves forward. They hope it would be a win-win situation for both the garden and the shelter.
 - ◆ Policy Member Moreno commented that residents surrounding the new site may not agree with the statement.
 - ◆ County staff member reported back on the question of parking per acreage. There are no standards set, but the County wants to provide 20% parking for gardeners.
 - ◆ Policy Member Cox commented that homelessness is one of the biggest issues dealt with at national level. When looking at priorities, homelessness is collectively needing a solution. It is his understanding that this shelter would be a temporary site similar to other locations in San Diego. He looks forward to a report back.
 - ◆ Policy Member Diaz confirmed that this is the only location in Chula Vista being considered. The City looked at others, but this one is the best option.

There is no place in the south bay region to house people, and this shelter project would help mitigate issues such as encampment fires and cleanups.

- ◆ CAC members requested a presentation at the next PC meeting, to include more details such as what is exactly being proposed and photos of other existing shelters.
- ◆ Policy Member Diaz mentioned if any CAC member would like a tour of an existing shelter, he will be happy to set one up so that they can see what the facilities look like and ask questions directly to the organizers.

5. PARCELS WEST OF I-805

- City of San Diego staff member Laura Ball reported on the parcel acquisition opportunities west of the I-805, as requested by Policy Member Moreno. The JEPAs partners total 540 acres, which is 72% of 753 acres within western portion of the OVRP. There are 41 parcels privately owned. Of the privately-owned 161 acres, majority is being used for residential and active industrial. Identified 10.15 acres potential park opportunity if owners willing to sell. Of that, 3 parcels of those totaling 1.66 acres is in City of San Diego, 4 parcels totaling 8.49 acres are within City of Chula Vista. City of San Diego sent a letter to one parcel in particular
- Policy Member Moreno clarified that she wanted a report on the parcels east of the I-805, looking at potential opportunities in the far future.

6. POTENTIAL GRANT FUNDING OPPS

- City of San Diego staff member Ball presented a list of other grants beyond Prop 68, such as from the CDFW and SANDAG. Staff actively look through grants to see what projects are a good fit for application. City of SD was recently successful in applying for a grant of \$395k for vernal pools in Dennerly Canyon from the Wildlife Conservation Board.
- The County monitors the grants listing and receives notifications of new grants.
- CAC Member Joan Schneider asked if a project has to be identified for a grant application. Yes, the application is very extensive and must include the project site and overall costs and limitations, which means the design should be well-established.
 - CAC Member Joan Schneider suggested planting milkweed on the westside of the ranger station on Beyer Blvd. and east side of Terra Bella trucks parking lot in order to help the Monarch butterflies. County will evaluate this project idea and report back.

7. HOMELESS CLEAN-UP COORDINATION

- City of San Diego coordinated a clean-up effort to reach homeless persons and provide them with needed services. Ranger Mika Shimada presented a map of the Homeless Camp Coordination in Western OVRP. Area A of the map showed more than 80 homeless encampments from Aug-Sept (data collection assisted by SDPD and CVPD).
- 58 SDPD and 12 CVPD officers, 6 park rangers, 4 City of SD code enforcement officers, and ground/brush crew conducted the Sept 26, 2019 cleanup.
- There were 18 encampments of significant size.
- Policy Member Diaz mentioned that 3 hours is not a lot of time for homeless persons to collect belongings before the cleanup crew returns. What happens if they aren't ready after 3 hours?
 - Ranger Shimada mentioned that SD Environmental Services provides two notices - one 72 hours prior, one 3 hours prior. The 3-hour notice is effective.

Code compliance officer patrols with ranger and police to take photo, go back after 3 hours and identify personal belongings.

- Year-to-date, about 35 encampments (all active camps) have been cleaned up, and 2.8 tons of trash collected.
- City of San Diego staff member Darnisha Hunter advised that prior to a cleanup event, they should be made aware to ensure SDPD is available to be present.
- CAC member Mark Kukuchek commended the County's work and team at Sweetwater Regional Park in handling homelessness.

8. RANGER REPORTS

- Ranger Mika Shimada, City of San Diego, Western OVRP
 - Natural Resource Management, Oct-Jan: 4 projects accomplishments.
 - Vegetation Fire Suppression, CVFD and SDFD chainsaw training benefiting OVRP.
 - Community Outreach accomplishments from Oct-Jan, including bike rides and river cleanup.
 - Partnership with SD Audubon Society helped win Burk Grant for Bird & Butterfly Garden in OVRP, and a Vamos A Pescar Grant from CDFW.
- Ranger Lauren Raduc, County of San Diego, Eastern OVRP
 - Rangers brought park to kids at Otay Rec Center.
 - Movies in the Park Oct 19th.
 - Giving Tuesday Dec. 3rd - St. Augustine HS students volunteered at the park.
 - 2nd annual Holidays at the Lake Dec 14th.
 - 3rd annual Breakfast with Bunny March 28th.

9. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

- CAC Chairman John Zarem reported that the CAC met on Nov. 21st, received a briefing on the proposed developments by Bella Nova. CAC members provided a lot of feedback to the developer.
- CAC Election results: John Zarem as new Chair, and John Swanson as new Vice Chair.
- Requested for rangers to give staff notices of events beforehand so that they can be properly informed.

10. CAC MEMBER COMMENTS

- CAC Member Joan Schneider inquired about Hermes Butterflies tracking. County staff member Kaur said the County has tracked for some time, and there are bio guidelines to protect the butterfly. County will report at the next meeting with information such as GIS tracking and maps.

11. REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Community Garden Homeless Shelter
- Parcels East of I-805
- River Restoration Project

ADJOURNMENT – 3:41 pm

Next meeting will be held on April 23rd, 2020.

OVRP PC MEMBER ATTENDEES

Supervisor Cox

Councilman Diaz

Councilwoman Moreno

CAC MEMBER ATTENDEES

Joan Schneider

Carrie Schneider

Robert Miller

Natalie Roberts-DeCarli

Emma Reese

John Swanson

John Zarem

Ben Vallejos

Susie Murphy

Michael McCoy

Jose Galaz

Darin Gray

John Vogel

Ben McCue

Cesar Castro

STAFF PRESENT

Renee Hilton

Paul Kilburg

Andy Field

Crystal Benham

Karen Dennison

Mika Shimada

Kiran Kaur

Victor Avina

Lauren Raduc

Kelly Broughton

Chelsea Jander

Joanne Emerick

Laura Ball

Darnisha Hunter