

# **PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **July 8, 2005**

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### MINUTES

1. Called to order at 8:35 am by Marilyn Wilkinson.
2. Opportunity for Members of Public to Speak on Any Items Not on Today's Agenda
3. Approval of May 13, 2005 and June 17, 2005 Minutes
  - Approval of May 13, 2005 and June 17, 2005 minutes – postponed to next meeting.
4. DEPARTMENT REPORT – Jason Hemmens
  - We had a segment on KFMB Channel 8 this morning as part of their segment on National Parks and Recreation month. Amy Harbert was on and talked about our parks and top camping parks.
    - ◆ Paul Davis – I was able to see the segment this morning and I would like to say what a great job Amy did.
  - We have now completed all of our needs assessment survey results presentations. If you would like to see these results they are on our website. We have three different PowerPoint presentations for each of the areas and if you have a group or meeting that would like to see the presentation please let us know and we will try to arrange it.
  - Trails were by far the top need in each of the areas.
    - ◆ Jim Peugh – I noticed that although trails were on the list there was not anything about open space preserves. Was this a conscious decision?
  - This was a decision that was made because these surveys were sent to three specific areas that were serviced by a Community Center and we don't actually have any programs at the Community Centers that go into the open space or service that type of program.
    - ◆ Jim Peugh – I think that we need to be aware and try to protect these urban open space areas. Just because they're not big, they are very important and do provide a recreational use.
  - I'm not sure if you are aware, but we are a finalist for the Gold Medal Award, which is a very prestigious national award. We will find out at the National Conference and will keep you updated.
5. DISCUSSION ITEMS
  - Guajome Regional Park – Steve Cast
    - ◆ Guajome is a regional camping park in the North County along Hwy 76. It is approximately 560 acres. Of this total there is only about 50 acres that is developed.
    - ◆ The park currently has two playground areas in the upper and lower areas and they are both very old and do not meet current standards.
    - ◆ We are going to try and have the new playgrounds meet the needs of both the small children and some of the older kids (age 10-12).
      - Doug Goad - Does the park get a lot of equestrian use?

- ◆ The few times that I have been there I haven't seen too many equestrians, but the trails are used quite a bit by hikers and runners.
- ◆ There is a very high water table at the park.
  - Marilyn Wilkinson – Have you done any surveys in the area to see what the needs of the community are?
- ◆ In the upper lot we will be replacing the playground equipment and putting in a playground appropriate for the younger kids (ages 5 and under).
- ◆ We will be using rubber pieced for the playground area instead of wood chips because of the high water table.
- ◆ The lower area will have climbing boulders as well as playground equipment for older kids (ages 6 and over). There will be a picnic area, basketball courts and a softball field as well as a soccer field. The play area will be elevated to help alleviate some of the flooding issues.
  - Jim Peugh – I think that we run into issues with the rivers and flood plains when we keep bringing dirt into the area and then it floods and overflows when heavy rains come in because we have added so much extra dirt in the area. It would be nice to be able to take the dirt from the flood plain and just move it instead of adding more.
  - Paul Davis – Do you have much wildlife in this area?
- ◆ Yes, this area has a lot of natural wildlife.
  - Roger Utt – Does any of the parking layout get changed?
- ◆ No, there will be no changes to the parking lot. This lot was created in the 80's and is not part of the changes.
  - Roger Utt – I see that there is a restroom on the far end and I would foresee that people would cut across the area to get to the rock climbing area, etc. I think that you need to be aware of any areas where people would want to cut across to access other areas of the park. It would also be helpful to have shade trees around the basketball courts, it will be very hot during the summer.
- ◆ We will definitely look at these issues. We are trying to plan the sidewalks and paths in the most accessible and direct paths.
- ◆ We will also have a volunteer pad in the lower area, which will have solar panels. We are trying to keep as much of the area open as possible.
  - Jim Peugh – Does there need to be as much turf in the area?
- ◆ Currently the area is turf and we can look at it, but a lot of the area is used by different groups.
  - Roger Utt – I think that it is very important to keep these parks in more of a natural setting.
  - Doug Goad – I know that at Cottonwood Park in Encinitas they have made a small part a Vietnam Memorial and it has made it more of a landmark and a special place for people.
- San Dieguito River Project – Cory Linder
  - ◆ We are involved with the San Dieguito JPA, which has become a lot more active in acquisitions, which has been great.
  - ◆ They have been doing very well in obtaining more property and have been very helpful.
  - ◆ We also have Boden Canyon, which is actually a mitigation from DPW and we are holding onto it because it is a big hunting area and we have a no firearm policy.

- ◆ They are doing a lot of restoration of the lagoon and the adobe.
  - Roger Utt – Looking at this map there is four major players in ownership of this area, State, Feds, County and City of San Diego.
  - Jim Peugh - What's great about this park is that they are trying to preserve tributaries and this gives others the opportunity to use and be a part of this park.
- ◆ We are still working together and are now looking more at the North County MSCP and how we can continue to connect, which is where many of these tributaries will come into play.
  - Jim Peugh – We have to also be careful of equestrian trails near the waterways, for water quality issues.
- Wildfire Recovery – Brian Albright
  - ◆ All of the parks that were damaged by the fires have been reopened, except for El Capitan.
  - ◆ The next big effort is going to be getting a certified arborist and tree maintenance in to our parks to go through and identify the trees that have been damaged beyond repair.
    - Jim Peugh – I hope that when you are looking at these trees you don't cut too many of the dead woods. I know that there is a trend to get rid of any dead wood, but it is an important part of the area.
  - ◆ Yes, we will try to leave this, our main concern is safety.
    - Paul Davis – Do any of the universities or colleges around here have a resource where you can get trees for free or at a large discount?
  - ◆ As far as I know we don't have this type of source, but we have worked through Terry Salmon who is part of UC Riverside and we have received arborist help etc from them.
- San Luis Rey River Park – Brian Albright
  - ◆ We had the 4<sup>th</sup> public meeting a couple of weeks ago. This was the last meeting and we will now move forward with completion of the Master Plan. The plan calls for 95% as habitat preservation and 5% active recreation.
    - Doug Goad – Hargraves and Associates are the consultants on the project. Hiking and trails were the most requested amenities and then after active recreation and soccer it really drops off for active recreation. They have broken the area up into 3 zones: Zone 1 is from I15 to Hwy 76, Zone 2 is the west end towards Bonsall Bridge and Zone 3 is in the middle and will be more of the habitat area. The community was concerned about undesirables and wants to see more active use and recreation to help alleviate these issues. I think that they County has done a really great job getting community input and implementing the suggestions.
    - Marilyn Wilkinson – I think that they key to make this a successful park they need to get the community involved and using the park.
    - Jim Peugh – I think that we need to be sensitive and aware of the wildlife area and remember that these animals need a lot of area to be able to keep the natural habitat for these animals.

## 6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

- ◆ Marilyn Wilkinson – I went to the trails meeting that the County had and there is so much that needs to be done and there is going to need to be a lot of

volunteers to make this work. I would also like to know when the next San Diego River meeting. I was also wondering what is going on with the DeAnza area.

- ◆ Jim Peugh – I will let you know when the next meeting is. The City is moving forward but things are very slow and part of it was pulled out at the last minute. The city lost a big opportunity when they renegotiated the least for the golf course and didn't include the campland.
- ◆ Roger Utt – I do know that the campland just did a big project to attract more use.
- ◆ Doug Goad – Is there an opportunity to have interns with the county? Would there be a possibility of having non-profit funds for interns?
  - We have a difficult time getting interns through the County's HR system, but non-profit donations for this would be allowable. We did just send out a large mailing to the various groups to help us know where the trail issues are and encroachment problems. We are going to need a lot of help to find these problems throughout the county so we can start resolving the issues.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am by Marilyn Wilkinson.

### ATTENDEES:

Marilyn Wilkinson, District 2

Doug Goad, District 3

Paul Davis, District 3

Roger Utt, District 4

Jim Peugh, District 4

Jason Hemmens, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Brian Albright, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Cory Linder, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Steve Cast, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Sabrina Hicks, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation