

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO
PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
SUNSET CLIFFS NATURAL PARK COUNCIL**

August 1, 2016

Meeting held at:

Cabrillo Recreation Center
3051 Cañon St.
San Diego, CA 92106

Mailing address is:

Park and Recreation/DRP Div.
Attn: Vincent Paniagua, SCNPC Staff Rep.
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101

CALL TO ORDER

By Ann Swanson, Chair, at 6:45 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Pat Gallagher moved to approve the 07/11/16 Minutes/seconded by Florence Dormer.

Passed unanimously

COMMUNICATION

1. Barbara Houlton spoke to the impact of Airbnb visitors staying in the Sunset Cliffs area, enticed there by descriptions of ocean beach access, beautiful sunsets, etc.. The Bermuda stairs are broken but people scoot around them. There should be NO BEACH ACCESS signs put where needed.
2. Craig Barilotti gave a Power Point presentation showing the output of Culvert Canyon during rain, including water falls down the cliff onto the intertidal zone beach. Years 2004 and 2005 were the times of worst erosion damage. He showed new ravines and water runoff through the years, and traced two water streams coming from the life estates' area slope. That area will need erosion control. Craig also used his large map to identify his locations. All the drainage basins are identified on the map.

POLICE REPORT - Officer Surwilo

Officer Surwilo - absent. No report.

LIFEGUARD REPORT - Sergeant Lonnie Stephens

Sergeant Stephens - absent. No report.

CORRESPONDENCE

Larry McCleary had nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Gene Berger reported \$3,000.95 in regular account and \$771.19 in savings.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Faith Hussey – no report; requests an email for excused absences. Send to Faithhome@att.net or call Faith at 619-228-1854.

SCNPC CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (8/1/16) – ANN SWANSON, CHAIR

This month I received several calls from people who were concerned about the recent accidents at Sunset Cliffs and were seeking possible solutions. They were pleased to learn that we now have park rangers on duty, police patrolling the area, and quickly responding life guards. They also liked the idea of an educational approach regarding the cliffs, tides, etc. and were supportive of interpretive signage.

Conveniently, Education Chair, Barbara Keiller, had scheduled an education committee meeting to discuss these and other matters with Ranger David Paczona. Many thanks to Barbara & Ranger Paczona for a very productive meeting!

STAFF REPORT

Vince Paniagua (Parks & Rec.) detailed maintenance work at SCNP. Vince has been working with David Kimball preparing the new planting area. The HIP planting area's 5-year agreement for contractor maintenance began August 1st, 2016. The contractor crew are picking out weeds by hand. Elizabeth is in the process of moving the lifeguard gate to the south and is coordinating rock moving with him. He will be sure the asphalt berm in that area is built up with more asphalt or use sandbags built up so that water doesn't channel through area causing erosion. The orange fence will stay up until irrigation is no longer necessary and is eliminated.

Vince is aware of the Pokemon Go people using the Park. Pokemon Go stops are safe stops because they are by signs. One bench by Osprey is not safe because it is located by the cliff edge. Vince will look into this.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 – REPORT

Conrad Wear – absent. No report.

PENINSULA COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD - LIAISON

Don Sevens – absent. No report

ACTION ITEMS

201. Authorization for funds – Gene Berger: none

202. Motion regarding ADA requests for development of trail, observation points, and handicapped parking consideration in the Northeast Corner of the Hillside Section of SCNP. – Lyle Beller

MAIN MOTION: The Drainage Improvements Project [DIP] Committee recommends and I move that SCNPC request the trail between the two observation points (per Motion 203 of the SCNPC July 11, 2016 meeting) be handicap-accessible per ADA. This should include the observation points themselves being ADA-compliant and provision of an (some) ADA parking spot(s) per ADA.

MAIN MOTION MOVED / SECONDED Lyle Beller

PRIMARY AMENDMENT: Add “without adding any impermeable surfaces to the Park” to the end of the last sentence of the Main Motion.

PRIMARY AMENDMENT Moved by Lyle Beller ; seconded by Pat Gallagher

PRIMARY AMENDMENT Passed (Yes—17; No—2)

SECONDARY AMENDMENT: Add the following statement to the end of the amended Main Motion, as follows: “Proceed with the design and construction of the ADA features only if a study shows this to be environmentally acceptable.”

SECONDARY AMENDMENT moved by Camilla Ingram; seconded by Jean Nathan

SECONDARY AMENDMENT Passed (Yes—10; No—8; Abstention—1)

AMENDED MAIN MOTION: The Drainage Improvements Project [DIP] Committee recommends and I move that SCNPC request the trail between the two observation points (per Motion 203 of the SCNPC July 11, 2016 meeting) be handicap-accessible per ADA. This should include the observation points themselves being ADA-compliant and provision of an (some) ADA parking spot(s) per ADA without adding any impermeable surfaces to the Park. Proceed with the design and construction of the ADA features only if a study shows this to be environmentally acceptable.

AMENDED MAIN MOTION Passed (Yes—16; Abstentions—3)

203. Motion that the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Council shall seek funding for the closure and opening of the entry gate to the Lower Hillside Parking lot – Larry McCleary

MOTION: The Executive Committee recommends and I move that SCNPC shall seek funding for the closure and opening of the entry gate to the Lower Hillside Parking lot.

MOTION MOVED / SECONDED

Larry McCleary

DISCUSSION: Jean Nathan, chair of the SCNPC Safety Committee, presented a survey of ten homeowners she contacted in her neighborhood of Ladera Street. Two were strongly opposed to the daily gate closure/opening and a statement from one of these was read. Eight homeowners would support a daily gate closure/opening done on a trial basis to examine effects.

Various SCNPC members contributed the following points. If we don't control access to the parking lot, we are creating safety issues. People outside the Ladera Street/Amiford Drive/Stafford Drive areas really don't care whether the entry gate is closed nightly or not. If the entry gate is closed nightly, we need assurance that police would patrol Ladera Street. Nightly observations during a period of 2015 gate closures/openings showed almost all cars simply turning around and heading back out of the area by way of Sunset Cliffs Blvd rather than parking outside the park to gain entry. We need to talk with Conrad and with police, fire dept., and lifeguards to get their input. Conrad Wear has suggested possibilities for funding a nightly gate closing. Ranger Michael Ruiz had reported at the SCNPC June meeting that the issue of responsibility for closing the gate each night and opening it each morning is being discussed but Parks & Recreation has no budget for it. Vince Paniagua (Parks & Rec.) related the need to be sure the gate is opened each morning at its opening time so that park maintenance crews can enter.

MOTION Passed (Yes—14; No—3; Abstention—2)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

301. Trails/Coastal Conservancy Grant Project (Hillside Improvement Project--HIP)– Ellen Quick

The following was reported by Elizabeth Schroth-Nichols:

“We had a site visit 7/28/16. As a team we decided to approve the plant establishment period and to move forward into the 5-year maintenance period. Great news!

We looked at the trail [in phase 1] in regards to the concern about erosion [on west side of trail, especially to the south]. Samuel Portillo will check to see if this will be repaired by the contractor as part of the warranty and Joe Esposito will take this into consideration for the next phase. Joe believes it may be possible that the part of the trail that looks like it was constructed over some old concrete is just old trail that was compacted very well given the years of use.

We are working with the contractor on moving the gate and hope to move forward with this soon.”

302. Drainage Improvements Project Committee (DIP)– Lyle Beller:

Lyle Beller distributed a document describing the DIP contract (10 actions to be accomplished) with the design

consultant, Rick Engineering, for the removal of Lomaland Dr. and Ladera Street structures. The document also described the DIP contract with the same design consultant, Rick Engineering, for the hillside drainage improvements to be made. The SCNPC DIP Committee will meet on September 6th, 6:30 p.m., at the Cabrillo Recreation Center to study this information.

303. Water Management and Erosion Committee (WMEC) – Dedi Ridenour

Dedi Ridenour pointed out that cliff erosion is not the only reason for deaths along Sunset Cliffs. One person recently died trying to climb back up at the Arch, fell, and hit his head. Another person recently died while fishing in the water, slipping, hit his head, and drowned. A third person was swimming where the new sea stack is and was washed off by a wave.

304. Revegetation – David Kimball

David Kimball - absent. No report

305. Education – Barbara Keiller

Barbara Keiller – no report

306. Publicity – Faith Hussey

Faith Hussey - no report

307. Safety Committee – Jean Nathan/Marty Kolb

(See Motion 203, page 4, for Jean’s gate survey)

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M. as moved by Florence Dormer and seconded by Steve Scatolini.

Next Regular Scheduled Meeting – September 12, 2016 at 6:45 P.M.
Cabrillo Recreation Center
3051 Cañon St.
San Diego, CA 92106