

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

July 11, 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

Marty Kolb moved to approve the corrected 06/06/16 Minutes/seconded by Florence Dormer. (Change 301. last sentence on page 5, from “will be discussed at the next meeting” to “will be dealt with at the pre-construction meeting.”)

Passed Unanimously

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES - None

COMMUNICATION

1. Craig Barilotti circulated and discussed a 3-page document, Sunset Cliffs Association Surface Water Quality Draft (for Sunset Cliffs Natural Park), which included a detailed map with map legend pin-pointing 19 locations of storm water runoff, contamination, and erosion issues in SCNP hillside section.
2. George Freiha (Senior Project Manager at City of San Diego) and Elizabeth Schroth-Nichols (Project manager for the Hillside Improvements Project [HIP] and Drainage Improvements Project [DIP]) attended the meeting to report on the projects they are managing. Because they are managing both the HIP and the DIP, they hope to understand and coordinate how each project impacts the other.

There are 4 projects: 2 are part of the HIP; 2 are part of the DIP.

HIP:

Phase 1 is the work within the designated Dixon area: removal of the Dixon buildings, revegetation and maintenance of plants, an irrigation system installed, and gate relocation. Except for the gate relocation, which will be completed soon, construction is complete. Currently City staff (including biologist) and contractor are monitoring the survival of the new plants that replaced the ones that did not survive.

In May, City Council accepted the Coastal Conservancy grant for the rest of the HIP. There is also now money in the recently approved budget to move forward with the rest of the project.

Although not formally called “Phase 2,” this is the second of the 2 HIP projects. It includes improvements to pedestrian trails including ADA trail, seating, interpretive signage, observation points, and landscaping in the designated Hillside area. City staff continue to move forward toward construction and are working with the consultant (Estrada) to finalize construction plans, attempting to incorporate “lessons learned” from Phase 1. This work may take 4-6 months. As part of this, Elizabeth will arrange a meeting with SCNPC member David Kimball (who is SCNPC’s revegetation committee chair) to gain planting information which can be used by HIP.

DIP

City staff continue to work with Rick Engineering to develop the two phases for DIP. Phase One is the rental houses’ demolition and its associated restoration and drainage work, which will include trails and observation points per master plan. Historical evaluation will be required for all houses.

Phase Two is the drainage system improvement and restoration work for the remainder of the hillside portion of the Park. George said that the Engineering contractor will re-evaluate the drainage study and propose newly-developed solution alternatives, and that any observational data collection submitted to them will help. Elizabeth stated that Lyle Beller, chair of SCNPC’s Drainage Project Committee, may review the DIP plan’s draft stage.

George discussed the DIP water flow issues of Western Loop Road which is located on Park property. Elizabeth stated it is too early for details for the natural process/water direction. They said the project design will be reviewed closely to assure MS4 compliance.

At the conclusion of their presentation, SCNPC chair, Ann Swanson, asked George and Elizabeth if they could come to SCNPC meetings more often as the HIP and DIP work progress. They agreed to do so.

POLICE REPORT - Officer Surwilo

Officer Surwilo was absent. No report.

LIFEGUARD RPORT – Sergeant Lonnie Stephens

Sergeant Stephens, Lifeguard Sergeant from the Fire-Rescue Dept. of the Lifeguard Services Division, presented information on current work of the San Diego lifeguards in the SCNP area, including a pilot summer program from June 10 through Labor Day. The summer increase in staffing, along with better coordination among lifeguards, rangers, police department, and fire department, has brought excellent results so far--impressively reducing Arch jumping, rescues, and fatalities. Preventive actions/monitoring, and warnings and citations, are part of this program.

Sergeant Stephens will bring monthly statistics to SCNPC. The linear section June crowd count (from June 10th) is around 50,000 people. Preventive actions total 1,300; 3 water rescues; 11 minor medical aids; 1 cliff rescue. (Since July 1 there have been 6 rescues; one died and one is in critical condition.)

Sergeant Stephens explained the need for several first responders to cliff/water accidents even though they can create dangerous traffic issues along Sunset Cliffs Blvd.. He will look into stopping unneeded responders sooner. He also explained how some lifeguards are assigned areas while others are on roving patrol, depending on need.

CORRESPONDENCE

Larry McCleary circulated the following correspondence:

1. *Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Council Thank You to City Staff*

TREASURER'S REPORT

Gene Berger reported \$2,958.95 in regular account and \$771.19 in savings.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Faith Hussey – Absent. No Report (Faith requests an email for excused absences. Send to Faithnhome@att.net or call Faith at 228-1854.)

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

SCNPC Chair's Report 7-11-16

We were saddened this month by the passing of long time Sunset Cliffs Natural Park advocate Debbie Blum on June 9, 2016. An important part of the park planning process when it began in 1980, Debbie's dedication, perseverance and enthusiasm for Sunset Cliffs as a natural, open space park continued for the next 36 years! Debbie contributed to Sunset Cliffs in countless ways; sharing her wisdom at SCNPC meetings, researching in the City archives, presenting facts to the City Council and CA Coastal Commission, planting and weeding in the demonstration garden, and constantly monitoring park changes. Debbie will be warmly remembered and greatly missed! In recognition of Debbie's outstanding contributions to Sunset Cliffs Natural Park, Councilmember Lorie Zapf honored her by adjourning a City Council meeting in her honor. A video of that presentation was forwarded to members of the SCNPC.

On June 11, 2016, the Drainage Committee and the Trails Committee hiked the Upper Life Estate area in preparation for making recommendations for that area at tonight's meeting. Lyle Beller will share those findings with us.

On June 18th, the San Diego League of Women Voters was given a tour by Michael Ruiz, Ann Swanson, and Dedi Ridenour. Debbie Blum had been instrumental in arranging the informative tour.

Many thanks to Faith Hussey, Gene Berger, Barbara Keiller, and Faith's sons-in-law for their wonderful job with the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park booth at the OB Street Fair which was held on June 25th!

On June 28th, Dedi Ridenour and I walked the Linear Section with Michael Ruiz to identify short term volunteer projects which could contribute to the safety of the linear path.

And thanks to the Southern California Exploration and Adventure group for their clean-up project on July 10th.

STAFF REPORT

Ranger Michael Ruiz reported that the new collaborative pilot program described by Sergeant Lonnie Stephens has been a big help to the Park rangers. Michael described some of his ranger patrols and the rescue he did. Ranger David Paczona and he are piloting a SCNP schedule for ranger coverage to sundown. The SCNP gate (to the Dixon area) will be moved by Park & Recreation, allowing better access for cliff/water rescue. There will be realignment of park funding to allow moving forward on park infrastructure.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 – REPORT

Conrad Wear - Absent. No report.

PENINSULA COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD - LIAISON

Don Sevrens – Nothing to report.

ACTION ITEMS

201. Authorization for funds – Gene Berger: none

202. Motion regarding that for Phase 1 of the Drainage Improvement Project (L14005): Provide a new section of primary trail through the 4515 Ladera Street house site – Lyle Beller

MOTION: The Drainage Improvements Project Committee recommends and I move that SCNPC request that for Phase 1 of the Drainage Improvement Project (L14005): Provide a new section of primary trail through the 4515 Ladera Street house site approximately as shown on figure 17, section C of the approved Master Plan. This trail should be routed to optimize views of the ocean while simultaneously providing adequate distance from the cliff edge to avoid trail damage from possible cliff collapse.

MOTION MOVED / SECONDED Lyle Beller

MOTION Passed unanimously.

203. Motion regarding that for Phase 1 of the Drainage Improvement Project (L14005): Provide a trail in the Northeast Corner of the hillside section, also an additional overlook – Lyle Beller

MOTION: The Drainage Improvements Project Committee recommends and I move that SCNPC request that for Phase 1 of the Drainage Improvement Project (L14005): Provide a secondary trail in the Northeast Corner of the hillside section, approximately as shown in figure 17, Area D of the approved Master Plan, from the north canyon overlook, shown on figure 17, Area D of the approved Master Plan to the overlook west of the houses shown on sheet L1-5 of the Hillside Improvement Project drawings.

Also provide an additional overlook, of similar design to other overlooks, at the approximate location of the demolished upper life estate houses to provide an optimal coastal viewing opportunity and resting spot.

MOTION MOVED / SECONDED Lyle Beller

MOTION Passed unanimously.

204. Motion regarding consideration for adding a provision for handicapped parking in the Northeast Corner – Lyle Beller

MOTION: The Drainage Improvements Project Committee recommends and I move that SCNPC request consideration for adding a handicapped parking provision in the Northeast Corner (the area discussed in Motion 203).

MOTION MOVED / SECONDED Lyle Beller

MOTION Motion tabled until August SCNPC meeting (Moved—Jean Nathan; Seconded—Marty Kolb)

205. Motion regarding a Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Council request for the opportunity to review the design scope of work for Phase 1 of the Drainage Improvement Project (L14005) prior to design contract award – Lyle Beller

MOTION: The Drainage Improvements Project Committee recommends and I move that SCNPC request the opportunity to review the design scope of work for Phase 1 of the Drainage Improvement Project (L14005) prior to design contract award, in order to avoid the need for expensive, time-consuming changes after award.

MOTION MOVED / SECONDED Lyle Beller

MOTION Passed unanimously

206. 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

MOTION Motion tabled until Aug. SCNPC meeting (Moved—Marty Kolb; Seconded—Bob Kolb)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

301. Trails/Coastal Conservancy Grant Project – Ellen Quick

(See herein Communication #2. George Freiha/Elizabeth Schroth-Nichols report)

302. Drainage Project Committee – Lyle Beller:

(See Motions 202, 203, 204, 205.)

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

Dedi Ridenour – see motion 202.

304. Revegetation – David Kimball

David Kimball was absent. No report.

305. Education – Barbara Keiller

Barbara Keiller has nothing to report.

306. Publicity – Faith Hussey

Faith Hussey was absent. No report.

307. Safety Committee – Jean Nathan/Marty Kolb

No report.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M. as moved by Marty Kolb and seconded by Jean Nathan.

Next Regular Scheduled Meeting – August 1, 2016 at 6:45 P.M.
Cabrillo Recreation Center
3051 Cañon St.
San Diego, CA 92106