

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

May 1, 2017

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

Florence Dormer moved to approve the April 3, 2017 SCNPC Minutes; seconded by Camilla Ingram. Passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS (limited to items not on the agenda; 5 minutes each; not debatable)

- 1) Craig Barilotti presented a large map (shallow angle sheet) of the SCNP hillside section, showing the Western Loop Road interface with Point Loma Nazarene University.

HILLSIDE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (HIP) AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (DIP) UPDATE REPORTS, presented by City project managers Elizabeth Schroth-Nichols and George Freiha. (A summary of this presentation is given below, written by SCNPC member Lyle Beller.)

The 1 May SCNPC meeting was attended by Elizabeth Schroth-Nichols (ESN) and George Freiha (GF) from San Diego City Staff so that they could brief us on status of the HIP and the DIP. ESN provided the briefing while GF elaborated on some questions.

ESN explained that she was Project Manager for what amounts to four projects in the park, 1) The first phase of the HIP which was demolition of the Dixon estate and area restoration, 2) the second HIP phase which will be the revegetation of the remainder of the Hillside Park and construction of trails and appurtenances, 3) The first part of the DIP which includes demolition of the remaining 4 houses and area restoration, and 4) Drainage improvements for the rest of the Hillside Park.

ESN explained that the DIP design kickoff meeting with Rick Engineering and city staff occurred about 2 weeks ago, and the design efforts are proceeding nicely. Both parts of the DIP will be proceeding simultaneously. The first task of DIP part 1 will be to thoroughly document the status of the houses (some of which are historically significant) and identify and execute mitigation. The first task of part 2 will be to rewrite the comprehensive drainage study, to replace the previous study done by Dudeck Associates in 2012, in light of

current regulatory and physical conditions. This new study will inform the restoration of the housing sites and of the drainage improvements.

ESN and GF both assured the SCNPC that the aforementioned drainage study would produce analysis and alternatives and that SCNPC would have input regarding selection of alternatives.

ESN and GF responded to questions from meeting attendees:

Question: In the HIP, water flowing downhill to the multi-use trail will merely pass under the trail through under-drains and proceed to the ocean unimpeded. ESN: The project does include vegetated swale uphill from the trail, and the trail is sloped to the east to direct the water away from the ocean.

Question: Will the project design estimate the quantity of storm water coming into the park via PLNU ? ESN: Yes, that is part of the drainage study.

Question: Will the project result in zero runoff? ESN: No, the project will fully comply with all regulations regarding runoff.

Question: What is the completion date for the EIR amendment (regarding historical house demolition)? ESN: Indeterminate due to not knowing what the analysis will turn up.

Question: Some of these houses have already been studied, why do we need to do it again? ESN: The work will be to review and update past studies and define and provide mitigation.

Question: Comments regarding parking lots being ugly and negatively affecting drainage/erosion. ESN: The DIP will include parking lot analysis and re-design.

Question: Comments regarding eyesores such as rubble piles and the Arizona Crossing, and advice to ESN/GF to try and fix these since they detract from the naturalness of the park. ESN: The eyesores mentioned may not (or may?) be considered since the Western Loop Road is not included in the scope of the project.

Question: How is it that design and construction of the trails (per the HIP) can precede the drainage plan, since normal good planning would be the reverse? GF: There was a drainage plan (from 2012) which is being replaced by a new plan per this contract.

Question: Why can't we see the actual contractual scope of work (for the DIP design contract) which should provide details of what is being done? ESN: I will provide the (design) scope of work to Lyle Beller (of the SCNPC).

GF reiterated that SCNPC will be given the opportunity to review the DIP study and help select options for the final design and execution.

GF reiterated that the house demolition and parking lot reduction would reduce storm water flows (due to reduced impermeable surface?).

POLICE REPORT - Officer Surwilo or Ricardo Piñon

Absent. No report.

[Please continue to call for police help at Police Non-Emergency 619-531-2000, concerning need for police enforcement/crime incidences in SCNP/park neighborhoods. If immediate emergency, call 911. Officer Surwilo may be reached online at dsurwilo@pd.sandiego.gov.]

LIFEGUARD REPORT – Sergeant Lonnie Stephens

Absent. No report.

CORRESPONDENCE – Rosamaria Acuna

No report.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Gene Berger

Absent. No report.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Faith Hussey

Faith has new-member applications for those wishing to join SCNPC. Be sure to sign in each week.

Faith reminds members to send her an email for excused absences. Send to Faithnhome@att.net or call Faith at 619-228-1854.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT – Ann Swanson

SCNPC Chair, Ann Swanson, reported:

Michael Ruiz sent word that on May 8 he will be leaving his position as Senior Park Ranger for Shoreline Parks to take a new position as Grounds Maintenance Manager for the Citywide Section of Developed Regional Parks. Michael will be working on program development for the department's new Storm Water Compliance Unit.

Many thanks to Michael for his many years of outstanding service to Sunset Cliffs Natural Park! As Grounds Maintenance Manager for shoreline parks, Michael took wonderful care of the park, was a very effective problem solver, and was exceptionally skillful at communicating with the public. It was during Michael's tenure that the exciting process of implementing the SCNP Master Plan began. Later, as the first Senior Park Ranger for shoreline parks, he launched the long awaited ranger program. We very much appreciate Michael's many contributions to the Park and will greatly miss him.

[Jean Nathan suggested the SCNPC send a letter of appreciation and commendation to the City (Mayor's Office) to be put in Michael's file. The SCNPC agreed unanimously to do so. The letter will be sent by Corresponding Secretary, Rosamaria Acuna.]

The SCNPC will have an information table at the Point Loma Association's Annual Town Hall Forum May 16th, 2017, which will begin at 6 pm in Portuguese Hall, 2828 Avenida de Portugal. The topic of the forum, which will begin at 7 p.m., will be "Journalism 2017" with 5 guest journalists serving on the panel. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer to help with the information table.

STAFF REPORT – Vince Paniagua, Michael Ruiz, or David Paczona

Vince Paniagua took questions from the Council members. He will find out from Michael Ruiz what the status is of the production and installation of the pictorial safety signs showing the crumbling cliff with a person falling over the edge. It is hoped these signs will be installed before the busy summer season. Another suggestion was to post safety articles concerning rescues, etc., in or on the park kiosks; Vince explained one side of the kiosk is for Park & Rec. use, and the other side is for SCNPC information.

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 REPORT – Conrad Wear

Conrad Wear was absent. SNCPC Chair, Ann Swanson, reported a communication from Conrad Wear. The communication suggested that SNCPC discussion and action concerning the Western Loop Road be postponed until the SNCPC June meeting, giving members more time to gather information from first responders (police, lifeguards, and fire department) as to use and need for that road.

SNCPC members discussed this suggestion, including the facts already gathered by the SNCPC Western Loop Road Ad Hoc Committee contacting these departments. It was concluded by general consent that the SNCPC Western Loop Road motion should remain on the May 1, 2017 Agenda. (SEE: Motion #202.)

PENINSULA COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD LIAISON – Don Sevens

Absent. No report.

ACTION ITEMS

201. Authorization for funds – Gene Berger

None. Gene Berger was absent.

202. Western Loop Road Recommendation

Western Loop Road Use

The Joint Use Agreement, Document No. RR-280373, between the City of San Diego (City) and Point Loma Nazarene College (now a University--PLNU) expires on July 31, 2017. In order to

provide the City with information on how members of the community feel about closing the Western Loop Road (WLR) to all motor vehicles, when the current use agreement ends, the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Council, Western Loop Road Ad Hoc Committee has developed the following information, which forms the basis of the motion.

Whereas:

- The SCNP Master Plan vision statement: “Create a Park where people can enjoy San Diego’s natural coastal environment as it once was, free from the effects of man and intended to inspire the user to reflect on the grandeur of the sea, and the beauty of the cliffs that are Point Loma.” [L] [SEP]
- Continuing use of the WLR agreement appears to be a violation of Section 55 of the City of San Diego Charter. [L] [SEP]
- The WLR ends where PLNU signs indicate there is no public access to the Young Hall parking lots, and cars without a parking permit may be towed. In effect, the WLR is a dead-end road that provides no benefits to people visiting the Park. [L] [SEP]
- The WLR roadbed is not constructed to be used as a means of conveying storm water to the Arizona Crossing and its western edge has failed three different times recently due to drainage runoff. [L] [SEP]
- The WLR is not constructed to support fire engines (per the San Diego Assistant Fire Marshal); to meet fire vehicle standards it would have to be reconstructed. [L] [SEP]
- Lomaland Drive, which runs through PLNU campus, provides access to Young Hall if the WLR were closed to all motor vehicles. [L] [SEP]
- The Upper Parking Lot provides parking for Park visitors and the WLR is the primary route for shoreline access. With no motorized vehicular traffic allowed on the WLR, pedestrians and bicyclists will have a safer and more pleasant experience using the road to access various portions of SCNP. [L] [SEP]

MOTION: Therefore, the Sunset Cliffs Western Loop Road Ad Hoc Committee recommends and I move that on August 1, 2017, the Western Loop Road be closed to all motor vehicles and be limited to pedestrians and bicyclists to gain access to Sunset Cliffs Natural Park. [L] [SEP]

MOTION: **MOVED BY** Pat Gallagher

MOTION: Motion passed (Yes --14; No -- 2; Abstain -- 2)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Ellen Quick reported:

See the above summary [page 1] of the report given by Elizabeth Schroth-Nichols and George Freiha for information regarding the current status of phases 1 and 2 of the HIP.

The HIP Committee is continuing to work on the park interpretive signs with the Education Committee. They will be holding another meeting on May 15 at the Cabrillo Recreation Center at 6:45 p.m..

302. Drainage Project Committee (DIP) – Lyle Beller

Lyle Beller reported there is no further information to add to the report given tonight by Elizabeth Schroth-Nichols and George Freiha. [See page 1 above]

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

Dedi Ridenour reported that it is an exciting time in the Park to improve the SCNP design. WMEC met with the DIP Committee to study redirecting drainage to some places that will absorb water runoff. [See also the report given by Elizabeth Schroth-Nichols and George Freiha, page 1 above]

304. Revegetation Committee – David Kimball

David Kimball reported this is the worst year for weeding—so much to do. Vince is helping to find a solution for where to throw away the weeding discards.

305. Education Committee – Barbara Keiller

Barbara Keiller reported two Education Committee meetings. One is on May 8 at the Cabrillo Rec Center, 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.. They will be meeting with Ranger David Paczona to work on educational materials. The second meeting will be with HIP Committee on May 15, 6:45 p.m. at Cabrillo Rec. Center.

306. Publicity Committee – Faith Hussey

Faith Hussey asked for volunteers to help her at the SCNPC booth scheduled for the Point Loma Association Town Hall Meeting on May 16th, and for the OB Street Fair and Chili Cookoff on June 24th.

307. Safety Committee – Jean Nathan/Marty Kolb

Jean Nathan gave a safety progress report for Marty Kolb (who was absent), as follows.

Marty worked with an engineering assistant from the City's Dept. of Streets & Traffic, concerning safety of the intersection at Cordova and Sunset Cliffs. He agreed the intersection was dangerous and not well marked. He will see that the stop sign will be raised, a new sign that says 'STOP AHEAD' will be installed, and another new sign will be installed that says 'NO PARKING'.

Marty is waiting for other City officials to get back to her on other safety questions and requests. She will have more to report at the SCNPC June meeting.

Other safety issues discussed were: striping Sunset Cliffs Blvd. too far to the west again; safety of emergency vehicles needing to use the Western Loop Road (the Western Loop Road can not support a fire truck's 90,000 pound weight); other possible emergency roads for the park; and possible use of the multi-use trail.

308. Western Loop Road Ad Hoc Committee – Pat Gallagher

Thank you to the Western Loop Road Ad Hoc Committee for all their fruitful effort and expertise in drafting the Western Loop Road Recommendation. We will plan on having a meeting after May 25, 2017.

309. Northern Entry Project – Scott Opis

Absent. No report.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. as moved by Camille Ingram and seconded by Rosamaria Acuna.

Next Regular Scheduled Meeting
June 5, 2017 at 6:45 p.m.,
Cabrillo Recreation Center
3051 Cañon St., San Diego, CA 02106