



Riverside County Trails Committee
Riverside County Regional Park &
Open-Space District



Park District Headquarters
4600 Crestmore Road
Jurupa Valley, CA 92509
951-955-4310

MINUTES – May 27, 2015

- 1.0 **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.
- 2.0 **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
- 3.0 **Roll Call – Committee Members Present:** George (I), Bremenstuhl (I), Kinne (II), Ragsdale (IV), Chair Zimmerman (V), and Jolliffe (MAL); **Absent:** Holland (II), Roberts (III), Burleson (III), Valentino (IV); **District Staff Present:** Bangle, Herron, Brewer, and Carpenter
- 4.0 **Approval of Minutes - Action**
The minutes from the February 25, 2015 meeting were approved as presented.
(M/S/C Jolliffe, Ragsdale)
- 5.0 **Special Recognition** – Recognition of Lynn Mattocks for service to Committee and County.
BC Herron introduced Mr. Mattocks. Gil Pankonin of the Rancho California Horseman's Association (RCHA) delivered a prepared speech on Mr. Mattocks' service history and presented a plaque from RCHA. A proclamation was presented by Supervisor Marion Ashley's Legislative Aide, Barry Bush. Mr. Mattocks gave a brief speech expressing his gratitude, goals, and plans. Lorraine Harrington presented thank you letters from Senator Stone, Santa Rosa Plateau Riding Club, De Anza Trail Caballeros, and Temecula Equine Riders, for contributions to the County trail system and leadership to the animal rescue program.
- 6.0 **Opportunity for the Public to Address the Committee**
No requests to speak.
- 7.0 **Old Business**
None.
- 8.0 **New Business**
 - 8.1 **Box Springs Trails Master Plan** – Information
Marc Brewer, Senior Park Planner
Senior Planner (SP) Brewer reported on the progress of the Box Springs Trails Master Plan. The Plan covers the 1200 acre Park, which was originally considered a rural park to the City of Riverside. Trails in the area were originally cut by hikers, horses, and animals; the Park was a gem, but threatened by encroachment. Two hundred thousand dollars (\$200k) acquired through a settlement provided funding for the Plan. SP Brewer presented a slideshow, "Sustainable Trails 101," explaining how existing trails are too steep to be sustainable and how the suggestions in the plan were developed. The Plan's suggestions include repairing old trails, building new trails, building additional staging areas, and the possibility of a mountain bike technical skills park.

8.1 Continued

Questions from the Committee:

- 1) CM Kinne – What type of feedback did you get from your outreach meeting?
SP Brewer – Mostly positive, with little criticism. Concerns have been voiced about multi-purpose trails, with requests for mountain biking. SP Brewer clarified that intent is not to build extreme sports trails for mountain biking, but for trails to be an integral community facility.

- 2) Chair Zimmerman – What level CEQA will be required?
SP Brewer – Implementing the Plan will require a full Environmental Impact Report, which has not been started yet. The next step is to take the Plan to the District Advisory Committee, after which point remaining funding will be evaluated to determine how much can be done. One example of the scope of work is the Big C trail being totally redone, with possible trail expansion. Chair Zimmerman expressed concern about people cutting switchbacks; SP Brewer recognized the likelihood that some cutting would occur, though the District would use a variety of mitigating strategies.

CM Joliffe brought up consultant's suggestions for maximizing sustainability. SP Brewer talked about the growing UCR community, which is gradually surrounding the park.

- 3) CM Bremenstuhl – How much of the \$200k budget is left?
SP Brewer – About \$90k.
CM Bremenstuhl suggested using the remainder of funding from planning to build another trailhead. SP Brewer commented on the importance of linkages and the railroad crossing near UCR. They further discussed Riverside access and other entrance points.

- 4) CM Joliffe – What level of support & partnership do we have with cities of Riverside, Moreno Valley, and other agencies?
SP Brewer listed several partners and gave examples of good public participation.

- 5) Chair Zimmerman – Are there any trestles or other good railroad crossing opportunities in the Islander Park area?
SP Brewer – There are no good options, but may be some opportunities from topography for going over the tracks with a bridge. SP Brewer emphasized the importance of building a safe crossing in the Plan-designated area, because otherwise UCR students will continue to cross there unsafely.

9.0 Committee Member Reports - Information

District 1

CM George met with a citizen on-site regarding concern over whether a Del Oro project on Highway 74 might cut out an existing trail. CM George also attended the DAC meeting regarding the Wine Country Trail Map public meeting, which was very positive.

CM Bremenstuhl attended California Trails & Greenways Conference in Yosemite, which gives us an opportunity to connect with complimentary agencies and volunteer groups; the Murrieta Creek Trail project received special recognition. Major topics at the Conference were why parks should partner with other agencies and non-profits, especially networking with Native American tribes in developing interpretive trails; that usage of parks nationwide is not growing, and how urban managers might address the issue; and finally, the true cost of volunteer labor, for which the return on investment is largely emotional connection rather than monetary savings. Next year's conference is in Riverside, which presents an opportunity for the City and County to partner. He is still having trouble getting

sections of the Santa Ana River Trail (SART) adopted through Adopt-A-Trail, though there is some promise with the Santa Ana River Trust.

District II

CM Holland did not attend the meeting.

CM Kinne recognized Lynn Mattock's example of what hard work can do. She reported that work has continued on the proposed "Immigrant – Butterfield – Stagecoach" Trail, but maps that are just one year old are already becoming obsolete due to development. She will be meeting next week with the US Forest Service regarding links to the Cleveland National Forest. She has been doing lots of riding, meeting with people, and feels the Committee should reengage the community by sponsoring more events like the McCall Trail Rides.

District III

CM Roberts did not attend the meeting.

CM Burleson did not attend the meeting.

District IV

CM Noel Ragsdale reported that Coachella Valley Mountain Conservancy is working on the development of 3-5 trails. Two are going forward for now (Corkhill trail in Indio Hills and Pushwalla Wash). She scouted Corkhill with a representative from US Fish & Wildlife to see route location and options for mitigating habitat effects on the fringe-toed lizard. An option is being considered to create the hiking trail using an existing illegal ATV trail. The Pushwalla Trail would go to the Joshua Tree National Park boundary; she was not sure what role County would have, but noted that all trails being considered are in unincorporated areas. CM Ragsdale also attended a presentation regarding possible land exchanges between BLM and Agua Caliente band of natives, which is giving people some concern about potential impact to trail access. She met with the project manager of Seaview Link about equestrian trail usage in the project area; there are a variety of issues and controversies, but she is hopeful that existing trails should be protected.

District V

Chair Zimmerman thanked Becky Chavez for her help supporting the Committee. He is continuing advocacy for the Salt Creek Trail. He reported receiving communication regarding shared trail use in Bogart and thanked BC Herron for working to resolve issues. Chair Zimmerman mentioned the frustration of seeing areas being developed that should have had regional trails and encouraged all Committee members to advocate to their city planners and managers so trails can be better protected, including asking to be put on cities' notification lists for development. Chair Zimmerman attended the District Volunteer Recognition Luncheon and DAC meeting.

Member-At-Large

CM Jolliffe attended the Box Springs Trail Plan and was very pleased with the plan and consultant. The Murrieta Creek Trail grand opening was June 6th at 9 a.m. in each of four connected cities.

10.0 Park District Reports – Information

10.1 Park District Status Report – Receive and File

Marc Brewer, Senior Park Planner

The Park District Staff Report dated May 27, 2015 was received and filed. SP Brewer mentioned working hard to meet the NEPA deadline for Salt Creek and that the purchase of the property adjacent to Deleo Park had been completed. District staff attended three very productive meetings on SART in the last 4 weeks. The biggest challenge on Salt Creek is going under the 215 freeway. SP Brewer commended the Wine Country Trail Map team for their hard work. A request for proposals (RFP) for the County Comprehensive Trail Plan has just posted; this project

is the most important thing that has happened for trails in the County in over 20 years; it has the potential to include new options for trail designations, including single-use trails. The Mockingbird / Harford Springs project is to be assigned to new Planning staff. SART progress has been slow with Norco and Corona, as they do not have sufficient staff to support the project. SP Brewer recognized consulting firm KTU+A for the quality of their work for the District and County, especially the Box Springs Trails Master Plan. SP Brewer anticipates conducting a user survey as part of the County Trails Master Plan process to determine the level of bicycle commuting, the data from which can be used for securing funding. Due to a lack of data, Nexus funding was previously lost, leaving only housing impact fees. The Plan will be completed in support of the upcoming 2016 County General Plan cycle and will provide standards, policies, and sources of funding – all resulting in a substantially different trails map than we have now.

Questions from the Committee:

- 1) CM Kinne – Will the Comprehensive Trails Plan include OHV trails?
SP Brewer – No, it is solely for non-motorized trail uses
- 2) CM Bremenstuhl asked for clarification on the property purchased adjacent to Deleo Sports Park, especially the viability of the site for a mountain bike skills park.
SP Brewer – it is still viable for a mountain bike skills park, as well as a possible staging ground for other activities.

BC Herron recognized Anthony Richardson for his support and leadership of the Adopt-A-Trail program as the Volunteer Services Program Manager.

Chair Zimmerman solicited feedback from the Committee members as to whether they preferred to receive and file the District report or whether they preferred that the report be presented verbally. Those members in attendance preferred a verbal report.

11.0 Next Meeting – The next meeting will be held on August 26, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Park District Headquarters located at 4600 Crestmore Road, Jurupa Valley, CA 92509.

12.0 Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m. (M/S/C Joliffe, Bremenstuhl)

Keith Herron, Bureau Chief – Resources
Secretary to the Trails Committee