

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department
 Tierrasanta Open Space Maintenance Assessment District
Tierrasanta Open Space Committee

Draft Minutes for Tuesday, January 20, 2015 Meeting
 Tierrasanta Recreation Center, 11220 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

Voting members:	Present/Excused/Absent		
	Jan. 20, 2015	Nov. 5, 2014	Oct. 1, 2014*
Deanna Spehn* Chair	Present	Present	
Jennifer Cochrane-Schultz* Secretary	Present	Present	
Jerry Bierman	Present	Present	
Lee Campbell	Absent	Present	
Teresa Clowes	Absent	Absent	
Justin DeCesare* Chair, Tierrasanta Community Council and Planning Group	Absent	Absent	
Roberta Froome	Absent	Present	
John Hopper	Absent	Present	
Dawn Lostritto-Nielsen*	Present	Absent	
Russ May*	Present	Present	
Bob Muldrew	Absent	Present	
Betty Ogilvie	Absent	Present	
Mike Ogilvie	Present	Present	
Dick Rees	Absent	Absent	
Rich Thesing*	Present	Present	

Staff:

Paul Sirois, Assistant Deputy Director, Open Space Division/
MAD's/City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department

Sheldon Zemen, representing City of San Diego Councilman
Scott Sherman's office

Vendors, presenters, community members

Julia Tucker

Bob Lang

James Sanders--FOTC

*Minutes and the sign-in sheet are currently unavailable for this meeting.

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. Members and guests made introductions. A quorum was not established. [15 voting members on the committee, seven present]

Non-Agenda Public Comment

Community member Bob Lang reported on the condition of Shepherd Canyon, which he frequently walks.

- The removal of palms by helicopter resulted in palm fronds being scattered throughout the canyon. Another 30 or so palms remain. What is the plan or timeline for the removal of these palms?
- Fronds and other loose, dead vegetation are creating dams in the creek making some sections of trail impassable during and after the rains.
- Large truck ruts were observed in the restoration wetlands at the corner of Antigua Blvd. and Santo Road. Mr. Lang provided photographic evidence.
- Reeds continue to grow in various sections of the canyon. Mr. Lang noted that when dry these could become a fire hazard.
- Other portions of the city are clearing brow ditches and storm channels. Since these are lined with cement, could we use this fact to clear the pond of the reeds?
- East Shepherd Canyon was flooded when the Metropolitan Water District emptied aqueduct pipes to conduct valve repair.

Approval of Minutes

Deanna Spehn recommended that the following statement be added to the November minutes: *“October 1, 2014 minutes will be made available and approved at a future*

date.” She also asked that portions of the agenda not be left blank if a report or other information is not provided. Jerry Bierman moved, Rich Thesing seconded to approve the minutes with noted revisions. Passed unanimously.

Staff Report—refer to the January 20, 2015 Staff Report on the TCC website for complete details. Paul Sirois representing Parks and Recreation Department, reported as follows:

- *Shepherd Canyon restoration grant proposal:*
 - The new Right Of Entry Permit was issued to San Diego Canyonlands on December 3 for a three-year period.
 - West Coast Arborists completed the removal of 60 non-native fan palms on December 29. The cost for cutting by West Coast Arborists, and removal by Blackhawk Helicopters is \$22,059. Dumpster and landfill fees are yet to be tallied and invoiced. \$35,000 has been set aside for this task.

Discussion: Mr. Lang asked if frond removal has been taken into consideration for this project. James Sanders representing the Friends of Tierrasanta Canyons (FOTC) noted that 300 palm seedlings were removed from the same area shortly after the helicopter event. He also reported clearing loose fronds in that area. Jennifer Schultz asked if the remaining funds could be used to remove additional palms located further up canyon. Mr. Sirois responded that it might be possible to remove additional palms this spring before nesting season begins.

- *East Shepherd Canyon Water Main Break:* Public Utilities sent out a Request for Bid to restore the areas damaged in the water main break on December 10. Treebeard apparently has the Girl Scout markers and will replace when the replanting is completed.
- *Tierrasanta Trails Project:* The Helix biological study has resumed for an additional cost of \$13,000. It should be finished soon. One of several trails slated for eventual closure will be closed immediately due to safety concerns and environmental degradation resulting from usage. Mr. Bierman noted that he was the designer of the “bypass” in question. It’s located at the end of Promesa Drive. He said it’s been open for about 10 years.
- District Manager and Grounds Maintenance Manager interviews are in process. Many qualified individuals submitted applications.

Draft budget for fiscal year 2016

Mr. Sirois presented the proposed budget and provided line item details. Mr. Thesing moved, and Russ May seconded that the proposed budget be approved and forwarded to the TCC for consideration at its January 21, 2015 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion:

- Mrs. Schultz noted that \$10,000 is being set aside for pond maintenance. Is this necessary if we allow the pond to convert to wetlands? Can the set aside be used to remove the 30 or so palms growing in the creek bed that feeds the pond? Perhaps removal of the palms, which are quite large, would help restore water flow to the pond. Mr. Sirois responded that this would be possible, noting there are lots of steps between doing nothing and full-blown restoration of the pond environment. An expenditure of \$180,000 to conduct the initial study would, however, drain the MAD resources below the required reserves minimum.
- Mrs. Schultz suggested that duty-hour arrangements be made for the new open space inspector to personally supervise monthly Saturday FOTC activities.
- Mike Ogilvie asked if the Open space committee is a standing committee of the Tierrasanta Planning Group. Ms. Spehn explained that the committee is a standing committee for the community council (corporate) only.

Friends of Tierrasanta Canyons

Mr. Sanders reported that John Norris is the new president. Roberta Froome is the vice president. Mr. Sanders is the secretary/treasurer. More than 300 palm seedlings were removed during the last cleanup.

New Business:

- Mr. Lang asked about debris dams blocking creeks, thereby flooding trails. Mrs. Schultz agreed that this was a problem in several sections of Shepherd Canyon where seasonal flooding and run-off are creating new wetlands. Mr. Sirois suggested that a footbridge might be appropriate for such conditions.
- Mrs. Schultz reported that several large eucalyptus trees have recently fallen along or across popular walking trails. The debris is, in her opinion, “unsightly” and has damaged native species such as oaks and willows. She asked if the trunks and limbs could be cleared. Mr. Sirois noted that changes in regulations no longer allow for removal of tree debris if the branch or trunk is more than 10-inches in diameter. He requested locations for further consideration.
- Mrs. Schultz suggested that the membership roster be a topic of consideration for a future agenda. The committee did not have a quorum for this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.