

**City of San Diego Park & Recreation Department**  
**Tierrasanta Open Space Maintenance Assessment District (TOSMD)**  
**Tierrasanta Open Space Committee**  
**7 pm at Tierrasanta Recreation Center • 11220 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.**  
**Agenda for October 7, 2015 Meeting**

The Tierrasanta Open Space Committee is advisory to the City of San Diego Open Space Division on matters related to the Tierrasanta Open Space Maintenance Assessment District.

Voting members: Deanna Spehn\* (Chair), Jennifer Schultz\* (Secretary), Jerry Bierman, Lee Campbell, Teresa Clowes, Roberta Froome, John Hopper, Dawn Lostritto-Nielsen, Russ May\*, Bob Muldrew, Betty Ogilvie, Mike Ogilvie, Dick Rees, Rich Thesing\*, Justin DeCesare\* (President, Tierrasanta Community Council). City Staff: Bob Smith and Ray Garcia

Agenda

7:00 pm            Chair Deanna Spehn will call the meeting to order and establish that a quorum is present, followed by introductions of those present and agenda review.

1. Non-agenda public comment (limited to 3 minutes per person)
2. Approval of September 2, 2015 Draft Minutes (under separate cover)
3. Staff Report for October 7, 2015 meeting (see attached) – Bob Smith
4. Information Item: Quarterly Report to Tierrasanta Community Council by TOSMD Chair Spehn
5. Encroachment issues
6. Request by Tierrasanta Foundation re: placement of benches in the open space
7. Vehicular damage to Roadrunner Park: continue discussion on recommendations to address and vote as required
8. Status of Dishwasher Pond – Helix Study; Cost Factors; Timeline for decisions
9. Status of trails system & Helix environmental study status and timeline
10. Drought & use of water in Tierrasanta: any changes in watering times/schedules?
11. Friends of Tierrasanta Canyons
12. New Business – to be referred to a future noticed meeting of the Tierrasanta Open Space Committee
13. Adjournment

Next meeting: November 4, 2015 – 7 pm Tierrasanta Recreation Center 11220 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.  
No meeting in December 2015

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

**Draft Minutes for Wednesday, September 2, 2015 Meeting**  
 Tierrasanta Recreation Center, 11220 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

Voting members:	Present/Excused/Absent		
	Sept. 2, 2015*	July 1, 2015	June 3, 2015
Deanna Spehn* Chair	Present	Present	Present
Jennifer Cochrane-Schultz* Secretary	Present	Present	Excused
Jerry Bierman	Present	Present	Present
Lee Campbell	Present	Absent	Present
Teresa Clowes	Absent	Absent	Absent
Justin DeCesare* Chair, Tierrasanta Community Council and Planning Group	Absent	Absent	Absent
Roberta Froome	Present	Present	Present
John Hopper	Present	Absent	Absent
Dawn Lostritto-Nielsen*	Absent	Present	Absent
Russ May*	Present	Absent	Present
Bob Muldrew	Present	Present	Present
Betty Ogilvie	Present	Present	Present
Mike Ogilvie	Present	Present	Present
Dick Rees	Absent	Absent	Absent
Rich Thesing*	Present	Present	Present

\*The TOSC does not hold regular meetings during the month of August

Staff:
Robert Smith, Tierrasanta Open Space Inspector
Sheldon Zemen, City Council District 7 representative for Scott Sherman
Ray Garcia, Sr., Parks and Recreation Department

Vendors, presenters, community members	
James Sanders	
Bob Lang	
Bill Winans	

**The meeting convened** at 7:03 p.m. Members and guests made introductions. A quorum was established. [15 voting members on the committee, 11 present]

### **Non-Agenda Public Comment**

Bob Lang read his previously published statement provided by email. Please see attachment.

Lee Campbell reported that one side of the landscaping on the Viacha ‘banjo’ is dead. Bob Smith responded that he could now increase the irrigation in that area since the assessment district has met its water reduction quota of 16%.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Deanna Spehn asked that the phrase containing the word “illegal” be removed from the section of the July minutes entitled “*Status of Dishwasher Pond*”. Lee Campbell moved, Rich Thesing seconded to approve the change. Vote was eight in favor; Jennifer Schultz opposed.

**Staff Report**—refer to the September 2, 2015 Staff Report on the TCC website for complete details. Robert Smith representing the Open Space division of the Parks and Recreation Department, reported as follows:

*Tree Trimming:* West Coast Arborists is nearing completion of an extensive tree-trimming project in Tierrasanta. Two Coral trees were removed for safety reasons

*Brush Management:* Work in Tierrasanta Open Space continues.

*Invasive plants and weed control:* As reported to Roberta Froome, a \$10,000 purchase order for Mike Kelley is in the works for the removal of invasive plant species.

*Water Reductions:* Treebeard has apparently met its goal of 16% water savings to when compared to 2013 usage.

*Dishwasher Pond:* Helix Environmental will develop a work plan and cost estimate for planning, permitting, implementation and mitigation of the restoration of Dishwasher Pond.

*Barbados Wall*—Two sections of the wall on Clairemont Mesa Blvd. have been replaced. Bob Smith asked if these needed to be painted. The natural color of the bricks looks good in his opinion. It was asked if we wanted to keep replacing the wall, section by section? Would it be more cost effective to tackle the entire project at once? Bob will look into costs to replace the entire wall.

**Encroachment Issues**—As requested, Bob Smith looked into the old files regarding encroachment. Paul Kilberg is trying to get an extra person to help us with encroachment. Many old complaints have been addressed and are now compliant.

**Utility Box Painting**—The group responsible for painting the box in front of the library is interested in adopting another box. Complaints were minimal from the community. There was some graffiti, which was painted over when it occurred. Roberta Froome expressed an interest in adopting this project. It was noted that Dawn Lostritto-Nielsen managed the first project. The group will develop a theme and present it to the open space committee.

**Road Runner Park**—Another set of tire “donuts” were discovered following the recent heavy rains. Can bollards or chains be erected to prevent this from happening again? Bob Smith said that these would have to be in consistent with community standards. Medians, boulders or other landscaping features were also suggested. Bob Smith will look into this and make some recommendations.

**Tierrasanta Trails**—Deanna Spehn distributed an electronic version of the Helix Environmental Services study, reporting that Jennifer Schultz had obtained a copy via a Freedom of Information Act request. Next steps will include the following: Fish and Wildlife departments will make preliminary comments. These

comments will be returned to Helix. Helix will finalize the plan and return it to the city.

**Friends of Tierrasanta Canyons**—James Sanders reported that a cleanup occurred on July 11 in the Native Plant Garden. More than 300 feet of old irrigation pipes were removed. An additional 600 feet of pipes were removed during the August cleanup.

The September 12 cleanup will focus on the installation of a small bridge over the creek in the riparian area located near the kiosk at Santo and Antigua. Bob Smith reiterated that the debris dam couldn't be removed. Paul Kilberg needs to see the complete plan and location for final approval.

The coastal cleanup day is set for September 19 to remove tiny palms from the restoration area.

Bob Smith will look into the removal of the 40 or so large palms that are growing above Dishwasher Pond. The hope is that their removal will cut back on the number of seedlings that we are seeing south of the pond.

### **New Business**

The Tierrasanta Foundation was established to support infrastructure in Tierrasanta. The Foundation would like to build six new benches located throughout the community. Two new would be installed on Antigua, near Santo Road. Another pair would be installed near the stairs leading up to the Vista Grande Elementary School field. A third pair will be placed at the end of Via Temprano. A plaque would be included thanking the citizens for their contributions. Funds will be transferred from the Foundation to the MAD or Treebeard. Ray Garcia and Bob Smith will work out this process with the Foundation.

The Foundation is also investigating Santa Barbara Beautiful—an organization that donates trees as memorials. This group has planted 12,000 trees so far throughout Santa Barbara. This item will be placed on next month's agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

**Tierrasanta Open Space Committee**  
**Quarterly Update to the Tierrasanta Community Council & Planning Group**  
**September 16, 2015**  
**Deanna Spehn, Chair**

The Draft Biological Resources Letter Report for the Tierrasanta Trails Project dated July 31, 2015 was provided to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a few weeks ago, shortly after it was provided to the City's Open Space Division from Helix Environmental Planning, Inc. Open Space staff generally prefer to resolve issues with the two agencies, making the necessary revisions to the plan prior to sharing the draft plan with the public – including the Maintenance Assessment District advisory committees. The agencies appreciate the opportunity to perform this pre-public review consultation as well.

The draft is still with the agencies and until City staff receives their input we do not know if any significant changes would be made to what City staff refers to as the draft Helix trails plan.

Below is a summary of steps that Andy Field has directed will be followed in determining which existing trails in Tierrasanta's city-owned open space will be allowed to stay; which trails or sections of trails will have to be either restored to their natural status or mitigated; and which new trails are possible.

The typical process for a trails master plan for an area would typically undergo the following basic steps:

1. Assign a consultant to the trails master plan effort and develop the project scope in consultation with public
2. Develop a proposal in concert with community and wildlife agencies using consultant data
3. Submit a draft document to the City's Development Services Department (DSD) to determine approval processes, including but not limited to:
  - a. CEQA analysis
  - b. Permits
  - c. Land use plan amendments
4. Have an iterative process with Development Services to discuss comments/concerns
5. Once the draft document satisfies DSD concerns, ask for public comment and Notice of Right to Appeal (NORA) on CEQA document
6. Assuming a Site Development Permit is required, the next step would be to solicit a recommendation from the recognized Community Planning Group for the area
7. Attend public hearings, which could include a Hearing Officer, Park and Recreation Board, Planning Commission, and/or City Council
8. Finalize the plan

This process must include funding for the costs of consultant and Development Services Department review.

At this point City staff is expecting to hear back from the state and federal Resource Agencies shortly, at which point the process detailed above will kick in and.

I was also notified today that a bridge project that had been proposed for Shepherd Canyon by the Friends of Tierrasanta Canyons has been approved by City Open Space Director Chris Zirkle and City Biologist Laura Ball, with the direction by City staff to the Friends not to include the rock/gravel approaches originally proposed at the edges of the replacement bridge. A design to deal with the height difference between the path on either side of the replacement bridge will be installed has been discussed with the Friends and approved by Laura Ball. The Development Services Department determined that no permits were required.

### **Tree Damage**

We lost several trees in the recent storms, including coral trees on Santo Road in front of Villa Portofino that had to be removed because of splitting trunks and the potential for limbs to split off. All tree removals require an official determination by a certified arborist that the tree must be removed for public safety reasons and/or death of the tree, etc. A house within Villa Portofino was seriously damaged and no longer habitable due to a tree that fell in the storm this summer.

### **Barbados Common Wall**

Two sections of the Barbados Common Wall were recently replaced by Treebeard. The sections were “bulging” due to dirt, etc., pushing the wall out of alignment. The height of private yards behind the wall is often significantly different than the height of the dirt/grass on the Clairemont Mesa Blvd. or Santo Road sides of the wall. The cost was \$4081.84.

### **Water**

According to City staff, Treebeard is meeting the 25% reduction in use of water within Tierrasanta open space areas, including joint use fields on the school sites and in developed parks.

### **Dishwasher Pond**

City staff has repeatedly requested a quote from Helix Environmental on the cost and environmental restrictions on removing up to 400 square feet of reeds from Dishwasher Pond, but to date a quote has not been provided. Existing federal environmental laws limit the work that can be done in a body of water where certain plant, bird and animal species are present. City staff will continue to request that the quote be developed by Helix as soon as possible.

### **Brush Management**

The City’s brush management crews continue to work in Tierrasanta. Open Space crews may not perform brush management – only the specialized crews designated by the City and adhering to regulations established via a federal environmental review and a grant from the federal government. The brush crews consistently leave bundled up debris in the canyons for a week or so and then a big truck comes and crews remove the bundles. Treebeard is not involved with the brush management project and no Tierrasanta Open Space Maintenance Assessment District funds may be used for brush management.



**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO**  
**PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**OPEN SPACE DIVISION**  
**TIERRASANTA MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**  
**October 7, 2015**  
**STAFF REPORT**

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**Ongoing Projects/Completed**

- **Tree Trimming** - West Coast Arborists trimmed trees in various areas of the Open Space.

**Open Space**

- **Helix Environmental** - will develop a work plan and cost estimate for planning, permitting, implementation and mitigation of the restoration of Dishwater Pond.
- **Shepherd Canyon Water Break**- There was a water main break on August 7, 2015 west of Dishwasher Pond. I will be working with Sean Paver, the City's Environmental Biologist and Dirk Smith City, Senior Planner.
- **Brush Management** - Is now working in the Brush Management zones of the Tierrasanta Open Space.

**Landscape Contract**

- Treebeard is working on achieving a 16 % water savings to meet new water reduction requirements compared to 2013 water usage data. Many of the measures implemented to date will help meet our goal.
- Treebeard continues to provide services within budget.

**Budget**

- Staff will present the FY 2017 Proposed Budget at the November 4, 2015 meeting.

**Miscellaneous**

- The Proposal has been received for the removal of (65) palm trees in Shepherd Canyon. The total cost will be \$26,076.16. The proposal includes cutting of the palm trees, helicopter use and hauling away all debris. West Coast Arborist will be performing the Palm removals.

Grounds Maintenance Manager – Bob Smith -619-685-1370 /cell 619-980-8108.

Respectfully submitted

Bob Smith, Grounds Maintenance  
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