

City of San Diego Park & Recreation Department
Tierrasanta Open Space Maintenance Assessment District (TOSMD)
also referred to as the Maintenance Assessment District (MAD)

Tierrasanta Open Space Committee

Agenda for 6:30 pm Tuesday, October 20, 2020 Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Deanna Spehn, Chair, TOSMD dspehn1@san.rr.com 858-565-4018

Agendas and minutes are posted on the Tierrasanta Community Council website at
www.tierrasantacc.com

The Public is welcome to attend all TOSMD meetings
New members are welcome! We plan on doing monthly or bi-monthly Zoom meetings

Instructions for participating in the October 20th Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Deanna Spehn is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Tierrasanta Open Space Committee October 20, 2020 6:30 pm
Time: Oct 20, 2020 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

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The “Participants” button is at the bottom center of the Zoom video screen. Use this button to see a list of participants for this meeting and to show the “Raise Hands” button at the bottom.

Providing comments on non-agenda public comment and agenda items:

Via Zoom: Participants will not be muted on entry and we will see how that works, otherwise we will use the “raise hand” method. Please put yourself on Mute if you are not speaking at the moment so we don’t get a lot of background noise.

Via the phone: Send an email to dspehn1@san.rr.com with your name and the item you want to comment on either before the meeting or during the meeting. You are welcome to make your request before the meeting and the Chair will keep a list of those interested in speaking.

Via email: If you cannot attend the meeting and would like your comments on the record, please send an email to dspehn1@san.rr.com with your name, the item and the comment you want read aloud by the Chair at the meeting.

This is our first Open Space Committee meeting via Zoom. Please be courteous to all in the meeting. The main focus for this meeting is a presentation on the proposed FY2021 budget and an update on current spending for the current budget by Tierrasanta Open Space Inspector Loren Boerboom. No votes on the budget will be taken tonight – decisions on recommendations to the City’s Park and Recreation Department will happen on Wednesday, November 4th. Tonight the members will vote on what time the meeting will take place on November 4th.

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. Members: Deanna Spehn (Chair dspehn1@san.rr.com 858-565-4018), Jennifer Schultz, Jerry Bierman, John Hopper, Bob Lang*, Dawn Lostritto Nielsen (Secretary), Russ May, Bob Muldrew, Betty Ogilvie, Mike Ogilvie*, Elvie Plaskota, Dick Rees, James Sanders, Rich Thesing*.
(*Indicates current member of the Tierrasanta Community Council and Planning Group)

City Open Space Division Staff: Loren Boerboom and Ray Garcia.

Agenda

6:30 pm - Call the meeting to order and establish that a quorum is present

- Attachment: October 2020 Staff Report – Loren Boerboom
- First Draft of Tierrasanta Open Space Maintenance Assessment District Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022) – Annual Assessment will appear on Property Tax Bill issued in October 2021

1. Non-agenda public comment. Limited to no more than 2 minutes per subject.

2. Agenda review: addition and/or removal of agenda items.

3. Chair Report – Deanna Spehn

- In the last several months, 5 local residents have raised strong concerns about the removal of dead and dying grass between the sidewalk and the street along a section of Tierrasanta Blvd. east of the Legacy Church to Rueda Drive on the south side of the street and replacing the turf with drought resistant plants and mulch. Some of those who called and emailed are unhappy that mulch has been added saying that it was unpleasant to walk on and their dogs didn’t like it. Mulch is used to help retain moisture in the soil especially during drought conditions.

The Maintenance Assessment District (MAD) planted 22 trees along the south side of Tierrasanta Blvd. east of Legacy Church in the same area to replace original trees of the same species planted by the developer. *Arbustus marina* or the “Strawberry Tree” were planted.

Several years ago the City adopted a citywide policy to reduce the amount of water used in City-owned open space, center islands and street rights-of-way including in the 55 Maintenance Assessment Districts (MADs) in the City in response to the 8 year drought in the region. The first area where turf was removed was the center island on Tierrasanta Blvd. from Santo Road to I-15. Please drive by/walk the area where the work was just done prior to the October 20th MAD meeting.

- Tierrasanta Open Space Inspector Loren Boerboom had 30 new trees planted at Villa Norte Park next to Kumeyaay Elementary School to add more shade to the park. Drive by/walk by and take a look at the new *Koelreuteria bipinnata* or “Chinese Flame Trees” – the older Chinese Flame Trees in the park have done well for years.
 - The Open Space Committee has long supported the planting of new trees in the community especially ones that can tolerate drought conditions, and native trees.
 - Both Loren and Deanna continue to receive calls and emails regarding dead or dying trees and brush in the community, with residents concerned about the fire danger due to excessive heat and lack of rainfall. The City’s brush management program only deals with 50 acres of brush management in the entire City. Tierrasanta is fortunate to have the City sponsored crews in our canyons every year as part of this program. MAD funds are prohibited by state law from being used for brush management/fire prevention. However we do have \$250,000 in the current budget for tree maintenance and we usually spend all of that each fiscal year from July 1 to June 30.
 - Tree beetles continue to ravage our eucalyptus trees. If you see a sick or dying tree please report it or a tree in city-owned open space with branches hanging over your fence/property! The MAD continues to remove dead trees near trailheads or adjacent to homes if they are on public property.
 - Our hiking trails/walking paths continue to get a lot of foot traffic during the COVID-19 pandemic and Treebeard crews regularly maintain the area. Mission Trails Regional Park staff have also reported much more foot traffic in the park as people walk locally and enjoy the natural beauty of the area.
4. **Staff Report** See attached - Loren Boerboom LBoerboom@sandiego.gov 619-685-1370
5. **Action Item/Discussion Item:** The Open Space Committee may make recommendations to City staff regarding potential changes to the current budget. This is the first meeting on the budget for the next fiscal year. Staff will return at our next meeting with potential costs for additions/changes to the annual budget and we will vote on final recommendations for this budget year.

Budget for next Fiscal Year: Attached is the first draft of the budget for the fiscal year from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. TOSMD Inspector Loren Boerboom is requesting input from the Open Space Committee on additions/changes/modifications.

The Tierrasanta Open Space Committee must vote on its recommendations no later than **November 4th** – the night of our next Open Space Committee meeting, consistent with the process used in previous years.

In January the Open Space Committee will virtually present the draft budget to the Tierrasanta Community Council. The Open Space Committee is advisory to the Open Space Division of the City's Parks and Recreation Department and the proposed budget will go through several levels of review internally at the City before it is voted on by the full City Council in late Spring.

Below are the budget issues that are frequently raised during the annual review of the budget for the Tierrasanta Open Space Maintenance District:

- There is no news about potential funding sources for implementation of the draft Tierrasanta Trails Plan. Estimated cost to design new trails and mitigate for the loss of habitat for current and proposed trails in the Tierrasanta Open Space Maintenance District is in excess of \$400,000 not including the actual construction of the trails.
- The Open Space Committee has strongly supported planting native trees to replace dead and dying non-native Eucalyptus trees and has encouraged a updating the condition of the center islands and streets-right-of-ways in the community.
- Status of the Barbados Common Wall on Clairemont Mesa Blvd. and a portion of Santo Road: Re-painting? Replacing caps on the concrete blocks due to damage and/or age?
- Status of local parks: Roadrunner Park (next to Jean Farb Middle School), Tierrasanta Community Park (11220 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.), Monserate Park (currently undergoing renovation), Villa Norte (next to Kumeyaay Elementary):

The Maintenance Assessment District maintains the city-owned parks in the Community and is reimbursed for standard maintenance by the City. The MAD maintains the sites using MAD funds by providing a higher level of maintenance to the parks: are there any recommended improvements for any of the sites?

- Status of the decomposed granite (DG) jogging trail in Shepard Canyon behind De Portola Middle School and the Tierrasanta Community Park? The jogging trail covers a major city pipeline that runs below and the trail is maintained by the using City funds, not MAD funding. Are there any areas along the path that need renovation?
- Status of Red Pond/Dishwasher Pond: There are longstanding concerns about the number of reeds growing in the pond behind De Portola Middle School and Tierrasanta Community Park. There is no change to date in the opinion that the environmental quality of the "reedy" pond is preferable in terms of the number of threatened and endangered species that are supported by the pond in that condition and the difficulty in getting a permit to remove the reeds. A small area of the reeds may be eligible for removal but the process may be time consuming and expensive.
- Do you know of sites for new locations for Mutt Mitts in the open space or parks etc?
- Frequency of street sweeping in front of Tierrasanta Town Center on Tierrasanta Blvd. and in front of Serra High School: should it be increased or is current frequency okay?
- Other sites for dog fountains similar to the one in Tierrasanta Community Park?
- The budget is increased each year no more than the Consumer Price Index – usually around 2%
- Other budget related issues to be discussed?

- TOSMD Inspector Loren Boerboom is requesting suggestions for sites to plant native trees and shrubs in Tierrasanta's city owned open space? Our contractor would be responsible for watering the new plantings for the first year.

NOTES: • The current budget for water is \$238,713 and for storm drains is \$2146 per year. The current budget for electricity is \$4461.90

- The assessment per single family home is currently \$82.66 and \$58.44 per multi-family unit (condos and apartments pay 2/3rds the fee for single family)
- The Navy, San Diego Unified School District and commercial sites pay a fee based on "equivalent dwelling unit" equivalencies where the acreage determines the total fee paid per site. The only area within Murphy Canyon Military Housing that is maintained are the center islands.
- For the current fiscal year the Tierrasanta MAD receives the following reimbursements from the City:
- The City reimburses the Tierrasanta MAD with \$383,205 for the maintenance of all city parks in Tierrasanta – the MAD does not maintain any portion of Mission Trails Regional Park.
- City reimburses the Tierrasanta MAD with \$6040 for maintenance of the landscaping at the Tierrasanta Library

6. Report Update by Friends of Tierrasanta Canyons.

7. New Business: Items may be added to the agenda for discussion – no action will be taken at this meeting unless they meet the urgency requirement for the Brown Act. Items may be added to a future agenda.

8. Adjournment

Input to the Parks and Recreation Department in proposing the budget for the next year from the community is due to the City no later than **Wednesday, November 4th** during the next TOSMD meeting. To be determined is what time the meeting will be: 6 pm, 6:30 or 7 pm? The meeting will be done via Zoom. The committee will decide tonight what time the meeting will be.

The public and the Tierrasanta Community Council and Planning Group (TCC&PG) and other interested parties have opportunities to provide written or oral testimony on the proposed budget for the Tierrasanta Open Space Maintenance District at San Diego City Council hearings during the budget process. **A presentation on the proposed budget will be made at the first meeting of the TCC&PG in 2021 by the TOSMD Chair and comments will be conveyed to the City's Open Space Division.** The proposed budget for FY 2021 then goes through an internal budget process at the City to refine costs, etc., prior to a series of budget hearings at the City for all 55 Maintenance Assessment Districts in the City.