



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 – August 26, 2015

- 1.0 Call to Order** – Called to order at 6:30 pm by Scott Bangle, District General Manager
- 2.0 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
Led by CM Jolliffe
- 3.0 Roll Call – Committee Members Present:** Bremenstuhl (I), Kinne (II), Holland (II), Roberts (III), Croy (V), and Jolliffe (MAL); **Absent:** George (I), ; **District Staff Present:** Bangle, Herron, Brewer, Richardson, Chamberlain, and Carpenter
- 4.0 Approval of Minutes - Action**
Approve minutes from the May 27, 2015 meeting, with change of “SeaView” to “CV”.
(M/S/C Joliffe, Holland)
- 5.0 Special Recognition** – Introduction of Shannon Chamberlain.
Volunteer Services Program Manager (VSPM) Anthony Richardson introduced Volunteer Services Coordinator (VSC) Shannon Chamberlain as the new District staff member overseeing the Adopt-A-Trail Program, as well as other volunteer service programs, including Scout projects. VSC Chamberlain has experience in trail maintenance, outdoor recreation including mountain biking and equestrian riding, and volunteer management.
- 6.0 Opportunity for the Public to Address the Committee**
*A three-minute limitation will apply to each member of the public who wishes to address the Committee on a matter not on the agenda. No member of the public is allowed to “share” his/her three minutes with any other member of the public. All items received under this heading are subject to further study, research, or completion by staff prior to Committee action. Any person wishing to address the Committee on any matter, whether or not it appears on this agenda, is requested to complete a **Request to Speak** form available with the Recording Secretary. The completed form is to be submitted to the Recording Secretary prior to an individual being heard. Whenever possible, lengthy testimony should be presented to the Committee in writing and only pertinent points presented orally.*
- 7.0 Old Business**
None.
- 8.0 New Business**
 - 8.1 Election of Chair of the Trails Committee 2015/16** – Action << CALLED PREVIOUSLY
Job Code: 2015-2
This action item was conducted by GM Bangle between Agenda Items 3.0 and 4.0, to enable the new Chair to conduct the remainder of the meeting. GM Bangle called for nominations. CM Amie Kinne nominated herself, the nomination was seconded by CM Rod Holland, and the vote carried unanimously.

8.2 Election of Vice Chair of the Trails Committee 2015/16 – Action

Job Code: 2015-3

This action item was conducted by GM Bangle between Agenda Items 8.1 and 4.0, at the request of Chair Kinne. GM Bangle called for nominations. CM Jerry Joliffe was nominated by Chair Kinne, the nomination was seconded by CM Rod Holland, and the vote carried unanimously.

8.3 Jurupa Area Recreation and Park District (JARPD) Trails Master Plan – Information

Presentation by Anthony Mendoza (Consultant) and JARPD Board Members.

Dan Rodriguez, General Manager of JARPD, introduced himself, mentioning JARPD's long-standing relationship with Riverside County Parks. JARPD would like to build connectivity between their parks and County Parks. Mr. Rodriguez introduced Consultant Anthony Mendoza.

Consultant Anthony Mendoza, Landscape Architect, presented on his agency's work. They have been working with JARPD since 1985, most recently on updating a map from 1994 into modern GIS software, accurately mapping and designating community and bike trails, the goal of which is to complete a Trails Master Plan to incorporate into the City of Jurupa Valley General Plan. There is some concern with being able to match County standards for trails, but JARPD is interested in connecting County, JARPD, and city parks and open-space throughout the region with trails.

CM Bremenstuhl asked whether JARPD boundaries overlap with County jurisdiction. Consultant Mendoza explained that some of the JARPD jurisdiction was formerly County, but that it has all since been incorporated; most of JARPD is in Jurupa Valley, with a small area in Eastvale.

CM Croy commended JARPD's efforts to provide longer distance connectivity, especially through getting an early start to ensure Planning and Engineering build trails in from the beginning. Consultant Mendoza replied that the City of Jurupa Valley and JARPD have a long-standing, strong working relationship which contributes to their success in that regard.

Chair Kinne also congratulated efforts and asked if "The Old Trail" that has been washed out in the riverbed is part of JARPD.

JARPD Board member Ellen Porter said she believes it to be designated as County trails and/or Open-Space, but that it will have to be determined through cooperation between the two districts. JARPD GM Rodriguez added that this is an example of where they want to work together with RivCoParks; another example is the California Trails and Greenways Conference.

The following guests spoke:

- 1) Stephen Anderson: Emphasized that it will take a lot of effort, determination, and cooperation to achieve their vision of an interconnected trail network, and that all the different agencies will need to work together. He noted that several successful efforts, such as the Santa Ana River Trail, were first considered absurd. He explained the value of trails alternative transportation in providing safer and faster routes than streets, with trail users including walkers and joggers, people who want to go to shopping centers, bike riders, and maybe Segway-type devices. He asked that the Trails Committee and RivCoParks please help with implementing their plan.
- 2) Don Porter: Said the lower section of "The Old Trail" got washed out, but the upper trail is still there. He stated that signage promotes equestrian use, but the signs are overgrown. He thinks the citizens would be appreciative if JARPD and the County worked together to restore the trail.

8.4 Butterfield Overland Trail Project Alignment Study – Information

Presentation by Senior Planner Marc Brewer:

An alignment study is being conducted on the Butterfield Overland Trail, using grant funds from the National Park Service. The route is one of five trails identified as top regional trail priorities during

the development of the 2003 County General Plan. SP Brewer described the history and area of the trail, as well as the planning and research aspects of the project.

CM Jolliffe asked whether the route has a connection to Murrieta Creek Trail. SP Brewer explained that the two trails connect and that the goal is to establish Butterfield Overland as a National Historic Trail, connecting many different areas, similar to Juan Bautista Trail.

Chair Kinne mentioned enjoying hiking sections of the route between Lake Elsinore and Corona, noting opportunities to connect the route into Cleveland National Forest, Orange County, and San Diego County.

CM Joliffe and SP Brewer discussed possible connection to Southern Divide Trail, leading all the way out to the coast, and that the ability to make long-distance trails – combined with the route’s historical value – is a rare opportunity and “a real gem.” Chair Kinne added that such a trail can contribute to tourism.

CM Croy asked what sorts of obstacles exist to the trail alignment and whether the State might be able to assist. SP Brewer answered that the route has the “same troubles as any trail,” especially when trying to stay close to historically accurate routes. He gave the example of a trail from Gilman Museum to Hidden Springs, which required compromises for a variety of reasons, and explained that an abandoned railroad right-of-way provides some opportunities. The team is also working on a driving route, which affords opportunities to people who aren’t otherwise able to travel the route.

8.5 Approve Staff Report – Seven Mile Trail Study Development Feasibility Study and Plan – Action. Job Code: 2015-4

At the request of GM Bangle, Chair Kinne called this action between Agenda Items 7.0 and 8.3.

Senior Planner (SP) Marc Brewer presented the history of the Seven Mile Trail project from its inception in 2012 as a purchase from Metropolitan Water District (MWD), intended to create a linear park. The linear park being considered consists of ninety three (93) parcels used by MWD as pipeline easements; the route crosses roads, thus creating multiple trail segments – not all of which are aligned. The project stalled in Fiscal Year 2013/14 due to logistical obstacles. Consultant Jill Wicke was selected through a Request For Proposal (RFP) to conduct a Development Feasibility Study and Plan for the trail route.

Consultant Wicke explained the process of her study, which included traveling the full length of the trail and researching County property ownership records of the related parcels; some segments were determined to be feasible and recommended for development, but others are recommended for disposal (sale) due to encroachments, difficult alignments, terrain, or other issues. Eight (8) parcels are recommended for sale as home sites, the revenue from which could offset costs related to developing other trail sections. SP Brewer explained that District Staff have reviewed Consultant Wicke’s work and consider it to be thorough and unbiased.

Consultant Wicke and District Staff recommend a detailed examination of each parcel with a subcommittee of the Trails Committee to determine whether to dispose of or develop each parcel and trail segment.

Chair Kinne invited Committee Members to ask questions on the study and recommendations.

CM Bremenstuhl asked for clarification on connectivity with Box Springs Reserve. SP Brewer described some of the physical characteristics of the route and MWD’s use of the easement.

CM Jolliffe suggested that connectivity to city be considered a priority for keeping, using streets as routes where needed, and using some parcels as small trailheads.

Chair Kinne suggested closely evaluating each parcel and to seek trail easements on any that are sold. Chair Kinne asked about encroachments, which SP Brewer explained had occurred previous to MWD's sale of the parcels to the District. CM Roberts asked to verify that County holds deeds to encroached land. SP Brewer gave several examples of encroachments and explained that in some cases easements were owned, rather than the land itself. SP Brewer explained that evaluation of each parcel would be done in great detail with Consultant Wicke and a sub-committee; any sale would not be done lightly, would follow all of the various laws, codes, and ordinances required for the sale of public land, and the goal would be to fund the best possible trail development opportunities.

The following guests spoke:

- 1) Michelle Randall: Introduced herself as the first District Trail Committee member when this project was proposed, stating that she is very familiar with it and has gone over the trail with SP Brewer. She would like to know what percent is proposed for liquidation, as it seems to her to be a high amount. She advocated for keeping easements on any property sold, so that the opportunity for a trail would not be lost. She stated that selling the parcels "is not visionary planning." She has no objections to the sale of the land, provided the District keeps all easements.
- 2) Jane Block: She worked with Tom Evans on the land transfer from MWD. Her opinion is that it is greatly important to protect the right of way (easement), as it is a "last chance... to have this kind of trail available." She spoke in favor of seeking compensation from people who have encroached on the easement for the purpose of funding maintenance and development of the trail.

Approval of the Staff Report was incorrectly listed on the Agenda as an Information Item, rather than an Action Item. Correcting this error and allowing a motion to approve the report was clarified with GM Bangle.

The staff report, calling for approval of moving forward on the preliminary disposition process of Seven Mile Trail through the creation of a sub-committee, was approved.
(M/S/C Bremenstuhl, Croy)

9.0 Committee Member Reports - Information

District I

CM George did not attend the meeting.

CM Bremenstuhl is still looking for Adopt-A-Trail volunteers for City-owned sections of SART. He cited an article in the *Press Enterprise* about Box Springs Mountain Reserve, especially regarding the challenges of the trail railroad crossing and severe erosion. He presented the Box Springs Mountain Reserve's trail development potential to Riverside Bicycle Club and they are very interested, especially in a circular route around the base of the mountain. He promoted the California Trails and Greenways Conference, the location of which is in Riverside this year. In connection with the Conference, there will be a guided bike ride on SART and a hike up Mt. Rubidoux. He attended the powwow at UCR, hoping to make a connection with them on pre-Anglo historic use of trails; he was inspired by a seminar at the previous Conference. Please let him know if you have any tribal connections. He promoted the Clean Waterways event on Oct 3, during which Keep Riverside Clean & Beautiful will be cleaning trash and graffiti out of the river bottom.

District II

CM Holland recently toured Europe, including watching part of the Tour de France, which provided interesting perspectives on the different ways they use their bicycle trails. He attended the Eastvale SART opening and met with a representative from the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) about getting people involved from the beginning of projects so that problems can be prevented

rather than needing to be fixed after the fact. He wants to be involved in decision making so that they effectively and efficiently accomplish things rather than just attend meetings.

Chair Kinne has been on the Trails Committee since 2008; it was her first committee, and though at first she didn't know what to do, she has since learned more about how to get things done. Speaking to the other committee members, she said "We are all here because our respective Supervisors have appointed us to be here," to represent them. She stated that it was a great idea for CM Roberts to bring Supervisor Washington out on the trail; because Supervisors are very busy with the wide variety of their work, the committee members must serve as their "eyes and ears" to identify issues in the field. She encouraged the other committee members to visit with their Supervisors to discuss their expectations of the appointment and to get direction and perspective. She has been working on the Butterfield Overland Trail project. She attended a meeting on trails at Vail Lake, at which a trail map was proposed with many mountain bike trails but only one horse trail – which is also difficult to travel. She attended the Murrieta Creek Trail grand opening and mentioned walking clubs looking for more opportunities in area.

District III

CM Roberts replied to CM Bremenstuhl's request for tribal connections that the Cahuilla Indians are his neighbors and that he may be able to help with a connection. CM Roberts read a prepared statement regarding ongoing concerns over a large illegal marijuana growing facility that blocks a trail riding area. He took Supervisor Washington on horse ride to this site and noted that Supervisor Washington has been active in learning about the problems and opportunities in the area. He mentioned reports of riders and deputies having been shot at in the area. He voiced frustration and confusion over the reporting process and questioned the value of attending committee meetings, especially in consideration of the distance he must travel to attend. He recently found mountain bike tracks on the Pacific Crest Trail (which does not allow wheeled vehicles) and voiced concern over recent deaths from a collision between ATV and horse riders, explaining that those examples prove the need for better signage and clearer use designation on trails in the county. He promoted a citizen committee which has formed, dedicated to promoting the full spectrum of trail riding, with user-friendly trails dedicated to each kind of use (horse, mountain bike, ATV, etc.) as a way to promote tourism in the Anza/Aguanga/Cahuilla area. Their committee would like assistance from District Staff in finding or securing resources for signage and kiosks. In addition to trailhead developments, in order to build a thriving tourist base, the area also needs equestrian camping facilities with stables. CM Roberts is concerned that without County support, the opportunities presented by "once-in-a-lifetime historic trails" may be lost.

District III has a vacant seat on the Committee.

District IV

CM Valentino did not attend the meeting.

CM Ragsdale did not attend the meeting.

District V

CM Croy introduced himself. He serves on the Menifee Parks & Recreation Committee, and he and his wife are active members of the Forest Service Volunteers Association (FSVA). CM Croy is a neighbor of former committee member Lynn Mattocks and plans to get as much information from him as possible.

District V has a vacant seat on the Committee.

Member-At-Large

CM Jolliffe participated June 6th in Murrieta Creek Trail grand opening, which had strong participation and fun activities. He suggested that such an event be held every year to keep people interested and involved, so that momentum is maintained to ensure the trail is finished in the long term. He is proposing and promoting a circular trail around the base of Box Springs Mountain Reserve. He attended an education session put on by County Animal Control regarding encountering rattlesnakes and found it very useful.

10.0 Park District Reports - Information

10.1 Park District Status Report

Marc Brewer, Senior Park Planner

The Park District Status Report dated August 26, 2015, was received and filed.

Questions from the Committee:

- 1) CM Jolliffe: Is there an estimated time for release of the Box Springs Trails Master Plan?
 - a. SP Brewer answered that it would be uploaded to the District website very soon.
- 2) CM Bremenstuhl: What options might there be for accessing that plan and other resources for people with lesser computer capabilities?
 - a. SP Brewer answered that he will send copies of the plan to all the Committee members, and that people could contact him to set an appointment to discuss and access project plans.
- 3) CM Holland: What does "shifting roles" mean on the Hidden Valley section of SART?
 - a. SP Brewer answered that the City of Riverside will take over the planning and construction, while the District provides funding.

VSPM Anthony Richardson spoke to promote the Pacific Crest Trails Association (PCTA) Trail Skills College being hosted by the District in Idyllwild Park, October 2 & 3, 2015, as part of developing the Adopt-A-Trail Program. Classes will include basic knowledge and techniques and advanced topics including trail decommissioning, habitat restoration, and signage.

Questions from the Committee:

- 1) CM Roberts: Has there been any discussion of reopening trails that had been closed by fires?
 - a. VSMP Richardson answered that first we need to get some people trained, that the US Forest Service partnership will provide answers, and the PCTA Skills College may provide good opportunities to work on these trails.

VSPM Anthony Richardson promoted the upcoming McCall Park volunteer background check day on August 29th.

Questions from the Committee:

- 1) Chair Kinne asked about the recent volunteer background check day at Bogart Park.
 - a. VSMP Richardson explained that even in a thunderstorm, with 21 people registered, 45 people showed up. They are now looking at doing a trails event October 24th.
- 2) CM Holland asked for clarification on the purpose of the background check.
 - a. VSMP Richardson explained that background checks are required for volunteering with the District and that the volunteers would be working in a variety of District programs.

Guest Allison Renck requested to have a report added to the minutes, as she was unable to make it on time to the comment section of the meeting.


11.0 Next Meeting - Information

The next meeting will be held on November 18, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. at Park District Headquarters located at 4600 Crestmore Road, Jurupa Valley, CA 92509. The meeting date is one week earlier than other months due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

12.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

(M/S/C Roberts, Bremenstuhl)



Keith Herron, Resources Bureau Chief
Secretary to Trails Committee