

**CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES
NATURE PRESERVE QUARTERLY PUBLIC FORUM
SEPTEMBER 23, 2015**

The forum began at 6:10 p.m. in the City Hall Community Room, 30940 Hawthorne Boulevard.

ATTENDANCE

City Staff: Ara Mihranian – Community Development Deputy Director
Cory Linder – Recreation & Parks Director
Matt Waters – Recreation & Parks Senior Administrative Analyst
Dave Pearce – Open Space Management Recreation Specialist

PVPLC Staff: Danielle Lefer – Conservation Director

Senior Administrative Analyst Waters facilitated the forum. Fourteen members of the public were in attendance.

Preserve Maintenance

Review of Active Habitat/Trail Projects including Trail Crew activities: Director Lefer reported that PVPLC is finishing up 4.5 acres of restoration in the Abalone Cove Reserve, mostly putting in new plants. Most of the restoration areas are doing okay despite the drought. The steps along the Sea Dahlia Trail have been worked on as well.

Unauthorized/Spur Trail Closures: Director Lefer reported that the PVPLC staff with some assistance from volunteers are very busy doing spur trail closures in several significant areas such as Portuguese Bend, Forrestal and Abalone Cove.

Monument Signage, Entry Kiosks, and Welcome Signage: Director Lefer reported that PVPLC is considering two conceptual designs with the consultant Hunt Design. Installation will hopefully begin by early 2016.

Yield Signage: Director Lefer reported that currently 5 yield signs have been installed in the Portuguese Bend Reserve.

Coastal Trail Markers: Deputy Director Mihranian reported that the coastal trail markers survey has been completed and installation should start soon.

Three Sisters / Filiorum Connection: Director Lefer reported that a plan by Kurt Loheit is under consideration that would create a trail connecting the two Reserves.

Pony Trail Update: Director Lefer reported that the western portion of the Pony Trail is being rerouted to bypass the adjacent private property and should be completed by PVPLC in the next several weeks.

Toyon/Peppertree Grading Follow-up: Director Linder provided an update on the Toyon project.

New Process in Graffiti Reporting: Senior Administrative Analyst Waters reported the city has a new method of reporting graffiti for the city as a whole and also the Preserve. A meeting is forthcoming to iron out protocols for the private contractor. Graffiti Protective Coatings, to determine how they will be able to remove graffiti in a timely fashion while not harming the Preserve. Deputy Director Mihranian provided information on the cell phone app available for this reporting.

City Preserve Maintenance Logs: Recreation Specialist Pearce reported that City maintenance logs are available at the front table and provided general information about what is in the logs.

Public Comments/Questions

Sunshine asks about monument signage in relation to overall planning of signs for the city. Deputy Director Mihranian answered that Preserve monument signage will be different in design than other city (including parks) signs to show a clear distinction.

An attendee reported an unfortunate encounter with a mountain biker on Ishibashi Trail back in July. He reports that on a Sunday morning, this biker was traveling too fast downhill and almost ran into his wife who was hiking with him. Mr. Co desires better signage on the trails for hiker safety and to put bikers on different trails (or separate times of the day) than hikers. Deputy Director Mihranian shares the city's regrets that this incident happened, but that the trails have been established for multiple use and that the inappropriate behavior of a minority of problem users will hopefully be dealt with by increased observation and rule enforcement.

There were concerns expressed about too many people coming to the Preserve.

Sunshine expressed concern about the damaged culvert on lower Ford Trail and how it needs repair prior to major rains. Deputy Director Mihranian said he would look into it.

Eva Cicoria asks why information on the Toyon / Peppertree grading project wasn't distributed ahead of the project. Director Linder explained the process.

There was a complaint about branches piled up high along several trails. Director Lefer responded that is not the way PVPLC handles vegetation after it has been trimmed.. Specialist Pearce said that he would write up a work order for the North Spur pile in Alta Vicente.

There was concern expressed for potential flood control problems at the low point of Burma Road. Deputy Director Mihranian said he would follow up with Public Works.

Preserve Operations

Ranger Report: No Ranger Report submitted.

City Preserve Public Use Logs: Specialist Pearce shared that the City's public use logs are available at the front table. He responded to a question from Eva Cicoria regarding consistency in reporting certain inappropriate activities such as dogs off leash. Only Ranger Hotline calls had been recorded for these activities, but after discussion, it is clear that a comprehensive approach in reporting is needed. Senior Administrative Analyst Waters reportws the Preserve has been budgeted for almost 4000 staff hours for the current fiscal year. Director Linder explains that when these new positions are filled, these new boots-on-the-ground will be a tremendous improvement in staff presence on the trails, performing simple maintenance, interacting with the public and enforcing rules especially on days of high volume usage.

User Group Share the Trails Brochure and Beach Access Brochure: Senior Administrative Analyst Waters reported that the brochures are both completed and will be distributed soon.

Lomita Sheriff Posse: Specialist Pearce states the Posse has been active this summer at Abalone Cove and will be spending more time in Portuguese Bend in the weeks ahead.

Review of Volunteer Trail Watch Reports: Director Lefer reported that there are 32 members of the VTW and they each perform 30 hours of volunteer efforts each month. She announced that there will be a volunteer orientation coming up at Ladera Linda Community Center on October 3rd. Barbara Ailor mentions the primary training event is at LL in the winter.

Managing Private Entry Points to the Preserve: Deputy Director Mihranian reported that there is an upcoming Portuguese Bend H.O.A meeting on October 5th that he and Director Lefer will be attending to discuss access issues.

Public Comments/Questions

It was made clear that no peacock trappers or traps are allowed in the Preserve.

Concerns were expressed about how equestrians feel their access to the Preserve is limited.

Preserve Interpretive Activities

PVPLC-led nature walks: Director Lefer shared that a schedule of PVPLC nature walks is available at the front table and on the PVPLC website.

Los Serenos de Point Vicente Docent-led Nature Walks: A schedule of Los Serenos de Point Vicente nature walks was available at the front table and on the City's website.

Junior Ranger Program: Specialist Pearce shared that the City's Junior Ranger Program continues to be very popular and that 19 Junior Rangers signed up for the fall program class.

Public Comments/Questions -- None.

Senior Administrative Analyst Waters thanked everyone for attending, commended Recreation Specialist Dave Pearce for this above an beyond efforts during his first few months on the job, and adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.