

Minutes to the July 9, 2015 Preserve Management Meeting

Attending: Recreation & Parks Director Cory Linder, Maintenance Superintendent Sean Larvenz, Sr. Administrative Analyst Matt Watters, Conservation Director Danielle Lefer, MRCA Supervising Park Ranger Jewel Johnson and Recreation Specialist David Pearce

Preserve Maintenance

Review of Active Habitat / Trail Projects:

- Conservation Director Lefer reported that PVPLC continues to monitor and address spur trails on an ongoing basis.
- The Three Sisters / Filiorum connection status is still in progress; Kurt Loheit is working on this project.
- Toyon / Peppertree grading project -- Director Linder reported that he will be meeting soon with PW staff about the status of this project.
- Conservation Director Lefer reported that she is still working on arranging a meeting with the Portuguese Bend Community Association and other interested parties. She's hoping to schedule an early September mtg.

Review of Trail Crew Activities: Conservation Director Lefer reported that the crew is going to work on Sea Dahlia trail this weekend.

Signage issues:

- Monument signage update -- Conservation Director Lefer reported that a couple of designs are in progress.
- Conservation Director Lefer reports yield signage is starting to be put up today.
- There is no update on the Coastal Trail markers for Ocean Trails Reserve. There is general discussion of the problem of vandalism on Coastal Trail markers. Supervisor Larvenz suggested transitioning from tiles to a metal marker because they would be harder to detach.
- Conservation Director Lefer and Ranger Johnson set a site meeting to see first hand the signage problem at McCarrel Canyon & McBride Trails.
- Specialist Pearce pointed out an "Unstable Trails" sign along Flying Mane Trail might be suggesting that hikers may use spur trails.

City Preserve Maintenance Logs: They were passed out and Superintendent Larvenz gave notes on those work orders completed.

Project Improvement Form feedback: There was none other than some notes given by Specialist Pearce.

Grant Contracts / Agreements or Upcoming Grant Opportunities: There is nothing new.

Preserve Operations

Ranger Report: Ranger Johnson reported that Assembly Bill 298 passed making a violation of *Title 14 – Fishing in a No-take Area* a “wobbler” and subject to a fine.

City Preserve Public Use Logs: They were passed out with no comments.

Closing the Preserve After Rain: There was no update. It will be brought up for City Council review at a date TBD.

Preserve Projects:

- The Natural Resources Conservation Service is conducting a soil survey in Palos Verdes. PVPLC is working with them so that their digging sites will not damage habitat or interfere with bird nesting in the Preserve. Specialist Pearce has communicated with a Mr. Riddle with the NRCS to guide him in obtaining a permit with the City.
- A Dr. Jayson Smith, a marine biologist with Cal Poly, is requesting permission to conduct research on the impact of weather on tide pools at Abalone Cove & Pelican Cove. Director Linder informs us that the City Manager gave permission to Dr. Smith. Specialist Pearce will continue coordinating with Dr. Smith.
- Conservation Director Lefer announced a proposed reptile research project conducted by an outside expert that will involve a low key capture & release. The PVPLC will draft a letter of approval.

Review of Volunteer Trail Watch Reports: There is no need to do a review at this time. The next Quarterly VTW meeting is set for August 26, 2015 at 6pm at City Hall's community room.

Abalone Cove Safety Task Force: Director Linder states that the final report of the Safety Task Force is still pending. The Task Force will meet again as needed. Beach patrols by Rec. & Parks staff is still a possibility for the summer.

Enforcement Priorities: Portuguese Bend Reserve remains the priority according to Ranger Johnson.

Targeting Focused Areas for Team Solutions: Abalone Cove is the focus for this summer. The VTW is talking to lots of visitors that they meet. Conservation Director Lefer suggests better signage is needed to guide visitors to the beach.

Volunteer Trail Watch & Rapid Response Team Priorities: Nothing new reported.

Field Visit with MRCA Chief Ranger: Director Linder states this no longer seems necessary, so without objection, this will be removed as a regular agenda item.

Additional Items

Quarterly Reserve Public Forums: Sept. 23rd & Dec. 16th.

User Group “Share the Trails” Brochure Update: Senior Administrative Analyst Watters stated the brochure is still in development but will be ready in advance of the July VTW meeting.

Conservation Director Lefer inquired about fuel modification plans in Portuguese Bend. Superintendent Larvenz stated that only areas delineated on the fire department map will be done if within budget. Current areas shown on the map have been completed.

Conservation Director Lefer requested after-hours PW emergency contact information for Preserve maintenance issues. Superintendent Larvenz states he will be the primary contact person.

Specialist Pearce passed around a first draft brochure for public, authorized beach access. Feedback seemed positive.

Action Items

ALL

- The Team will review the Project Improvement Form in order to give feedback as to its utility by the next meeting.

PVPLC

- The PVPLC will draft a letter of approval regarding the reptile research project.
- Conservation Director Lefer and Ranger Johnson will visit McCarrel Canyon & McBride Trails to inspect the signage issue.

R&P

- Specialist Pearce will draft an initial signage map for upper Abalone Cove to better guide visitors toward the beach trail and try having it ready by the next meeting.
- Specialist Pearce will contact relevant parties regarding Dr. Smith’s tide pools research project.
- Specialist Pearce will conduct a site visit to Flying Mane Trail to inspect the “Unstable Trails” sign that might be confusing trail users.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on August 6th, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in the City Hall’s Community Room.