

San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC)
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2004 PUBLIC MEETING
(Draft Minutes for Approval February 11, 2005)

Chairman Murphy called the December 3, 2004 meeting of San Diego River Conservancy to order at 9:00 AM.

1. Roll Call

Members Present:

Dick Murphy, Chairman (*Mayor of San Diego*)
Donna Frye, Vice-Chairman (*City Council of San Diego*)
Karen Scarborough (*Secretary of Resources Agency Designee*)
Dr. Susan Hector (*Public at Large, Appointed by Governor*)
John "Jack" H. Minan (*Public at Large, Appointed by Governor*)
Jim Bartell (*Public at Large, Appointed by Governor*)
Jim Peugh (*Public at Large, Appointed by Senate*)
Toni Atkins (*Public at Large, Appointed by Assembly*)

Non-Voting Members Present:

Mike McCann (*San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Designee*)
Al Wright (*Executive Director, Wildlife Conservation Board*)

Others Present:

Deborah Jayne, Executive Officer
Hayley Peterson, Deputy Attorney General

Absent:

David Harper (*Director of Finance Designee*)
Sam Schuchat (*Secretary of Resources Agency Alternate Designee*)

2. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairwoman Donna Frye moved approval of the minutes of the September 10, 2004 public meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Toni Atkins and adopted by a voice vote of 7-0. (Board Member Karen Scarborough abstained.)

3. Public Comment

Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority which is not on the agenda. Submission of information in writing is encouraged. Presentations will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for representatives of organizations. Presentation times may be reduced depending on the number of speakers.

There were no public comments.

4. Chairman's and Governing Board Members' Comments

These items are for Board discussion only and the Board will take no formal action.

Chairman Murphy mentioned that December Nights in Balboa Park was occurring this weekend and that he and Board Member Toni Atkins would be attending.

5. Executive Officer's Report (Deborah Jayne)

This item is for Board discussion only and the Board will take no formal action. The following topics may be included on the Executive Officer's Report:

- a) Executive Officer Activities
- b) California Performance Review – Status Report
- c) Application for Proposition 40 Funding to Support City of San Diego and San Diego River Park Foundation Projects – Status Report
- d) Strategic Plan – Status Report
- e) Efforts to Recruit Assistant – Status Report
- f) First San Diego River Tour (November 5, 2004)
- g) Future Tours
- h) City of San Diego's Draft Master Plan – Executive Officer's Comments
- i) SDRC FY 04/05 Budget
- j) Website Upgrade
- k) Article by Board Member Minan on San Diego River Watershed

Member Scarborough provided clarification for the record regarding Part 3 of the Executive Officer's Summary Report entitled "Application for Proposition 40 Funding to Support City of San Diego and San Diego River Park Foundation Projects". Member Scarborough clarified that with respect to Proposition 40 applications, the review process is underway and the Resources Agency is operating under its current guidelines and official procedures. Future updates will be succinct as well.

This item was postponed to a future meeting.

6. Deputy Attorney General's Report – Training on Bagley-Keene Act

Ms. Peterson will conduct an overview training session on the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act as it applies to the SDRC. (Hayley Peterson)

This item was postponed to a future meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**7. SDRC Governing Board Meeting Schedule for 2005**

The Board will consider adoption of the proposed Governing Board meeting schedule for calendar year 2005. (Deborah Jayne)

Board Member Toni Atkins moved adoption of the Governing Board Meeting Schedule for 2005. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairwoman Donna Frye and adopted by a voice vote of 8-0.

NON-CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

8. Presentation of San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan

Rob Hutsel (Executive Director, San Diego River Park Foundation) will present an overview of the San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan. The Board will discuss and consider accepting the Conceptual Plan. The Enabling Statute, Conceptual Plan, and the City of San Diego's Draft Master Plan may serve as the SDRC's initial planning and prioritizing efforts. *(Rob Hutsel)*

Rob Hutsel (Executive Director, San Diego River Park Foundation) presented an overview of the San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan. Board Member Jack Minan thanked Rob Hutsel for his enthusiasm and for setting up the Mission Valley Preserve tour.

Board Member Minan inquired what other jurisdictions are involved with the San Diego River and how could the Conservancy engage these jurisdictions, whether formally (amending legislation) or informally. James Lewanski, Director at the Helix Water District, told the Board that Helix Water District likes to think of itself as a "cooperating entity". He would welcome the opportunity to give input to Board activities and decisions. Board members discussed the delicate balance between state and local representatives that must be maintained in the Board's membership.

Board Member Jack Minan moved to have the Executive Officer explore how to include other jurisdictions in the Conservancy's activities and decision making. The motion was seconded by Board Member Toni Atkins and adopted by a voice vote of 8-0.

Chairman Dick Murphy moved to accept the San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan as a guiding document for future actions. The motion was seconded by Board Member Jim Bartell and adopted by a voice vote of 8-0.

9. City of Santee's San Diego River Park Plan

Board Member Jim Bartell will present an overview of the City of Santee's San Diego River Park Plan including Santee's project priorities. *(Jim Bartell)*

Board Member Jim Bartell (City of Santee) presented an overview of the City of Santee's San Diego River Park Plan. Board Member Jack Minan asked if there is public access to the River. Member Jim Bartell assured the Board that there will be public access from both sides of the River. Member Bartell envisions a path system with 100% public access which he estimates can be completed within 15 years.

Board Member Jim Peugh suggested that the City of Santee be the site of a future tour.

Chairman Dick Murphy moved to accept the City of Santee's San Diego River Park Plan as a guiding document for future actions. The motion was seconded by Board Member Frye (?) and adopted by a voice vote of 8-0.

10. **San Diego River Wetland Creation Project - Phase A**

Richard Grunow (City of San Diego, Metropolitan Wastewater Department) will present an overview of the San Diego River Wetland Creation Project which involves the creation of 3.4 acres of native riparian habitat located along the southern bank of the San Diego River, west of I-15. The project will serve as mitigation for past and future impacts within the San Diego River Watershed resulting from the canyon sewer cleaning and long-term sewer maintenance program. *(Richard Grunow)*

Following Rich Grunow's overview presentation, the Board (1) expressed concerns about the lack of a planned trail on the south side of the River; (2) asked City and Conservancy staff to bring the project/trail issue back to a future meeting (of their respective Council Committee or Board) for further discussion; (3) wanted to avoid delaying the mitigation project; (4) discussed that the Conservancy should be contributory (rather than regulatory) in nature and should advocate for the Conservancy's mission and vision of a 52-mile River Park and Trail (on both sides of the River to the extent feasible); (5) should try to stay "ahead of the curve" on future projects; and (6) should not be antagonistic.

Vice Chairwoman Donna Frye moved to accept the report and endorse the trail concept and its continuity to the extent feasible in order to protect habitat. The motion was seconded by Board Member Jack Minan and adopted by a voice vote of 7-0. (Board Member Toni Atkins left the meeting before this agenda item.)

11. **Status Report on Cedar Fire Impacts and Recovery Efforts**

Rob Hutsel (Executive Director, San Diego River Park Foundation) will provide a presentation on the 2003 Cedar fire impacts and recovery efforts. *(Rob Hutsel)*

Vice Chairwoman Donna Frye moved to accept report. The motion was seconded by Board Member Jim Peugh and adopted by a voice vote of 6-0. (Board Member Karen Scarborough left the meeting before the vote.)

12. **GIS Maps / Database of SDRC Jurisdiction: Parcel Inventory**

The Executive Officer will present an overview of the GIS-based Parcel Inventory information provided by Gregory Smith, County of San Diego Assessor, Recorder, and Clerk. *(Deborah Jayne)*

This item was postponed to a future meeting.

13. **Administrative Matters**

This item is for minor administrative matters only and the Board will take no formal action.

Board Member Jack Minan suggested that the Executive Officer look into getting signage for the San Diego River Conservancy on the outside of the building.

14. **Executive Session**

Following or any time during the meeting, the Governing Board may recess or adjourn to closed session to consider pending or potential litigation; property negotiations; or personnel-related matters. Authority: Government Code Section 11126(a), (c) (7), or (e).

There was no executive session.

15. **Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment**

Friday, February 11, 2005

9:00 am to 11:30 am

Location: San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Office

9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100

San Diego, California

(858) 467-2952

Chairman Dick Murphy adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:30 AM.