

California Recreational Trails Committee
Public Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2006
7:30 a.m.

Renaissance Agoura Hills Hotel
Agoura Hills, CA

I. Call to Order

Jeannie Gillen, chair, brought the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m.

II. Introduction of Committee Members and Staff

Members Present:

Gregory Gandrud, John Mercurio, and Maryanne Vancio

Absent Members:

Jim Chapman

Jim Collins

Staff Present:

Paul Romero, Chief Deputy Director, California State Parks

Steven Musillami, Executive Secretary for the CRTC, Statewide Trails Manager

III. Approval of Minutes

Moved by John Mercurio, 2nd by Gregory Gandrud, approved unanimously

Jeannie recognized Jim Hasenauer, Ilsa Byrnes, Michael Kelly, and Joe Inch, present as past members of the CRTC.

Jeannie announced openings on the CRTC and encouraged applications.

IV. Reports

a. State Park Director's Report (Paul Romero):

- California State Parks, Office of Grants and Local Assistance released the list of Recreational Trail Program Grant recipients of \$2.6 million, details on webpage.

- Thanks to Gregory Gundrud for efforts with the Land & Water Conservation fund, looking as though some funds will be included in for trails.
- CSP is hoping that in the Governor's May revise of the State budget that some additional funding may be coming to the Department.
- Developing Interim Public Use Development Plan for L.A. State Historic Park. Currently a 1 mile trail exists at the Unit that is getting very heavy use.
- Beginning State of California Outdoor Recreation Plan process including a public use survey.
- A Notice of Preparation for Equestrian Public Use facility at Cuyamaca Rancho SP has been filed, the first public meeting will be held June 15, 2006.

b. Statewide Trails Manager's Report:

- California Coastal Trails Project (with Calif. Coastal Conservancy and CCC), MOA will be on director's desk next week, contracts under review, hope to start on projects in next couple of months.
- At next meeting need to consider election of officers which is required in the by-laws to annually near the month of March.

c. Chair Report:

- As the chair of the Recreational Trails Committee Jeannie has been asked to sit on the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Committee. The RTP is a federal matching grant program for trail projects that is administered by CSP which requires government agency partnership. The new Procedural Guidelines are still in draft, though available (in draft) on line. Deadline for applications October 2, 2006.
- Cuyamaca Rancho involvement, Jeannie Gillen and Maryanne Vancio have visited the potential sites and met with staff and user groups. Looking for an amenable site to develop an equestrian facility. Notice of Preparation, CEQA, public input are all parts of the process that people should be involved with.
- Jeannie thanked Malibu Creek State Park staff for helping to accommodate her and her horses. Talked about the interest generated with kids as a result of Jeannie's horses being at the camp site (there are no equestrian overnight facilities at the site).
- Jeannie also recounted an encounter with an NPS staff member who did Conflict Resolution intervention with mountain bicyclists who Jeannie came upon while on a ride.
- Jeannie appreciated the turnout and support of all those who participated in the Conflict Resolution session on Friday.

d. Member Reports:

- **John Mercurio**
 - City of Concord Naval Weapons Station has been decommissioned with 5,000+ acres being allocated by the City. Huge implications for trails. City looking to develop with a mix of open space, trails, homes and infrastructure.
 - John advised that there is a transportation bond being considered and asked if funds would be allocated for trails. Paul advised that several million is allocated in the bond for bicycle transportation improvements.
- **Gregory Gandrud**
 - Reported user conflicts in Santa Barbara between horses and bikes, one of which resulted in the death of a horse. Public meetings underway to come up with new approaches to dealing with trail conflicts.
 - Efforts underway to re-establish a historic trail from Carpinteria High School.
 - Did some lobbying in meetings with the staff of Senator Boxer, Senator Feinstein, and the staffs of various congressional members. Urged people to meet with their legislators to encourage state-side funding in the Land and Water Conservation fund.
- **Maryanne Vancio**
 - Thanked participants in the Conflict Resolution session.
 - Interested in bringing Conflict Resolution demonstration to the County and City of San Diego.
 - On April 22, 2006 San Diego County sponsored their first volunteer work project on private property under an easement.
 - Introduced Sue Waters, who organized a school volunteer trail project.
 - Announced expansion of San Diego trails program staff, with 5 new positions for maintenance, and 2 part-time positions going to full-time.

- **Subcommittee Reports**
 - CRTC Awards Subcommittee: Jeannie thanked John Mercurio, Paul Romero and Steve Musillami for their efforts and for getting the Governor's signature on the Letter of Accommodation.
 - User Conflict Subcommittee: not much to report, except that the issue is a regular discussion item that will continue to receive attention.
 - Long Distance Trails Subcommittee: Jeannie facilitated a session through the Pacific Crest Trail Association -- Hitting the Trail with Our Four Legged Friends (involving llamas, dogs and horses). El Dorado County required by court action to inventory their trails by U.S. Forest Service. Inventory of this nature will likely be required throughout the state eventually. Continuing to seek nonprofit status for the Juan Batista de Anza Trail Foundation.

[Following discussion, Agenda amended to complete New Business, before taking Public Comment so that business was completed and all remaining time could be allocated to public comment]

V. New Business

a. California Trail Days:

Scheduled for June 3, 2006. Jeannie described the broad range of activities that can be considered as part of Trail Days' activities. Jeannie urged people to carefully track the volunteer hours associated with activities, which will aide grants. Referred people to the brochure and urged the purchase of patches. Steve Musillami discussed staffs' recommendation that state and national Trail Days be combined. John Mercurio voiced concern that the two days be separate because of the history, with California being the first state to introduce Trail Days. Suggested we consider a fall date for California Trail Days in order to avoid conflicts with National Trail Day and Earth Day. Maryanne Vancio also voiced support to a separate California Trail Days and a fall date. Paul Romero advised that for CSP staff involvement a fall date would have to be in September, because of existing staff commitments in October. Ruth Gerson cautioned that fall runs the risk of trail improvements being washed out. Discussions went to a May date. Michael Kelly mentioned that spring would provide better "soils" for trail improvements. Tentative date set for first weekend in May for 2007.

b. Safety Considerations for Multi-Use Trails:

(California Equestrian Trails & Land Coalition) Jeannie advised Communication and Education continue to be the essential themes for promoting safety on multi-use trails. Toby was commended for his effort in drafting guidelines. Jeannie seeking input on the guidelines, cautioning folks that recommendations and CSP staffs' ability to implement recommendations need to be considered. Toby Horst summarized the effort of the California Equestrian Trails & Land Coalition in producing the draft document. Toby Horst described the difficulty of converting existing trails to multi-use. Toby will utilize East Bay Regional Parks' Trails Guidelines as a starting point for the multi-use criteria.

V. Public Comment:

Ruth Gerson – suggested the goal be to reach “the 80%” in educating trail users to “multi-use etiquette.” She is working with CSP to develop an equestrian campground at Malibu Creek State Park on the Regan Ranch Property.

Jim Hausenauer – speaking on behalf of IMBA, seeking full multi-use, supports the document. Concerns: Generic Safety Guidelines as proposed are totally accepted, however concerns have been expressed about the bias reflected in the section on “safety considerations” since 2004, and there remain no changes addressing those concerns in current document. Section G seeks to characterize the motivation of users, but does so assuming that wider trails with long sight lines are safer, which isn't necessarily so or feasible. If trails cannot be made safe for multi-use, then trails should be closed to one or the other user group, though not discriminating against any one group (i.e. shouldn't assume that bikes should be shut out).

Ellen Gary – is a hiker. Cited Karl Knapp's design options for multi-use trails that are not as narrowly defined as some perceive. Emphasized that everyone knows how to maneuver trails, that through education we can get along.

Valerie Gates – conveyed greetings sent by George Cardinet. Valerie, George and Nancy DuPont “want to see facts used” in developing policies and guidelines. Feel that multi-use doesn't work, that bike trails need to be separate.

Lynn Brown – supports CETLC's guidelines.

Bob Gage – suggested signage at trail heads detailing the level of difficulty so that all trails can be open to all uses, allowing individuals to decide whether they can maneuver their various modes.

Michael Kelly – stressed the shared motives of seeking quality outdoor experiences, improved health, and that no one user group should be excluded or disenfranchised. To exclude one harms all, that we should be seeking access for all.

Cheryl Wegner – stressed need for all to simply be considerate (she's an equestrian), and suggested that open access for all should be possible.

Paul Romero – clarified how CSP operates through guidelines and policies related to the various facilities and activities. Advised that of the full range for State Park uses, trail activity represents a relatively small percentage of use, as a result CSP feels the activity should be regulated and determined by the users. Otherwise it should be regulated by the courts. Consequently, it is to everyone's benefit that this group seek consensus. Stressed this group's recommendations will be considered, but the Director must consider the needs of ALL, and must adopt policies and guidelines that reflect that.

Mary Benson – needs assistance from DPR in bringing youth to trails, especially from urban centers. Ms. Benson described activities underway in inner city L.A.

Donald Nierlich (CoastWalk) – reported that CoastWalk completed approx. 400 maps depicting CoastWalk Trail segments. Maps can be accessed at www.californiacoastaltrail.info. People are urged to look at the maps and advise of any corrections or changes that should be made. CoastWalk is hoping to adopt an insignia by the end of the summer that will appear on all CoastWalk signage in the future.

Closing Comments

Jeannie urged CSP to:

1. Agree to look at safety standards for converting existing trails to multi-use;
2. Would like to see signage "level of difficulty" identified to trails; and
3. Utilize the East Bay Regional Parks trails management and standards in examining safety standards. **Jim Townsend** (Trails Development Program Manager, EBRP) – Trails Check List was developed for converting existing trails to multi-use (including dog access). Check List process for evaluating proposed changes to existing changes to make multi-use. It's not a set of design standards, not an empirical process. They are guidelines and a suggested approach, but are not the end all to be all solution.

Ilse Byrnes- Mentioned a signage project in San Juan Capistrano designed and installed by Eagle Scouts.

VII. Next Meeting:

- a. August 23-24 in the Mt. Diablo area, specific location to be determined and posted on the website.

VIII. Adjournment

9:37 a.m.