

DEL MAR SAN DIEGUITO LAGOON COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 15, 2020, 6:00 PM
City of Del Mar Breezeway North Conference Room
1050 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, California

Meeting Minutes

Chair: Ellen Breen,
Vice-Chair: open
Secretary: Karen Lare

City Council Liaison: Ellie Haviland and Dwight Worden

I. ROLL CALL

Council Liaisons: Ellie Haviland, Dwight Worden

Committee Chair: Ellen Breen, Secretary: Karen Lare

Committee Members: Jill Gartman (new member appointed in November), Lee Haydu, Brad Allison, Carol Kerridge, Bill Michalsky, Geoff Criqui, Julie Kawasaki , absent Jeff Barnouw

Guests: Shawna Anderson from San Dieguito River Park JPA

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Meeting called to order by Ellen at 6:03pm

Jill Gartman, New member of the San Dieguito Lagoon Committee was introduced and welcomed.

Ellen and Carol noted that Matt Costa will be speaking at the Del Mar Garden Club at View Point on the topic of Blue Carbon. It is on the 21st at 9:30am. Social starts at 9:00am.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: none

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Non-action item): none

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for November 20, 2019

After review of minutes it was noted that Jeff's name is spelled incorrectly. With that change, Carol motions approval, Bill seconds and all approve.

VI. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: (Ellie, Dwight)

Ellie informed the group that we have hired a new City Manager for Del Mar. Her name is Christa Johnson. She joins us from Laguna Beach with lots of relevant experience. There is a plan to hold a welcome event for her soon after she starts. Time and date to be announced.

Ellie noted that our plan for Sea Level Rise was withdrawn and then will be re-submitted - this is a procedural motion and allows us more time to work out specifics with the Coastal Commission.

Ellie updated the group on the Bike Share program (with Gotcha Bikes). It has a new start date in May. It looks like all issues have been worked out. These bikes will be allowed on the Coast to Crest Trail. The plan is still to have geo fencing with set parking areas for pick up and drop off. One of the parking spots is at the parking lot by View Point.

Dwight noted that the City has started discussion with the Fairgrounds on the long-term plan for the facility. The most critical issues for the Lagoon Committee is the long-term future of the east overflow parking lot at the Fairgrounds. Dwight encouraged all committee members to submit a questionnaire as residents of Del Mar.

VII. REPORTS FROM OTHER AGENCIES:

1. Joint Powers Authority (Carol)
The JPA will meet Friday.
2. Citizens Advisory Committee (Carol, Bill)
CAC met last week - Jeff remains the Chair. The deadline for public comment on the Fairgrounds is February 3rd and all are encouraged to participate. The new Ranger Station is getting done. Phil Pride has a bird class starting in February if anyone is interested and there is also a bike ride coming up in April.
3. City of Del Mar (Calendars: Council, DRB, PC) (Ellen)
Nothing additional
4. Coast Keeper
Ellen – nothing to report
5. W-19 Restoration Project
Shawna noted that they are moving slowly to figure out the permit process with SDGE and the Coastal Commission - it is moving forward but slowly. SANDAG is paying for part of it as mitigation for Losan work. Eventually the new trail in W-19 will connect the Dust Devil Trail and to the Coast to Crest Trail.
6. NCTD & City of Del Mar (Railroad & Hwy 101 Bridges) (Carol)
See comments below
7. SANDAG/ Railroad Track RE-location (Karen, Bill)
See comments below
8. CDFW (Basin Water Quality) (Ellen)
Steve did not have any new reports available at this time. There is still an open question on how often and how broad (ie. what area should be dredged) the dredging requirements are for them to in accordance with the agreement. Bill will check his files and advise at the next meeting. Shawna also said she would see if she could find the details in her notes/files.
9. Marisol/ Del Mar Resort (Karen, Jeff)
Marisol - EIR is available and there will be a town hall style meeting sponsored by the League of Women Voters on the 23. The Lagoon Committee will be able to weigh in on the EIR if the initiative passes the vote in March. However, until that time the Lagoon Committee is not allowed to comment on the proposed development and its potential impact on the lagoon. Comments on the Draft EIR are due by February 3rd.
10. Blue Carbon (Elle, Carol, Bill, Jeff)
Blue Carbon Committee - has not met yet - Geoff has joined the Committee as a new member.

VIII. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Education/Events (Lagoon Day) (Carol/Karen/Lee/Julie)
Education - discussed the highlights from the Educational Sub-Committee meeting. The focus right now is on the opening of the new ranger station on Via de la Valle. The group is working on a date and the agenda as well as a list of potential sponsors. The group was asked how many people they think will attend. It was noted that the recent trail opening had a few hundred and it was suggested that we ask Trish how many they had. The City will put in \$500 towards the event from the Lagoon Committee

budget. It was noted by Shawna that the water treatment basin right by the new Ranger Station was just put in - they can do a presentation on it if it is desired. Discussed building a watershed model.

2. Trails (Trails Maintenance Status/Crest Canyon Extension) (Lee)

Ellie and Lee showed photos and a video of the sink hole issue that is going on right now in Crest Canyon. It was discussed that this property is on City of San Diego side. Ellie has reached out to all stakeholders that she could think of and has heard back from the Parks and Rec area of City of San Diego and they have informed her that it is on their priority list to address. Ellie will pass contact along the contact to Shawna. The outflow from the drainage erosion issue goes into the Lagoon. The City of Del Mar will continue to work with the City of San Diego to get this addressed.

3. Website (Terry/ Ellen)

Ellen to follow-up on this.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Committee Elections

It is time to elect leaders for the Committee. It was discussed about adding a Vice Chair and all agreed it was a good idea. It was discussed and decided that with no current Vice Chair we should extend Ellen's Chair responsibilities for 6 to 9 months and bring up a Vice Chair to take over. Geoff made a motion that Julie becomes the Vice Chair. Ellen seconded it and all agreed.

Carol nominated Karen for secretary and Bill seconded. All agreed.

Ellie nominated Ellen as the Chair and Carol seconded it and all agreed. The plan is to re-visit in 6 months' time once Julie has had time to be brought up to speed to take over.

2. Decide on time of meeting 5:00 p.m. versus 6:00 p.m.

Move time of meeting to 5:00 from its current schedule of 6:00pm. Ellen proposed that we change the meeting time to 5:00pm. Karen seconds the motion and Bill opposes but the rest agree and the motion passed. It is contingent on room availability. Ellen to check on the room availability.

3. Review responses of our questions from the Coastal Commission concerning relocation of the railroad tracks – if available

Reviewed the answer received from the Coastal Commission Staff on the questions submitted to them from the Lagoon Committee (see notes attached to the meeting minutes).

4. Update by Clem Brown on the process he is developing to vet the alternative tunnel alignments with the community for Council consideration. Clem was not able to attend.

5. Committee discussion of Railroad tunnel options

Lee noted that there is a new committee task force that has been formed at the request of the Secretary of Transportation (Dustin and Lee from the Fairgrounds as well as Ellie and Dwight from the City will be in attendance). There will be about 50 different people there in total and it is a public meeting to be held on January 21s at SANDAG Offices from 1:30 to 4:30. The meeting is on developing plans for the entire LOSAN corridor however, the number one priority are the bluffs in Del Mar.

The group discussed the train track alignment - Bill suggested that they bore versus doing cut and cover under the city. We might want to ask them to look at this as an official option.

The group agreed that the two options that will impact the Lagoon the least would be the CDM option (the Red Line) and the Blue Line. The group agreed that the other two would be environmentally harmful to the Lagoon. However, it was not felt that we had enough information to make the final recommendation to the City Council. Lee felt that she can brief the committee after the upcoming meeting on the 21st and it might help us make our recommendation.

The group had a candid discussion around the bigger picture versus just the small picture here in Del Mar. I.e. do we even want to spend all the money on this change (moving the tracks off the bluff) when a large overhaul of the train alignment may be the right thing. Discussion around military uses as well as freight usage of the tracks.

The group asked for a few things:

1. Any additional information on a larger picture that would help us understand that these are the best five options to consider
2. Is there an option to bore and not use Cut and Cover through the city of DM?
3. Is there an option to look at moving the tracks off the coastal route and go inland further north?

The decision will be tabled until the next meeting in February.

It was suggested that the Lagoon Committee host a community workshop to discuss the movement of the train tracks off the bluff. A date will be set after the group has made a decision on their recommendation.

Dwight let the group know that the city is looking at the option of forming a coalition and buying a dredge along with the other cities and do their own dredging on a regular basis. All Lagoons could use it as well as the Oceanside Harbor.

X. OTHER BUSINESS (Non-action item): Discussion items not on agenda/items for next agenda.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm