

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Trails Advisory Committee
Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:00 pm
3 Civic Center Drive San Marcos, CA 92069

CALL TO ORDER: Parks & Recreation - Recreation Supervisor, Taylor Oshinski, called the meeting to order at 5:59pm.

ROLL CALL:

TAC Members: Adam Watkins (Chair), David Simpson, John Walsh, Mary Stanford, John DeBevoise & Nate Hatfield

Parks & Recreation Commissioner: Jay Franklin

City of San Marcos Staff: Taylor Oshinski and Hugh McMenamin

Not Present: Torrey Olson (Vice Chair) & Travis Lindsay (P&R Commissioner)

OLD BUSINESS

1. Taylor welcomed all in attendance to the July 14, 2021 TAC meeting. All members were present with the exception of Vice Chair Torrey Olson and Parks & Recreation Commissioner Travis Lindsay. Taylor notified the TAC that guests would only be approved to listen and not comment on any items. Taylor explained that staff members would be looking down at their notepads while members are speaking so notes can be accurately documented for meeting minutes. He also wanted to ensure that members don't hesitate to ask questions if they have them.
2. Taylor notified the TAC members that an email will be sent five to seven days prior to each meeting. He requested to receive feedback if you are unable to attend the meeting. All meetings for 2021 have already been scheduled and are available on the first page of the agenda. Meetings will now be held in person at the San Marcos Community Center.
3. The TAC members spoke about the heavy trail usage over the past sixteen months. Taylor let the TAC know to please contact him with any trail concerns and he will forward to the proper agency for clean up or repairs. TAC members explained that the trails are still in good shape even with the heavy use. Mary Stanford brought up the issue of dog waste bags not being thrown in waste receptacles in the Walnut Grove area. David Simpson also mentioned seeing some toilet paper in the Double Peak area. TAC members commented on unapproved trails in the Ridgeline to Lakeview to DPP to San Elijo areas. Taylor notified the group that he would address these issues with the Public Works Department to see if they have a plan in place to restore the native habitat. John Walsh recommended having someone educate people and/or the TAC on which trails are approved and which ones aren't. P Mountain was the example John W. provided. Taylor recommended referring to the Interactive Trails Map on the City website but would look into a City map that breaks down official trails that are City maintained.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Adam Watkins asked if there were any questions regarding the April Minutes. There were no questions or concerns so he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Nate Hatfield motioned to approve and John Walsh seconded. The Minutes passed 5-0 excluding John D. since he was absent for the April meeting.
2. Taylor spoke about the City hike series returning in March. He notified the TAC that the hikes have been very well attended averaging roughly 40 hikers on the first Saturday of each month. Taylor and John W. were also excited to announce the return of the Star Walk Program in August. John W. spoke about the Program and the education elements involved with each event. Taylor notified the group that the City is always looking for additional hike and Star Walk assistance, so if you are interested in joining, please contact him.
3. Taylor discussed the background and recommendations currently being discussed for the E-bike proposal by the subcommittee and Parks and Recreation Commission. He then discussed the recent approved list of trail use by E-bikes. The City Attorney will now examine the proposal and City Council will take public comments and offer their recommendation once provided the official proposal as an agenda item.
4. Adam and Taylor transitioned into next steps for the TAC on the E-Bike discussion. John D. asked about the Richland Trail and its location as it was not recommended for use. Further discussion was made by John D. about trail interactions among multi users with E-Bikes on the trail. Adam clarified that these concerns were discussed at previous meetings. John D. stressed the need for public education on these potential interactions. Nate further clarified these concerns for John D. and the TAC. The triangle trail etiquette/ROW sign was discussed about interpretation and a proposed change to the orientation of the diagram moving the horse icon to the top of the triangle. Mary S. asked about signs with motorized symbols. Taylor said those also will be changed based upon Municipal Code updates. John D. commented on the noise E-Bikes make and how to identify them as different from motorized bikes. Adam explained that E-Bikes are starting to look more like bicycles and companies strive to make E-Bikes with small battery packs that look just like a regular mountain bike. However, he was familiar with the buzzing sound of the brand "CAKE" bikes described by John D. and notified the group that these are illegal everywhere except private property and do not fit into class 1 or 2 E-Bikes.
5. Adam W. led the discussion into what types of social media elements could be utilized by the TAC. He suggested components from the "Sharing the Trails" brochure as a start and to discuss it more at a future meeting. The question was asked about the 360 magazine and what is in it and what in the magazine could be utilized. John D. wanted clarification on social media campaign purposes. Adam

responded with how the City utilizes its social media for the public. John D. also asked about a verification program that could be offered by the City for E-Bike approval on the trails. Taylor said staffing and City resources would limit this approach. Adam explained that no public trails he is familiar with in have a verification process. He has experienced this on private trails and parks that require a signature and use fees. Nate believes this education will take time to catch on among the biking community but possible. Adam confirmed the etiquette situation has been improving lately. John D. asked if approved/not approved trail use will be posted. The answer was “yes” from the Committee. Mary commented that she has encountered homeless people near the Twin Oaks/La Cienega trails by the golf course when she has been on her horse. Jay and Adam suggested starting with promoting user groups in the “Share the Trails” brochure for social media campaign over a five day period. Taylor will follow up with City Communications to get started. Adam wanted to know if a bilingual element was possible to be included and said it was important. All agreed.

6. It was noted that TOVEA will not be hosting a Horse Heritage Festival this year. They had a hard time getting enough volunteers to coordinate the event. They will have a small horse trot/run but that is all. Taylor asked if there were any other items related to this that needs to be discussed. A few comments were made like QR codes to be included. Each member of the group was provided with a “Share the Trails” brochure and asked to make notes on what they would like to see changed for an updated brochure. Taylor asked that they look over the brochure and bring ideas back to the next TAC meeting where it will be an agenda item.
7. Taylor thanked everyone for their time and a productive meeting!

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Trails Advisory Committee

April 2021 TAC meeting minutes were approved. Nate Hatfield motioned to approve and John Walsh seconded. The Minutes passed 5 yes votes and 0 no votes.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

1. No additional information was presented or requests made.

TAC MEMBER COMMENTARY

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 6:00pm

ADJOURNMENT

Taylor Oshinski adjourned the July 14, 2021 San Marcos Trails Advisory Committee meeting at 7:24PM.

ATTEST:

TAYLOR OSHINSKI, RECORDING SECRETARY
CITY OF SAN MARCOS
TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE