

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Trails Advisory Committee
Wednesday, April 12, 2023 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 6:11pm.

ROLL CALL:

TAC Members: David Simpson, Randy Smith and Torrey Olson

Members not Present: Olga Flores and John Walsh

Parks & Recreation Commissioners: Jay Franklin and Travis Lindsay

City of San Marcos Staff: Taylor Oshinski and Hugh McMenamin

Additional Guests: Alex Mendez, Paul Graham, Anna Czajowski and Makenna Williams

OLD BUSINESS

1. Taylor welcomed all in attendance to the April 12, 2023 TAC meeting. All members were present with the exception of Olga Flores and John Walsh. Four guests from Rancho Buena Vista High School joined the meeting to listen in. Taylor explained that staff members would be looking down at their notepads/laptops while members are speaking so notes can be accurately documented for meeting minutes. He also wanted to ensure that members do not hesitate to ask questions if they have them. Round table introductions were conducted at this time. Meeting started eleven minutes late until a quorum of (3) members arrived.
2. Taylor notified the TAC members that an email would be sent two weeks prior to each meeting requesting agenda items. He also notified the group that an email will be sent five to seven days before the meeting with the minutes from the previous meeting and agenda for the current meeting. Taylor requested to receive feedback if you are unable to attend the meeting. All meetings for 2023 have already been scheduled and are available on the first page of the agenda. Meetings will be held quarterly from 6pm-7pm at the San Marcos Community Center.
3. Taylor started the discussion of trail related issues and mentioned that there are many rutted out trails due to the abundance of rain this winter. The topic of South Lake Park opening took place with the official ribbon-cutting ceremony taking place on April 19th. Taylor described the park amenities and its history. Taylor mentioned the Belgian Waffle Ride taking place this coming Sunday, April 16 and described details of the event. Including the trail closures in place for the trails from Ridgeline Trailhead to Double Peak Park. Randy Smith commented on the signage in place and how it cannot be missed at key trail access points. Travis stated that the trail markers in the San Elijo area are due for replacement and made recommendations for their improvement. Taylor replied that there is a future plan to have them replaced by the City and funded by the Friends of San Marcos organization. He continued to explain what the purpose of the Friends of San Marcos organization is and the types of activities they support and promote. The San Elijo Hills community has also voiced interest in

replacing some of their signs in the area. Taylor brought up the idea of the TAC identifying the current trail signage and beginning to work on ideas for the replacement. All members thought this was a beneficial project and something the group can work on between meetings.

4. Taylor described the City Hike Program and its purpose. David asked when and where the next hike is and Taylor provided information for the May hike and also briefly talked about Trails Day in June.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Taylor stated that the January meeting is when the Chair and Vice Chair positions are set to be selected, per the updated 2020 TAC Guidelines. However, the January meeting was cancelled due to low participation, so this did not take place. This January agenda item was moved to the April meeting. Travis clarified that the roles of the Chair and Vice Chair are to garner diverse input from the community. TOVEA was considered for representation as well as equestrian oriented businesses in San Marcos. SDMBA organization was also proposed by David Simpson. Jay Franklin recommended incentives for TAC members to increase interest and participation. Taylor then asked for input and suggestions from Torrey and David regarding Chair and Vice Chair duties since they have had experience with the TAC for the past few years. Randy asked for clarification about the duties and Taylor provided the pertinent information. Travis also added clarification on the vision for the TAC and provided historical info. Taylor asked for any additional input before posing the question of a vote or for the need to table the vote for a future meeting. Torrey provided further comments on Chair duties. Randy felt that without all members present, the vote should be tabled so all interested members can be heard from. Randy and Torrey felt they could become Vice Chair but not Chair. David did not feel he was in a position to take on the Chair position at this time. Further discussion took place regarding how to get the word out that the TAC is looking for new members. Taylor explained that all park and trailhead kiosks have TAC advertisements posted in both English and Spanish. Flyers stating the need for additional TAC members could be developed and distributed to key places in the City. Taylor said that the City already has this flyer and he would send an email the next day with the TAC flyer. He reminded the group members about the Guidelines for being a part of the Committee. Randy proposed representation by current TAC members at City events and how this could be implemented to attract new members. The group discussed sitting at City booths with flyers to pass out to the public. Taylor also suggested participating in the hike series and networking with hike participants. Torrey inquired about the Friends of San Marcos and how they could assist the TAC. Travis provided the information and how the Friends could potentially send emails for the TAC. The group asked if the City could send an email soliciting TAC members on the next hike email, and Taylor said that a small advertisement could be included. The vote for Chair and Vice Chair was tabled for a future meeting.



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2. Taylor asked for input on next steps for TAC projects. Trail number inaccuracies were brought up by Travis and how they would need to be corrected for future trail wayfinding signs. Taylor asked for the members to begin noting where the white rectangular Friends of San Marcos trail marker signs are located in the City. This would be the first step to discussing a revamp of the signage. Taylor provided an example of the new signage initiative taking place throughout the City's parks and trails. Travis offered to map the current trail markers while patrolling the trails on bike. Using Google maps with pin drop locations by all members could also accomplish the task. David offered to create a Google map group to use. David stated that the trail etiquette brochure needs to be cleaned up and revised as an ongoing project. Taylor agreed with David but recommended working on one project at a time and feels the trail wayfinding signs shall take priority.

CONSENT CALENDAR

N/A

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/GOOD OF THE ORDER:

N/A

TAC MEETING SCHEDULING

Next meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2023 at 6:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Taylor Oshinski adjourned the April 12, 2023 San Marcos Trails Advisory Committee meeting at 7:18PM.

ATTEST:

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