

MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 2023  
GOODAN RANCH POLICY COMMITTEE  
MEETING

ATTENDEES

Committee Members:

County of San Diego: Parks & Recreation Director Brian Albright, Region Manager Matt Sanford, Chief Dave Knopp, Supervising Ranger Kevin Hubbell, Park Ranger Patrick Wiener, Environmental Planner Emily Pacholski, Environmental Planner Kiran Kaur, I.T. Principal Eric Gerhardt

CA Department of Fish & Wildlife: Reserve Manager Jason Price

City of Poway: Community Services Director Audrey Denham

City of Santee: Councilmember Dustin Trotter, Public Community Services Director Nick Chavez

Public:

Maureen Abare-Laudy, Friends of Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch

Robert Laudy, Friends of Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch

Ben Stone, San Diego Mountain Bike Association

Susie Murphy, San Diego Mountain Bike Association, Parks Advisory Committee

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – 10:32 a.m.
2. MINUTES APPROVAL
  - The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.
3. INTRODUCTIONS
4. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC
  - Robert Laudy: Preserve looks great, and visitors are enjoying it as well.
  - Ben Stone: Roads and trails are great. Staying engaged in the PAP and improving trails.
5. PRESERVE OPERATIONS UPDATE (Kevin Hubbell)

Past year accomplishments:

  - Over 300 native trees planted throughout the preserve. Hosted several volunteer tree plantings including an Earth Day event.

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- Completed construction on greenhouse and chicken coop. Expanded composting area for education programs.
- Staff and volunteers continue to perform vegetation management, trail, and road maintenance. Kept all trails open and safe during the rainy season.
- Continue to deter use of unauthorized trails in the preserve by maintaining barriers, signage, and educating users.
- Staff continue to monitor for Western Spadefoot Toad activity near Martha's Grove and Cardiac Hill.
- Hosted three Star parties this year in partnership with the San Diego Astronomy Association.
- Rangers have been hosting nature touch tables every weekend to provide a hands-on educational experience about local wildlife.
- Increase in paid reservations at Goodan Ranch, including a wedding, Boy Scout Pinewood Derby, and birthday party. Staff are working with our marketing team to promote Goodan Ranch as a great option for events of all types.
- Improvements to the Visitor Center patio area, new exterior paint, and refinished interior floor.
- Purchased two class 2 E-Bikes for patrolling and completing maintenance tasks.
- Replaced all power tools with battery operated versions.
- A new well pump was installed and currently working with contractors to replace the existing water tank with a dedicated potable water tank. Existing tank will be used for fire suppression.
- Huge thanks to the Friends of Goodan Ranch for assisting with improvements that were made in the Olive Grove with the addition of 4 picnic tables, signage, fencing, and organic mulch.
- Installed and maintain several wildlife cameras to monitor wildlife activity around the preserve.

Plans for upcoming year:

- Staff will replace the fencing and trim vegetation around the Goodan Ranch windmill. Also exploring ideas about how to interpret the history.
- Improved drainage solutions and new culverts are planned for the Cardiac Hill access road to decrease the annual maintenance needs.
- Staff will make improvements to the outdoor amphitheater/wedding area by installing native plants and a decomposed granite pathway.

6. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE (Emily Pacholski)

- The Resource Management Plan (RMP) update will cover the management and monitoring activities to ensure the successful preservation of the Preserve's sensitive biological and cultural resources.

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- The RMP has includes inventories of biological and cultural resources, land stewardship activities, vegetation management, biological monitoring directives, and public access.
- The Draft CEQA document for the RMP is planned to go out for public review in the coming months.
- The Public Access Plan (PAP) is part of the RMP.
  - PAP is being finalized - incorporated input from stakeholder groups that have been involved in the public outreach process.
  - We understand there have been conceptual maps with proposed trails that lead off the County's property.
  - The County will not be constructing trails that extend beyond the Preserve into unauthorized areas. Trails will have boundary signage.
  - Follow-up on the Goodan Ranch parking expansion
    - Determined that it is not feasible at this time to add these parking spaces in the northern portion of the preserve due to biological and cultural constraints. Will continue to explore the addition of this parking area, but this action is not currently covered under the CEQA document.
  - Surveys for the Hermes copper butterfly were conducted in 2022 – this information has been added to the RMP and CEQA document.
    - The site was not occupied by Hermes copper butterfly, although there is a limited amount of potential Hermes copper habitat.
  - Habitat restoration work was completed in 2022 and funded by a grant from the San Diego River Conservancy for invasive non-native species treatment and removal.
    - Treatment area consisted of 32 acres of riparian habitat adjacent to Sycamore Creek
- Questions from the Public:
  - Ben Stone: What are the Hermes copper host plants and habitat?
    - Emily Pacholski: Spiny red berry and buckwheat are preferred host plants. Hermes copper has not been observed in the preserve for decades. Will continue to survey as regular monitoring and replant host plants as needed.
  - Maureen Abare-Laudy: Timeframe for PAP public input?
    - Emily Pacholski: Draft plan will be released in the upcoming months with CEQA docs. Only one circulation for public input.
  - Robert Laudy: Any updates on proposed open pit mine near Slaughterhouse Canyon?
    - Matt Sanford: Bidding has closed, no updates.
    - Robert Laudy: Will monitor closely. BLM owns mineral rights but needs permits for extracting.
    - Ben Stone: Would they need approval from PDS?
    - Brain Albright: Not sure of final authority.

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- Robert Laudy: Area is zoned for rural residential and would need a zoning change.
- Robert Laudy: Any updates on the Proposed San Vicente Reservoir?
  - Jason Price: Biological and geological surveys are being completed. Project is moving forward. Data is still being collected and hasn't reached public comment period yet.

7. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- None

8. ADJOURNMENT at 11:11 a.m.