

MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 2021
GOODAN RANCH POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING

ATTENDEES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

County of San Diego: Parks & Recreation Director Brian Albright, Region Manager Matt Sanford, Supervising Ranger Louis Chertkow, Park Ranger Patrick Wiener, Environmental Planner Anna Prowant, District 2 Representative Madeline Shute

CA Department of Fish & Wildlife: Jason Price

City of Poway: Belinda Romero

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Carol Crafts, Friends of Goodan Ranch
Robert Laudy, Friends of Goodan Ranch, Wildlife Habitat Conservation Association
Maureen Abare-Laudy, Friends of Goodan Ranch
Richard Andujo, Goodan Ranch Volunteer
Gail Andujo, Goodan Ranch Volunteer

1. CALL TO ORDER – 1:08 p.m. by Brian Albright
2. INTRODUCTIONS
3. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC
 - Robert Laudy – Regarding the Highway 67 Improvements Project by Caltrans: Focuses on three areas for safety but does not include any dedicated wildlife crossings. There is still an opportunity for public input even past the deadline date. DPR should make this input a priority due to the location of the preserve and other MSCP lands adjacent to the highway.
 - o Brian Albright – DPR can send out the link for public comment
 - Robert Laudy – WHCC is drafting an official comment letter. Any dedicated wildlife crossings should be for wildlife only. Unlike the Scripps Poway Parkway tunnel which allows equestrians, but other unauthorized users are still accessing the tunnel. Trackers have reported a decrease in wildlife crossings at the Scripps Poway tunnel. City of Poway also indicates the tunnel as a trail on their maps. Also, recreation ecology is an emerging field that can be used to study the impacts on wildlife by multiuse trails. We should be speaking up on behalf of the wildlife.
4. PRESERVE UPDATE (Louis Chertkow)
 - Park attendance has been steadily increasing over the last two years.
 - Park staff has planted over 60 trees which includes Coast Live Oak, Sycamore, and Arroyo Willow.
 - New plants are kept on a watering schedule to assist with their early establishment.

- The building that formerly housed the raptors was converted into a greenhouse.
- A composting area was recently constructed behind the ranch house.
- D&D Wildlife Habitat Restoration, in coordination with the Department’s Resource Management Division, has been targeting and removing invasive non-native plants in the preserve.
- The COVID-19 Pandemic had a significant impact on the preserve’s operations and staff had to continuously adapt to changing Public Health Orders.
- Park staff continues to maintain the historical ranch house, windmill, and olive grove.
- Richard and Gail Andujo started as the new live-on site volunteers.
- The San Diego County Parks Society donated two new outdoor wildlife cameras. The Department of General Services continues to maintain the Visitor Center and vault restrooms.
- Members of the Goodan family visited the preserve on two occasions.
- Two Eagle Scout Projects were also completed at the preserve which included five bat boxes and an informational kiosk.
- Cal Fire and Poway Fire have provided vegetation inspections around the Visitor Center.
- The Friends of Sycamore Canyon and Goodan Ranch donated much needed supplies to the preserve. These donations included a work bench, shelving units, a flammable storage cabinet, aluminum water troughs, and spin trimmers.
- Roy is the preserve’s new day volunteer, and his duties include trail maintenance and vegetation management.
- Upcoming Projects:
 - o Greenhouse renovation
 - o Eagle Scout Project to construct a new shade structure along the Main Road below the Goodan Staging Area
 - o Continue planting trees and native plants to support the County’s Climate Action Plan goals and support DPR’s tree growing program
 - o Restarting interpretive programs large special events.

5. COVID-19 OPERATIONS

- Update from Matt Sanford:
 - o Thanks to all the agency partners for completing the new policy agreement that is in effect for the next 25 years.
 - o Thanks to all the staff for continuing to be the stewards of the preserve.
 - o COVID-19 significantly impacted operations and we had to keep adjusting to the public health orders.
 - o There was an increase in attendance and new customers.
 - o The Visitor Center has reopened and we are promoting the use of the rentable spaces for meetings, weddings, and events.
 - o Interpretive programs have returned.
 - o Continuing to plant trees for the Climate Action Plan and promote the survival of new trees.
 - o Keeping the park sanitized and safe for the public.
 - o Board Supervisors have approved fee waivers for special events. Awareness of balancing the number of special events and protecting the preserve.
 - Brian Albright – Revenue share is not being waived. These funds help support maintenance and operations.

6. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- Anna Prowant – Regarding the Public Access Plan: Hermes Copper Butterfly surveys are being completed with CA Fish & Game to map potential habitat near proposed trails. Project implementation will start in fiscal 22/23 during summer '22. CEQA is being completed and results can be shared with the Friends group. Plans for a future public meeting.
- Robert Laudy – How is the County promoting sustainability?
 - o Brian Albright – Sustainability is a priority for the new Board. DPR's native plant policy is now implemented department wide. New native plant guidelines for private development. New sustainability officer position in LUEG recently filled by Murtaza Baxamusa
- Robert Laudy – Is there any feedback from allowing E-Bikes in the parks?
 - o Matt Sanford – Feedback has been positive at Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch. E-bikes have increased accessibility for users. No trail issues have been reported. Most DPR trails are open to E-Bikes. The SD Parks website has more details about E-Bike access.

7. ADJOURNMENT at 1:40 p.m.