



Planning + Landscape Architecture
3916 Normal Street, San Diego, CA 92103

Fiesta Island Park Precise Plan – MEETING MINUTES - Dog Training Club Meeting
MEETING DATE: September 10, 2010

DISTRIBUTION:

Attendance

City Staff

Paul Jacob	City of S.D. – Park & Rec. Dept.	pjacob@sandiego.gov	no
Scott Reeves	City of S.D. – Park & Rec. Dept.	sreeves@sandiego.gov	no

Consultants

Michael Singleton	KTUA L.A. & Planning	mike@ktua.com	yes
Cheri Blatner	KTUA L.A. & Planning	cheri@ktua.com	yes

Dog Trainers

Jeff Derbes	SD County Wildlife Federation	derbes@earthlink.net	yes
Florence Sloane	Sporting Dog Council of SD	abreojos@ix.netcom.com	yes
Bob Smith	SD County Wildlife Federation	rsmith@cox.net	yes

DISCUSSED ITEMS

1. Mike Singleton described the process for approval of the Fiesta Island Precise Plan. The plan will ultimately require Council review, though the formal review process for the Precise Plan will be through the Park and Recreation Board.
2. Site Development Permit – Development Services of the City of San Diego have indicated that a Site Development Permit will be required because of the presence of Multiple Habitat Planning Areas (MHPA) that are at the north and south end of the site. It may be beneficial to have a comprehensive permit for everything proposed on the Precise Plan since this would allow the city to obtain funding grants for projects that are mostly permitted, though construction documents would have to be obtained that are consistent with the Site Development Permit. This gives the City some competitive advantage on getting grants and simplifying implementation. But it means more work up front for the Site Development Permit.
3. Mike explained that if the Park Precise Plan proposes anything more intensive than the original Mission Bay Master Plan, then a full Environmental Study will have to be done. If we are substantially the same with no new impacts or no new uses, then we may be able to process the environmental review with updated technical studies.

4. Supplemental technical studies that need to be prepared before going to the Park & Rec. Board are:
 - water quality
 - traffic
 - biological
 - noise
 - cultural
 - visual
5. Bob is President of the San Diego County Wildlife Federation, whose member organizations include 6 local dog training clubs. Jeff is a member of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association. They like to take their dogs to areas on the island that do not have as many foxtails. Also the presence of rattlesnakes are very limited or non-existent. They requested an area outside of the fenced off-leash dog area because of their different needs: training for the field vs. exercise. They also indicated that '*other dogs*' tend to interfere with their training. The pointing dog trainers prefer knee high habitat so they can view their dogs during training. They explained how they take homing or dead pigeons which are either released from a trap or are hidden in place and the dogs are trained to find and point or retrieve. In addition to areas with terrain and cover the retriever trainers also like flat, no cover areas to set up –drills using bumpers that can be seen. Currently they use the saltpan areas at the north end above the cut through road, the interior South of the OTL site and North of Hidden Anchorage or the sand management area for this type of training. They also use the area north of the cut though road for both drills and land retrieves, and Enchanted Cove and North Pacific Passage for water work.
6. The shoreline is used for water retrieve training (currently this use occurs on the east side of the island as it is not safe on the west side of the island due to heavy motorized boat use). Hidden Anchorage is not a good location to do this training because of the conflict with the ski boats.
7. The dog training clubs and the Sporting Dog Council do not feel that there are conflicts with other users on east side of island as it currently operates, as they do most their training in the morning (before 11 am). They like the Enchanted Cove area and the North Cove north of the Youth Aquatic Center. The windsurfers / kite boarders using Enchanted Cove mostly use this area in the afternoon. The dog trainers keep the dogs out of the water when the kite boarders are present.
8. Florence represents the Sporting Dog Council of San Diego ; and has represented any and all breeds that use the Island for training. (i.e. Newfoundlands, San Diego Brittany Club, Dock Dogs(?)).
9. Mike summarized categories for dog training that were discussed at this meeting:
 - On-land training– hunting based where things can be hidden, varied terrain / habitat
 - Water-based training – hunting / rescue dogs / swimming skills
 - Special-event – competition / dog jumping / viewing areas
10. Many of the dog trainers feel there are great conditions for training on Fiesta Island. Land is varied with differing terrain and cover as well as flat, water is still. Currently, most training occurs @ Enchanted Cove with some uses on the outer edge of Enchanted Cove Island. This also occurs along the shoreline of Northern Cove above the Youth Campground. They feel that San Diego is "Dog Friendly" and the more we do on Fiesta Island, the more people it will be drawn in.
11. Bob indicated that they also like to train the dogs in the areas of the proposed primitive campground and surrounding habitat area (see Item 14 below). They also like using the existing sand management area. They need big fields where they can run without hitting a road or other activities (approximately 300-400 yards of contiguous area. Avoid a skinny linear layout).
12. Mike indicated that he may be able to tighten sensitive habitat areas and re-orient primitive camp ground to allow for more continual off-leash area for dog training.

13. Jeff requested water entry opportunities where puppies can be trained to cross the water. He thought 25 yards would be adequate for the puppies and 100 yards when ready for greater distances. They would like areas where puppies can swim straight across with the trainer going parallel along the training area or on the other side. Bob indicated that the openings of the proposed north end lagoons may work well for this [if a mound was between the two areas and maybe not as great across?]. The western side inlet for these lagoons may or may not work but the eastern side may be just right.
14. Mike discussed the sand management area being available at certain times for leash free dog use and training. Bob and Jeff stated that if specific areas are used too often, it can impede dog's abilities to learn new concepts. Thus more than one area for dog training is necessary.
15. Mike indicated we may need a new survey for sensitive habitat and rare plant locations to help us pin down the correct areas where fencing may be needed to control excessive use.
16. Florence had a concern with the regional parkland areas to be "seasonal leash free". She said that there is high use on summer weekends that working people like to bring their dogs to the island in lieu of the mountains.
17. Mike summarized that currently there are 406 acres on the island that are available to dogs. The Plan proposes 360 acres of leash free area. 75% of the island is proposed to be leash free (down 8%).
18. Mike mentioned that the Coastal Commission wants the campground on the island for reasonable and inexpensive accommodations for users that cannot afford the hotels in Mission Bay.
19. The group discussed the proposed dock on the SW end of island. Initially there was concern over this area because there did not appear to be any control of the boat uses and the swimming uses. Mike indicated that we would be using swimming beach buoys and other lane markers to keep this area safe. Those present liked the idea of keeping the dock. Felt the dogs could use the dock for jumping as there are no motorized boats that can go beyond the buoys, no wakes, and is protected from winds. South side of island also has the best water quality.

Action Items:

1. Bob to send to KTUA the GPS coordinates for the areas currently being used by the Sports Council members.
2. KTU+A to look at extending a contiguous (300-400 yard area) running northwest to southeast through the center part of the island near the campgrounds. This may require the reconfiguration of the campground.
3. KTU+A to assure notes that would preserve shore access for water training @ Enchanted Cove and Northern Cove and increase water access in the new inlets for the dredged lagoons at the north end of island.
4. KTU+A to look closer at the habitat areas to see which really need to be fenced off from all uses and which could be controlled more through public education and signage.

Prepared by: Cheri Blatner / Mike Singleton

ALL PARTIES ARE REQUESTED TO REVIEW THESE MEETING MINUTES AND REPORT ANY DISCREPANCIES TO THE AUTHOR PRIOR TO THE NEXT MEETING.