

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2022 — 7:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Alternate Chairperson Shawver and Members Vanderhoff, Larson, and Webber were present. Chairperson Koos was absent.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this time, members of the public may address the Subcommittee on items of public interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee and are not contained in tonight's agenda.

Bruce Zieper expressed support for allowing E-bikes on OC Parks trails.

Terence Sheckter expressed support for allowing E-bikes on OC Parks trails.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEM A)

The following item will be approved by one motion unless a Subcommittee Member requests to pull a specific item.

A. APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 23, 2022

Motion: Member Vanderhoff

2nd: Member Webber

Approved: 4-0

IV. DISCUSSION CALENDAR MATTERS (ITEMS A-B)

A. TRAIL USE DESIGNATION PILOT PROJECT PRESENTATION

Utah State University researchers will provide a presentation on preliminary data analysis from the Trail Use Designation Pilot Project (Project) that encompassed use and directional changes on certain trails in the County park system.

Chris Monz and Noah Creany of Utah State University presented highlights of the Project's data analysis and answered the Subcommittee Members' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Receive and file.

B. TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE GUIDELINES AMENDMENTS

Amendment of the Trails Subcommittee Guidelines to change the meeting time for future meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. is proposed, following

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suggestions from Subcommittee Members. Also proposed are the option to hold field trips in lieu of or in addition to regular meetings and the addition of a majority vote provision, which is consistent with the Orange County Parks Commission Bylaws. Additional proposed amendments include: updating the OC Parks Mission Statement; updating the background of the Guidelines; changing the automatic vacation of a Member's seat after two consecutive absences to vacation at the Chairperson's discretion; clarifying Subcommittee Member term limits; and amendments pertaining to grammar and consistency.

Mike Wilson, OC Parks Business Manager, provided information on the item and answered the Subcommittee Members' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Recommend that the Orange County Parks Commission approve the proposed amendments to the Orange County Parks Trails Subcommittee Guidelines.

Motion: Member Vanderhoff

2nd: Member Larson

Approved: 4-0

V. EXECUTIVE OFFICER UPDATE

A. SUBCOMMITTEE VACANCIES UPDATE

Pam Passow, OC Parks Deputy Director, gave an update on the current vacancies of two Subcommittee Member positions.

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time Subcommittee Members may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

VII. ADJOURNMENT 8:25 p.m.

ORANGE COUNTY PARKS TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE

STAFF REPORT

FROM: Natalia Gaerlan, Executive Officer

DATE: September 29, 2022

SUBJECT: Trail Use Designation Pilot Project Technical Report

The Trail Use Designation Pilot Project (Project) was initiated in OC Parks in Spring 2021 with the overarching goal of evaluating whether changes to existing trail use and direction designations would improve user experience and alleviate trail user conflict. The Project was implemented on select trails in Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, and Santiago Oaks Regional Park. Researchers from Utah State University (USU) conducted park visitor surveys and collected trail data before and during the designation changes. Additionally, park visitors using a Project trail were invited to provide feedback through the Project's webpage and Orange County Parks Trails Subcommittee (Subcommittee) email. As of December 1, 2021, trails studied during the Project have returned to their previous designations.

The USU Researchers have analyzed the Project data and compiled it into a technical report for evaluation by the Subcommittee, OC Parks, and the public. The report provides an analysis and summary of the Project's findings. Further ecological monitoring drone flights were completed in May 2022 and analysis and findings of the results will be included in a future addendum to the report.

Highlights of the survey research findings include:

- Reported conflict among various activity types of trail visitors exists at low-moderate levels, but the frequency of occurrence of any one incident of conflict is very low, and the Project may be reducing the perception of conflict.
- There is a high degree of agreement and support for the Project strategies.
- Downhill-only trail designations tend to lead to increased velocities by mountain bikers, which suggests downhill-only designations may be most appropriate when combined with activity type restrictions as well (e.g., "downhill and bikes only").
- Slight variations in use levels, pre- and post-Project implementation, may be due to seasonal variability in park use, for which the study was not able to control.
- Novel trail monitoring methods using Strava Metro data were demonstrated to be a reliable management tool to understand trail use and behavior.
- Project signage was effective.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Review the OC Parks Trail Use Designation Pilot Project Technical Report and prepare recommendations to OC Parks for consideration and discussion during the next regular meeting of the Subcommittee.

Jennifer Nagels for Natalia Gaerlan
Natalia Gaerlan

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment A – OC Parks Trail Use Designation Pilot Project Technical Report