

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2022 — 3:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Fegraus and Members Iseman, Maloney, Clark, Tao, Prince, and Felder were present. Members Conners, Bartlett, and Weiss were absent.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

No comments were received from the public.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEM A)

The following item on the consent calendar will be approved by one motion unless a Authority Member requests to pull a specific item.

A. APPROVE AUTHORITY MINUTES FOR THE MAY 11, 2022 MEETING.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Member Maloney

Unanimous vote to approve, subject to agreed-upon amendments.

IV. AUTHORITY MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

A. LAGUNA CANYON FOUNDATION (LCF) UPDATE

Jacky Cordero, Deputy Director, shared the following: new staff members include Derek Breaux – Outreach and Development Director and Sara Gottschalk – Resource Coordinator; 200 students visited the parks during the school year; 32 volunteer events for trail projects; upcoming fundraising events include first ever gala on October 21 and the annual Troy Lee Event in June 2023; the Berns Project is almost complete at the LCF headquarter site, two LCF staff members donated a table for the sitting area in the gathering terrace in Memory of Guine Breeding, a longtime LCF staff member; Pecten Reef project is complete in AWCWP; collaborated with Laguna Canyon Conservancy and Laguna Greenbelt Inc on the Habitat Pollinator project at the Sawdust Festival; 45% of LCF funding is through grants.

B. LAGUNA BEACH OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Member Iseman, City of Laguna Beach City Council Member, shared information and concerns about the recent fires related to Edison and related actions by the City of Laguna Beach.

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C. NATURAL COMMUNITIES COALITION UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

D. IRVINE OPEN SPACE PRESERVE UPDATE

Casey Gnad, City of Irvine Open Space Administrator, noted the following: the City's trails are still very busy, collaborating with regional trail agencies; beginning wildfire awareness in adjacent-to-open space communities – starting with Turtle Rock, then Portola and others; milestone project waiting for computer-assisted dispatch for the city's "Know, Before You Go" campaign.

E. NEWPORT BEACH OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

F. ALISO VIEJO OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

G. LAGUNA NIGUEL OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Ron Rivera, Parks and Recreation Director, shared that the City is working on fire awareness; new link on the City's website about e-bikes on the trails; no full report yet from Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) on the Coastal Fire.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File.

Motion: Member Tao

2nd: Member Maloney

Unanimous vote to Receive and File Agenda Items IV.A–G.

V. OC PARKS STAFF UPDATE

A. PARK OPERATIONS — ALL DEPARTMENTS UPDATE

John Gannaway, OC Parks Parks Division Manager, shared the following: wildfire information – no official statement on the causes of the Emerald Fire and 202 acres burned during the Coastal Fire which included 142 acres of County parkland; researching agencies to help with the Best Management Practices for restoration; shared the schedule of the popular Summer Concert Series and Sunset Cinema Series at OC Parks.

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B. LAGUNA COAST WILDERNESS PARK (LCWP) AND ALISO AND WOOD CANYONS WILDERNESS PARK (AWCWP) SPOTLIGHT

1. LCWP Update

Barbara Norton, OC Parks Operations Manager, shared the following: promotion of Matt Stegner to Operations Manager for the East Orange park group – Authority members noted his commitment to LCWP and wished him well in his new position; Excessive Heat Signs installed to help educate park users about the dangers of heat exhaustion; routine weed abatement by staff at Big Bend and Willow Canyon along with trail brushing the single track trails; “Stinking Roger” an extremely invasive weed from South Africa was first seen in the continental USA at OC Parks – various agencies are working on eradication; more than 50 drains have been installed to mitigate erosion impacts to park trails.

2. AWCWP Update

Brad Barker, OC Parks Supervising Ranger I, shared the following: working with Laguna Beach County Water District to ensure that any graffiti at Carolyn’s Knoll is removed quickly – OC Sheriff and Laguna Beach Police Department check the area every weekend – all the agencies are working well together; contractor hired for Valido trail sustainability work; the bench at Aliso Peak was tossed over the cliff – park staff rescued it, restored it and installed it back at the peak; assessment by OC Parks and OCFA regarding the Coastal Fire and as to how severely the fire burned the soil – mostly moderately, use of a drone to map the fire area and OC Parks is working with other agencies to stop invasive species; popular Visitor Center had more than 700 visitors in April.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File

Motion: Member Clark

2nd: Member Iseman

Unanimous vote to Receive and File Agenda Items V.A–B.

VI. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEMS A–E)

A. TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS PILOT PROJECT IN LCWP AND AWCWP UPDATE

Staff will provide an update on the Trail Use Designations Pilot Project occurring within LCWP and AWCWP.

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Mike Wilson, OC Parks Business Manager, shared information about the status of the Trail Use study – Utah State University presented findings at the May 17th Trails Subcommittee meeting, a report will be available in September and posted on the OC Parks' website for public comments, Authority will have an opportunity to comment on the report.

Pam Passow, OC Parks Deputy Director, answered Authority members' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File.

Motion: Member Maloney

2nd: Member Iseman

Unanimous vote to Receive and File.

B. STATUS UPDATE ON THE AMENDMENTS TO THE AUTHORITY BYLAWS

Staff will provide an update on the approval of the amendments to the Authority's bylaws.

Pam Passow, OC Parks Deputy Director, noted that the City of Laguna Beach approved the amendments for the Authority Bylaws at their July 12, 2022 meeting. The amendments will be included for approval on the Orange County Board of Supervisors July 26th meeting agenda. Authority members expressed their appreciation to OC Parks staff for helping with this amendment process.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Receive and File.
2. Continue to next Authority meeting.

Motion: Member Clark

2nd: Member Iseman

Unanimous vote to Receive and File and Continue the item to the next Authority meeting.

C. HABITAT PROTECTION METHODS

Discuss potential methods for habitat sustainability in areas within the review of the Authority. Review key points from the City of Irvine presentation.

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To help with understanding the history of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park the video “Inspired By The Land” was shared. This video and other historical videos are regularly shared with the public at the Nix Nature Center Gallery.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File.

D. IRVINE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR UPDATE

Receive information about the Science Advisors series, Partner Charter, and other activities.

Member Clark shared the following: Wildlife Corridor Team is encouraged by State and Federal recognition of the importance of wildlife mobility, along with this recognition may come grant funding; recognition of the Irvine Wildlife Corridor by The Nature Conservancy and highlighted in a Natural Resources Defense Council blog; Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. is working on a grant to involve ICF International Inc. in the wildlife corridor assessment and future grant funding; important to collaborate with Authority, nonprofits, County and state agencies; the Five Points section of the Irvine Wildlife Corridor will be complete by 2025.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Member Iseman

Unanimous vote to Receive and File.

E. NATURAL COMMUNITIES COALITION OUTDOOR RECREATION PRESENTATION REVIEW

Authority members will review and discuss the Recreation Research Project presentation hosted by the Natural Communities Coalition, a 5-year project of scientists from Utah State and Oregon State Universities. *Item continued to a future meeting.*

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File.

Motion by Chair Fegraus to continue this item to the next Authority meeting.

2nd: Member Maloney

Unanimous vote to continue the item to the next Authority meeting.

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VII. AUTHORITY COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time Authority Members may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters and ask questions of or give direction to staff, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

Member Felder asked about the review of the City of Laguna Beach Conservation Element – it was noted that a committee is working on it which includes updating major watercourses and mapping, also that the City of Laguna Beach is working on the correct zoning for the Prop 12 parcels. Authority members asked that at the appropriate time the City of Laguna Beach provide an update particularly for the correct zoning of the open space parcel as the Authority wrote letters of support for these open space acquisitions.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn to September 14, 2022 by Chair Fegraus

2nd: Member Tao

Unanimous vote to adjourn.