

**CONEJO OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**May 11, 2022
Civic Arts Plaza Board Room
2100 Thousand Oaks Boulevard**

SUMMARY MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE:

Chair Skei called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Flag Salute.

2. ROLL CALL:

Director Huffer, Vice Chair Jones, Director Nickles, and Chair Skei present.
Director Bill-de la Peña absent.

Also present were: CRPD General Manager Friedl, Deputy City Manager Rogers, Assistant City Attorney Doran, CRPD Park Superintendent Kouba, COSCA Administrator Stark, COSCA Analyst Huber, Office Supervisor McMurtry via Zoom, and Recording Secretary Goor.

3. PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Elayne Haggan, Thousand Oaks, provided handouts to the Board with information regarding Conejo Open Space Trails Education Days - 2022. She reviewed the pre-hike video, school communications, hike leaders, Nature Center volunteers, and Ranger workshops. Ms. Haggan responded to questions regarding the children's letter writing contest.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR:

A. Approval of Minutes of February 9, 2022 Meeting

B. Approval of March 23, 2022 Special Meeting

Motion by Director Nickles to approve the Minutes of the February 9, 2022 meeting and the March 23, 2022 special meeting carried 4 – 0 by the following vote: Ayes – Directors Huffer, Jones, Nickles, and Chair Skei; Noes – None; Abstain – None; Absent – Director Bill-de la Peña.

6. **ACTION ITEMS:**

- A. 2022 Conejo Open Space Trails Action Committee (COSTAC) Appointments. COSCA Analyst Huber provided the report and noted recruitment information was shared via posting, press release in the Thousand Oaks Acorn, City and COSCA social media platforms, CityScene newsletter, COSCA Board members, existing COSTAC members, the Conejo Open Space Foundation, COSCA's Trail Watch and Adopt-A-Trail participants, ETI Corral 37, Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter's Conejo Group, Ride-On/Rancho Potrero Equestrian Center, and outreach to Adelante Comunidad Conejo, WeBelong:805, Thrive Conejo Unidos, Buen Vecino, and 805 Resistance. She outlined applications received and responded to questions regarding recruitment efforts and equestrian participation. Ms. Huber also responded to questions regarding an easement for equestrian access at Erbes Road at Hauser Circle for Glider Hill, noting the landowner has not responded to requests.

Speaker/Written Statement Cards: None.

Motion by Director Jones to nominate or appoint the slate (as recommended by the Nomination Subcommittee) to the Conejo Open Space Trails Action Committee. Members (term from 2022 to 2025): Doug Baker, Susan Baukus, Doug Doody, and Kira Krukowski; and Alternates (term from 2022 to 2023): Robin Berman, Henry Montalvo, and Jennifer Thompson; carried 4 - 0 by the following vote: Ayes – Directors Huffer, Jones, Nickles, and Chair Skei; Noes – None; Absent – Director Bill-de la Peña.

- B. Approval of Recommended New Names for Indian Cave, Indian Cave Trail, Indian Creek Trail, and Indian Maiden Falls, and Recommended Name for a Currently Unnamed Connector Trail Between the Wishbone Loop and Saddle Pass Trail. COSCA Analyst Huber provided the report. She noted that the request was to change trail names containing the word 'Indian,' as 'Indian' more correctly refers to people from India, as opposed to Native Americans.' Ms. Huber stated the following were consulted: local Chumash Elder Alan Salazar, Journal of California Anthropology materials relating to Chumash linguistics and vocabulary, and COSCA Rangers. Chumash words that were selected in the renaming process translate as follows: 'tuhuy' is 'rain' and 'aqiwo' is 'star.' She responded to Board member questions regarding the renaming process. CRPD General Manager Friedl responded to Board member questions as well. There was discussion on the heritage of the Conejo Valley with regard to naming. COSCA Administrator Stark commented on the Standing Committee on Naming Committee naming process.

RESOLUTION NAMING LITTLE CAVE (F.K.A. INDIAN CAVE), LITTLE CAVE TRAIL (F.K.A. INDIAN CAVE TRAIL), TWO SPRINGS TRAIL (F.K.A. INDIAN CREEK TRAIL), TUHUY FALLS (F.K.A. INDIAN MAIDEN FALLS), AND AQIWO TRAIL

Speaker/Written Statement Cards: None.

Motion by Director Jones to approve staff recommendation (to adopt resolution 2022-04 naming Little Cave [f.k.a. Indian Cave], Little Cave Trail [f.k.a. Indian Cave Trail], Two Springs Trail [f.k.a. Indian Creek Trail], Tuhuy Falls [f.k.a. Indian Maiden Falls], and Aqiwo Trail); carried 4 - 0 by the following vote: Ayes – Directors Jones, Huffer, Nickles, and Chair Skei; Noes – None; Absent – Director Bill-de la Peña.

- C. Amendment and Restatement of the COSCA Naming Policy; adopt resolution. The report was presented by COSCA Administrator Stark who discussed proposed changes including extraordinary circumstances for naming trails, natural features, and areas of significance that would make the policy more consistent, and create opportunities to honor individuals while individuals are still living, if COSCA determines extraordinary circumstances exist. He responded to Director questions regarding organizations and corporations.

RESOLUTION AMENDING AND RESTATING THE COSCA NAMING POLICY

Speaker/Written Statement Cards: None.

Motion by Director Huffer to adopt resolution 2022-05 (amending and restating the COSCA naming policy); carried 4 - 0 by the following vote: Ayes – Directors Huffer, Jones, Nickles, and Chair Skei; Noes – None; Absent – Director Bill-de la Peña.

- D. Designate Sub-Area 4 Picnic Site in Rancho Potrero Open Space as "Tex Ward Point;" and adopt resolution. The report was presented by CRPD General Manager Friedl who noted the extraordinary contributions of Tex Ward who served as CRPD General Manager for 38 years and COSCA Co-Chief Administrative Officer for 30 years (since COSCA's inception); and was instrumental in the acquisition of the Rancho Potrero site and formation of the Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority (MRCA), spending 20 years with them.

RESOLUTION NAMING THE SUB-AREA 4 PICNIC SITE IN RANCHO POTRERO OPEN SPACE "TEX WARD POINT"

Speaker/Written Statement Cards: None.

Motion by Director Nickles to approve staff recommendation adopt resolution 2022-06 naming the Sub-Area 4 Picnic Site in Rancho Potrero Open Space "Tex Ward Point;" carried 4 - 0 by the following vote: Ayes – Directors Huffer, Jones, Nickles, and Chair Skei; Noes – None; Absent – Director Bill-de la Peña.

7. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. COSCA Volunteer Corps Activity verbal report was presented by COSCA Analyst Huber who stated Trail Watch filed 111 reports with 187 volunteer hours, and Adopt-a-Trail filed 84 reports with 116 volunteer hours. She acknowledged the new Adopt-a-Trail Volunteer Coordinator, John Noble.
- B. Ranger Operations and Maintenance Activities verbal report was presented by CRPD Park Superintendent Kouba who expressed thanks to Tex Ward as well as to Jim Friedl. He noted an Eagle Scout project redoing benches at the Caves restrooms and the amphitheater. Mr. Kouba reported Trail Education Days was a success. He stated that the Cameron Center, now known as the Ranger Headquarters, had a turf reduction project and new fence installed. The area is being secured for trucks and equipment; Rangers have performed improvement work such as installing drywall, and an open house will be scheduled. Mr. Kouba also commented on the Rancho Potrero Education Area ribbon-cutting, and the related kiosk. Trail repair involving railroad ties was mentioned. He noted there are several miles of trails are overgrown by mustard, which is in the process of being mowed.

8. **COSCA UPDATES** (CRPD General Manager and/or City Manager):

- A. Follow-up items, announcements, and upcoming issues: None.

9. **BOARDMEMBER COMMENTS:** None.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m. to the next Regular Meeting on Wednesday, September 14, 2022.



Rorie Skei, Chairperson

Minutes Approved: September 14, 2022