



**CITY OF PACIFICA
OPEN SPACE & PARKLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

April 14, 2016

Committee members in attendance were: George Frank, JoAnne Arnos, Mike Pacelli, Julie Lancelle, and Co-Chair Jim Sullivan. Committee members absent were: Chair Alison Sanders, Paul Jones, Ron Maykel, and Noel Blincoe. In addition, Staff Liaison Tina Wehrmeister, Council Liaison Mayor Digre, PB&R Liaison August Murphy, and GGNRA staff were present.

CALL TO ORDER:

Co-Chair Jim Sullivan called the meeting to order.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Approval of Order of Agenda

Unanimously approved

Approval of Minutes of March 16, 2016 (distributed to OSPAC with Agenda)

Approved

COMMUNICATIONS:

Oral Communications:

None

CONSIDERATION ITEM:

1. Golden Gate National Recreation Area Proposed Rule for Dog Management

Discussion of proposed rule in relation to trails under Golden Gate National Recreation Area jurisdiction within the City of Pacifica.

The Committee discussed the GGNRA Proposed Rule for Dog Management and received a brief presentation from GGNRA staff regarding the Rule, adoption process, and how the public can make comments. The Committee also heard from several residents and interested persons regarding the Proposed Rule. After deliberation the Committee directed staff and Co-Chair Sullivan to prepare a memo to City Council outlining the following:

- The Proposed Rule for Dog Management would result in banning a significant user group from the majority of GGNRA trails in Pacifica. GGNRA lands are considered a huge asset and are a commonly stated reason that many residents with dogs have decided to live in our community (or visit and recreate in Pacifica).
- The OSPAC believes that sensitive species and habitats must be protected; however, the OSPAC also believes the proposed Rule is unbalanced and excessive. To that end, the Committee would like to see the trails that would allow dog walking on-leash expanded (see specific map comments below). Dogs on-leash will not negatively impact sensitive habitat or species any more than

hikers or bicycle riders. The OSPAC understands and agrees that off-leash areas will most likely not be approved by GGNRA to maximize protection of areas with sensitive species and habitat.

- In order to ensure that dog walking does not impact sensitive species or habitats and will minimize potential negative interactions with other trails visitors, the OSPAC recommends the following:
 - Increase enforcement presence. Without enforcement even the most lenient policies will not be followed, possibly resulting in habitat degradation and more draconian rules in the future.
 - Provide additional signage at trailheads clearly indicating where dog walking is and isn't allowed.
 - Provide more loop trails options for dog walkers. This is intended to spread all users out more efficiently and provides many gentler sloped trails for dog walking which encourages less able dog walkers to visit.
 - Support a high profile public information campaign showcasing the reasoning behind limiting dog walking to on-leash and on-trail and why it is done to protect both endangered species and habitat. This could include signage, website, and social media efforts. The OSPAC believes that the vast majority of open space users appreciate and want to care for the environment. That is intrinsically why they are out enjoying the trail system. With adequate education regarding impacts from off-trail activities (of all kinds) we believe that trail users will respect their environment and impacts to species and habitats will decrease.
 - Incorporate signage designating sensitive habitat along all these trails to inhibit or eliminate potential negative impacts of dog walkers rather than banishment which will engage the dog walking community within the parks lands as valued stakeholders (examples attached).
- Map 17: Mori Point – Expand on-leash required trails to include Mori Headlands Trail, Upper Mori Trail, Timigtac Trail and small portion of Polywog Trail from Old Mori Trail to intersection with Upper Mori Trail.
- Map 18: Milagra Ridge – Expand on-leash required trails to include all paved roads (Milagra Summit Trail).
- Map 19: Cattle Hill / Sweeney Ridge – Expand on-leash required trails to include the entirety of the Baquiano Trail, the Mori Ridge Trail, and the trail between the Mori Ridge Trail to the Nike Site.

ADJOURNMENT: