

MINUTES
(Action Items Displayed in Italics)
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022 — 3:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Fegraus and Members Tao, Iseman, Clark, and Felder were present. Vice-Chair Conners and Members Bartlett and Maloney 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 tonight's agenda.

No comments were received from the public.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (Item A)

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

A. APPROVE AUTHORITY MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 10, 2021

Motion: Member Tao

2nd: Member Felder

Unanimous vote to Approve Minutes.

IV. AUTHORITY MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

A. LAGUNA CANYON FOUNDATION UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

B. LAGUNA BEACH OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Member Iseman shared information about a meeting with City Council members about priorities and work pertaining to Laguna Canyon.

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: there is still an uptick in trail use and enforcement officers are out on trails to educate users and announcement of a new city manager.

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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, City of Laguna Niguel Parks and Recreation Director, noted that the City has a new trail map and a Park Needs Assessment will be going to the City Council in May.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S) FOR AGENDA ITEMS IV.A–G:

Receive and File

Motion: Member Iseman

2nd: Member Tao

Unanimous vote to Receive and File.

V. OC PARKS STAFF UPDATE

A. PARK OPERATIONS — ALL DEPARTMENTS UPDATE

John Gannaway, OC Parks Division Manager, shared the following: provided information about the Emerald Fire – total of 154 acres burned with approximately one-third of that area within County land; provided information about the Holy Jim and Ortega fires; new park ranger training; Irvine Regional Park has its 125th anniversary coming up; currently four Park Ranger vacancies; OC Zoo plans to have a grand opening of the Large Mammal Exhibit in April.

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

1. LCWP Update

Matt Stegner, OC Parks Supervising Park Ranger, shared the following: 59 acres in LCWP burned by the fire, all within Emerald Canyon, restoration activities in the burn area are underway and trails will reopen shortly; LCWP's Resource Specialist is starting to bring back interpretive activities and events.

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2. AWCWP Update

Brad Barker, OC Parks Supervising Park Ranger, shared the following: Aliso Creek Trail East has reopened with some adjacent areas still being restored; trail work on the Valido Trail to Aliso Peak Trail had 45 new steps installed; new visitor center has increased visitation with 500 visitors in February and 70 visitors on President's Day; the relief map and the "Noises in the Park" exhibits at the new visitor center are very popular with the public.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S) FOR AGENDA ITEMS V.A–B:

Receive and File

Motion: Member Tao

2nd: Motion Iseman

Unanimous vote to Receive and File.

VI. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (Items A–D)

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

Mike Wilson, OC Parks Business Manager, answered Authority Members' questions and shared the following: Orange County Parks Trails Subcommittee (TSC) heard project updates by Utah State University (USU) during its February 2022 meeting; as of December 1, 2021, all trails included in the project reverted to previous uses; a section on the OC Parks website allows for comments on the Trail Use Designations Pilot Project; USU will share more data at the next TSC meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

As needed, prepare initial letter to park landowners of comments by the public and Authority Members. Continue to next meeting or send summary of comments to landowners.

Recommended Action changed to Receive and File.

Motion: Member Iseman

2nd: Member Tao

Unanimous vote to Receive and File.

B. HABITAT PROTECTION METHODS

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Discuss potential methods for habitat sustainability in areas within the subject area of the Authority. Review of history including the General Development and Resource Management Plans.

Chair Fegraus asked the Authority members to review the governing documents for both LCWP and AWCWP so that discussion may be had on future sustainability of parks.

Mina Brown, a member of the public, commented that there should be more studies regarding the health and genetics of the wildlife.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Contact representatives from City of Irvine Open Space Preserve and Crystal Cove State Park regarding availability to give presentations to the Authority on habitat protection methods they employ.

Recommended Action changed to Continue Item to May 11, 2022 meeting.

Motion: Member Iseman

2nd: Member Tao

Unanimous vote to continue item to May 11, 2022 meeting.

C. AMENDMENTS TO THE AUTHORITY BYLAWS

Review current Bylaws of the Authority to determine needed updates. Discuss potential updates to existing Bylaws for submission to the landowners: Board of Supervisors and the Laguna Beach City Council.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Request Bylaw amendments from LCWP landowners for consideration at next Authority meeting.

Chair Fegraus asked that the Authority Members review the Bylaws with their constituency and bring comments to the next meeting.

Recommended Action changed to Continue Item to May 11, 2022 meeting.

Motion: Member Tao

2nd: Member Iseman

Unanimous vote to continue item to May 11, 2022 meeting.

D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022

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The bylaws of the Authority require that the Authority elect a Chair and Vice-Chair on an annual basis.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Nominate and select Authority Members to serve in the following positions for Calendar Year 2022:

1. Coastal Greenbelt Authority Chair
2. Coastal Greenbelt Authority Vice-Chair

Nominee: Chair – Mary Feagraus

Motion: Member Iseman

2nd: Member Tao

Unanimous vote to select Mary Feagraus as Chair.

Nominee: Vice-Chair – Cynthia Conners

Motion: Member Clark

2nd: Member Tao

Unanimous vote to select Cynthia Conners as Vice-Chair.

VII. AUTHORITY COMMENTS AND REPORT

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

Member comments included: information about the Irvine Wildlife Corridor activities — a tour was provided for UCI students, Science Advisors virtual meetings initiated, innovative funding for wildlife corridor improvements, retaining an organization for an assessment study, and drafting a partner charter; recent fires at a city park; and City of Laguna Beach has budgeted for five part-time park rangers for the city parks and beaches.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT 4:40 p.m.

Motion: Member Iseman

2nd: Member Tao

Unanimous vote to adjourn meeting to Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 3 p.m. at Laguna Woods City Hall.