

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
(Action Items Displayed in Italics)
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025 — 6:00 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pam Passow, OC Parks Director.

II. ROLL CALL

Chair Shawver, Vice Chair Warren, and Commissioners Diaz (arrived at 6:02 p.m.), Hanson, Jones (arrived at 6:01 p.m.), and Gabbard were present.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Jeff Curie commented on a request for Class I electric bicycles (e-bikes) being permitted on OC Parks' natural surface trails to allow more access into parks.

Randee Tolentino commented on a request for Class I e-bikes being permitted on OC Parks' natural surface trails to allow more access into parks.

Kevin Thomer commented on a request for reducing parking areas in the Mile Square Regional Park Expansion Area.

IV. PRESENTATION(S)

A. CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION AND GRATITUDE FOR DON BENEFIEL

Don Benefiel has served as an OC Parks Volunteer for over four decades and has over 17,000 service hours on record. The Commission and OC Parks would like to present Mr. Benefiel with a certificate of recognition and gratitude for his generous service.

Pam Passow, OC Parks Director, provided information on this item and presented Don Benefiel with a certificate of recognition and gratitude.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A)

The following item(s) on the consent calendar will be approved by one motion unless a Commissioner requests to pull a specific item.

A. APPROVE COMMISSION MINUTES FOR THE DECEMBER 5, 2024 MEETING

Motion: Commissioner Jones
2nd: Commissioner Gabbard

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
(Action Items Displayed in Italics)
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025 — 6:00 p.m.

Approved 6–0

VI. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A–B)

A. OC PARKS TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE

Staff will provide an update to the Commission regarding the January 9, 2025 OC Parks Trails Subcommittee meeting.

Jeaniene Casiello, OC Parks Planning and Design Manager, presented on the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

Motion: Commissioner Gabbard

2nd: Commissioner Jones

Approved 6–0

B. RED ROCK WILDERNESS OVERVIEW AND SELECTION OF TRAIL NAMES PRESENTATION

Staff will present an overview of Red Rock Wilderness, an OC Parks facility that recently opened to managed public access and will present information on the proposed names for five trails and one overlook that were selected by the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee for the Commission's approval.

Antonio Valdes, OC Parks Trails and Mapping Administrator, presented on the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Pam Passow, OC Parks Director, answered the Commissioners' questions.

Jennifer Naegele, OC Parks Natural Resources and Trails Manager, answered the Commissioners' questions.

Justin Sikora, OC Parks Operations Manager, answered the Commissioners' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Approve the names for five trails and one overlook at Red Rock Wilderness, as recommended by the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee.

Motion: Commissioner Diaz

2nd: Commissioner Jones

Approved 6–0

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
(Action Items Displayed in Italics)
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025 — 6:00 p.m.

VII. OC PARKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT (ITEM(S) A–B)

A. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Pam Passow, OC Parks Director, provided updates and answered the Commissioners' questions.

B. UPCOMING OC PARKS EVENTS

Paws on the Trail – Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve – Wednesday, February 12, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

- Enjoy an easy, 3-mile hike over uneven and unpaved terrain with approximately 75 feet of elevation gain. We'll stop along the way to learn about the bay and discuss ways to keep you, your dog and wildlife safe while out on the trails.

Explore! Fossils of the Ancient Sea Floor – Clark Regional Park – Saturday, February 15, 8 – 10 a.m.

- Join us for a guided tour of the Clark Regional Park hillside fossil bed, followed by a trip to the Interpretive Center. The tour will meet next to parking lot A for a brief introduction. We will then walk north across Rosecrans Avenue to visit the fossil bed. After the hillside exploration we will return to the south side of Rosecrans Avenue and visit the Interpretive Center.

Winter Bird Walk – Santiago Oaks Regional Park – Wednesday, February 19, 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

- Join an experienced OC Parks volunteer and stroll through Santiago Oaks Regional Park searching high in the trees for fluttering friends and low in the scrubs for bouncing birds.

VIII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORT

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT 6:57 p.m.



Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House & Gardens — Stone House Restoration

OC Parks Commission — March 6, 2025



Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House and Gardens



Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House & Gardens — Stone House Restoration

OC Parks Commission — March 6, 2025



Pleasants Family



- Joseph and Mary Pleasants
 - Early pioneers of Orange County
 - Wave of settlers to West after Homestead Act
 - Mary was from prominent Carpenters and Refugios
 - Most notable beekeeper
 - County's first Bee Inspector 1902–1927
- Original cottage built onsite in 1874
- Stone House built in 1876
 - Stored supplies in hot summers and cool winters
 - Protected food from bears and other wildlife

Helena Modjeska

- Joseph Pleasants befriended Modjeska in Anaheim
 - She and her husband visited ranch many times
 - First introduction to canyons
- Mary Pleasants dies in 1888
 - Joseph Pleasants sells the property to the Modjeskas
 - Architect Stanford White is hired to design plans for cottage
 - Oldest known building west of the Mississippi River designed by Stanford White



Pleasants Family Cottage



Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House & Gardens — Stone House Restoration

OC Parks Commission — March 6, 2025





Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House & Gardens — Stone House Restoration

OC Parks Commission — March 6, 2025



Stone House Restoration



- First floor completed in 2007
 - Each stone was documented then removed by hand
 - Shoring of interior walls
 - Restoration of foundation
 - Stones replaced and new mortar applied
- “Save America’s Treasures” Grant Application
 - Highly competitive National Park Service grant
 - Preserve nationally significant historic properties
 - Awarded in 2017
 - Noted site for rare storytelling of immigrant woman
 - 1 of 9 historic sites in America (2 in California)
 - \$153,016 awarded

Stone House Restoration



Before first floor restoration



After first floor restoration

Stone House Restoration

- Scope of Restoration
 - Repair of wood exterior and interior
 - Squaring the structure for straight and level
 - New shingle roof
 - New entrance stairs
- Restoration Work
 - Much of the restoration was done onsite
 - Some work done in offsite warehouse
 - All exterior and interior wood was removed
 - 4,000 shingles hand installed over 3 weeks
 - “By the most skilled and patient restoration carpenters in California”
- KC Restoration
- 30th Street Architects





Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House & Gardens — Stone House Restoration

OC Parks Commission — March 6, 2025



Stone House Restoration



Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House & Gardens — Stone House Restoration

OC Parks Commission — March 6, 2025



Stone House Restoration



Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House & Gardens — Stone House Restoration

OC Parks Commission — March 6, 2025



Stone House Restoration



Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House & Gardens — Stone House Restoration

OC Parks Commission — March 6, 2025



Stone House Restoration



Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House & Gardens — Stone House Restoration

OC Parks Commission — March 6, 2025



Stone House Restoration



Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House & Gardens — Stone House Restoration

OC Parks Commission — March 6, 2025



Questions?



ORANGE COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT

FROM: Pam Passow, Director, OC Parks

DATE: March 6, 2025

SUBJECT: OC Parks Trails Subcommittee Member Appointment and Membership Renewals

OC Parks Trails Subcommittee Member Appointment

On April 7, 2016, the Orange County Parks Commission ("Commission") voted to approve the creation of the Orange County Parks Trails Subcommittee ("Subcommittee"). Pursuant to the Subcommittee's Guidelines, the Subcommittee shall consist of seven regular members appointed by the Commission. Two of the members consist of Commission members, appointed by the Commission, who serve the Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson of the Subcommittee. The remaining five members of the Subcommittee consist of members of the community based upon a review of applications of individuals with involvement and expertise in trails and bikeways. There is a desire to establish a subcommittee that provides a balanced representation from various geographic areas of the county, as well as the various trail user groups (pedestrians/hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, road cyclists) and environmental organizations.

The Subcommittee is currently comprised of two members who represent hikers, one who represents bikers, and one who represents hikers, bikers, and equestrians, in addition to two Commission representatives — Chair Shawver and Commissioner Jones, serving as Chair and Alternate Chair of the Subcommittee, respectively.

Recently, a Subcommittee member resigned who primarily represented equestrians but also hikers and cyclists. Following this member's resignation, OC Parks staff, Chair Shawver, and Commissioner Jones reviewed applications of individuals with hiking, cycling, or equestrian interests and selected a candidate for consideration by the Commission to fill the vacant Subcommittee seat.

Ms. Gibran Stout is an equestrian and is actively involved in the OC Equestrian Vaulting and Las Vaqueras Riding Club. She has expressed concern about the impact of urbanization on trail access, which aligns with the Subcommittee's consideration of environmentally sensitive conditions and trails. Additional information on Ms. Stout is provided in the application attached to this staff report. Appointment of Ms. Stout would support a balanced representation of the various trail user groups and provide additional insight on environmental issues.

OC Parks Trails Subcommittee Membership Renewals

On March 2, 2023, the Commission appointed David Browning and Michael Schoeck to serve as members of the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee for two-year terms, consistent with the Commission-approved Subcommittee Guidelines. Members Browning and

Schoeck's terms are due for renewal, and they have both expressed interest in continuing their service on the Subcommittee.

Member Browning is a mountain biker. He has experience with various mountain biking groups, including as the founder of thinkMTB and president of OCMTBA. Renewal of Member Browning's membership on the Subcommittee would support a balanced representation of the various trail user groups, and the Subcommittee would benefit from Member Browning's prior Subcommittee experience.

Member Schoeck is a hiker and trail runner. He is a member of several local hiking and trail running groups and is interested in preserving and protecting the land and educating the public. Renewal of Member Schoeck's membership on the Subcommittee would support a balanced representation of the various trail user groups and the Subcommittee would benefit from Member Schoeck's prior Subcommittee experience.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Appoint Gibran Stout as a member of the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee for a two-year term, expiring on March 6, 2027.
2. Renew the membership of OC Parks Trails Subcommittee Member David Browning for an additional two-year term, expiring on March 6, 2027.
3. Renew the membership of OC Parks Trails Subcommittee Member Michael Schoeck for an additional two-year term, expiring on March 6, 2027.


Pam Passow

ATTACHMENT(S):

Attachment A – OC Parks Trails Subcommittee Membership Application for Gibran Stout

APPLICATION FOR OC PARKS TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

The OC Parks Commission makes appointments to the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee. The purpose of this application is to provide the OC Parks Commissioners information regarding your experience and interests. Please provide the information requested by answering the questions below as clearly and concisely as possible.

**Information provided in this document may be subject to disclosure
under the California Public Records Act.**

DATE: 02/03/2025

FIRST NAME: Gibran

LAST NAME: Stout

STREET ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

CITY: [REDACTED]

ZIP: [REDACTED]

EMAIL: [REDACTED]@[REDACTED]

PHONE: [REDACTED]

PHONE 2:

OCCUPATION:

Please briefly answer the following questions:

1. Describe your experience and qualifications that would make you an effective Trails Subcommittee member.

I have been a resident, and user of OC parks & trails since the 70's. I am passionate about the creation & preservation of trails connecting communities in our ever urbanizing spaces. I am also a licensed Real Estate Broker since 1990, and have a unique understanding of property rights, easement, access issues. I am informed & active in local, related, issues & would love to do more.

2. Describe your involvement in recreation and outdoor-related groups and activities in Orange County, CA.

I am the founder & president of OC Equestrian Vaulting, a youth non-profit providing free & low cost equine opportunities to local urban youth, (OC Vaulting is also a USEF Community Outreach Program).

I am an active member of Las Vaqueras riding Club, (active in using local trails) as well as a former USEF Urban Horsekeeping panelist.

3. Provide names of all non-profit groups you are affiliated with that relate to parks, trails, open space management and/or preservation.

Urban Equestrians, Inc.
Las Vaqueras Riding Club
OC Equestrian Vaulting
Equestrian Coalition of Orange County
USEF (Community Outreach Program)

4. What topics concern you that relate to the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee?

The effects urbanization & development have had on accessibility of local trails, and the impact these disconnections have on the surrounding communities.

5. What trail user group would you represent on the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee? (Multiple selections are allowed, however, note the primary area of expertise.)

☐ Hikers ☐ Trail runners ☒ Equestrians
☐ Mountain Bikers ☐ Road Cyclists ☐ Other:

6. Are you a recognized representative of any type of trails and/or environmental group? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If yes, which ones?

7. Why do you want to be a member of the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee?

I would like to see increased connectivity of communities, both geographical & social. I'd love to see increased communication & cohesiveness with equestrians and the other trail using groups (hikers, bikers, etc). I think with increased consideration & communication this is a realistic goal.

Subcommittee Members are asked to make every effort possible to attend each meeting. The Subcommittee has a minimum of four (4) quarterly meetings per year at OC Parks Headquarters located at:

13042 Old Myford Rd
Irvine, California 92602-2304

Can you commit to attending all or the majority of these meetings? ☒ Yes ☐ No

The OC Parks Trails Subcommittee will conduct open meetings in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) and will use Roberts Rules of Order as a guide for parliamentary procedure. If selected to serve on this subcommittee, you agree to read and abide with the Brown Act and the subcommittee's parliamentary procedures.

Members contribute according to their specific interests or expertise. This may include gathering information, making recommendations, and providing project updates to the Parks Commission and/or OC Parks Trails Subcommittee. Field trips, research, and attending occasional meetings of related organizations may also be necessary.

Thank you for your interest in the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee. **All members of the Subcommittee must be approved by the OC Parks Commission. Should a vacancy become available and you are selected to fill an at-large member seat on the Subcommittee, an OC Parks staff member will contact you immediately.**