

Council of Divers Special Board Meeting

Minutes of July 27th.



Meeting held at La Jolla Brewhouse. Called to order at 7 pm by Scott Anderson.

THE BOARD MEETING:

This meeting was to introduce the Dive Clubs and swim community to the new Children's Pool park ranger. All dive club presidents and delegates had been invited as well as some other known beach access advocates.

The theme was set to be an informal intro to help the ranger meet more of the public that had interest in what he would be doing in the future and policies that might result. He began with a short biography. *

He gave illustrations of diffusing situations in the past with stubborn groups determined to have their way; perhaps an intro to why he would not have been surprised by some abuse at this meeting. He came away pleased to have met a set of rational interested citizens who "were taking the high road". He understands beach access is worth fighting for, and it is laudable, but hopes we will continue to seek our goals by bringing our concerns to the table, and working with him to make it everybody's beach.

Randy Hawley was called out of retirement by the head of Parks and Rec to fulfill a unanimous City Council resolution that a park ranger be hired for Children's Pool with money already donated for the purpose. He is a provisional employee with 720 hours allotted until a new ranger can be certified before winter. That gives him about 24 hours a week to do field and office work. His goals are:

1. Be visible, observe, and establish contacts with the community of participants in the use of Children's Pool beach.
2. Implement City policy which currently is unchanged – shared use between 2 groups allowed by State law to be there at all times; People and Seals.
3. Develop new signage for the area, both regulatory and informative.
4. Establish a program of volunteer docents to inform the public on history, seal natural history, and City policy. They would not have a regulatory role.

Visible

Even if more money were available for hours, working more than 25 hours/week would impact his retirement. He intends to concentrate field time on weekend afternoons. He does not issue citations or need to. The first goal of a ranger is always voluntary compliance and happy park users.

Implement

His first chosen words are always "Hi, are you having a good time here? Can it be better?" From there he tries to explain to anybody crowding seals or other people, why one should go with his request, but not to tell people to comply with a request. He will tell anybody they have a right to be on the beach and use the ocean and how sharing nice together is best for everybody. What he learns will be in recommendations for future policies.

New Signs

He is an expert consultant at park signage and spends office time on future official signs that should replace private signs currently all over the place. He had no problem with our 8' banner

hung on the sea wall, saying BEACH OPEN FOR SWIMMING AND DIVING – PLEASE RESPECT THE WILDLIFE, but ultimately it should be the City that informs the public on policy.

Docents

Docents will be unpaid City employees. No salary, no pension, sorry. They get workman's compensation. They will act as greeters, and educators, after completing training. They must follow City policy. They must adhere to standards or be terminated. People "without baggage" will be preferred, preferably with knowledge of the area, natural history, perhaps local biology students. The initial class would be 6-8 individuals.

*His history. Descended from a family that loves the ocean. Spent 3 years in the Navy. Then graduated San Diego State in Recreational Administration and spent the next 10 years in State Parks, like Carlsbad and Silver Strand.

He was the first City Park ranger, and worked in Mission Trails for 9 years, starting from when it was completely undeveloped. He left San Diego, to spend 5 years in the Bay Area but came home to work at Sweetwater Recreational Park for the next 5 years before retiring.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

The Aug 10th General Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm at La Jolla Brew house.

Submitted 7/30/2010 John Leek, Secretary