



RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE COMMISSION

• Frank Heyming • Larry Riddle • Anthony Migliore • Brian Nestande • Meg Grossglass •

MINUTES

Thursday, August 16, 2007 – 10:00 a.m.
RIVERSIDE COUNTY
OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE COMMISSION
4080 Lemon Street
5th Floor Conference Room D
Riverside, CA 92502-1409

Members present:

Meg Grossglass
Anthony Migliore

Members absent:

Frank Heyming
Brian Nestande
Larry Riddle

Staff present:

Jim Fagelson
Jerry Jolliffe
Donna J. Stevens

Guest Speakers:

Marc Brewer
Paul Frandsen
Darcy Kuenzi

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from June 21, 2007 and July 19, 2007 were deferred to the September 20, 2007 meeting since a quorum was not present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public were not present.

3. GUEST SPEAKERS

Paul Frandsen, General Manager, and Marc Brewer, Park Planner, both from Regional Parks and Open-Space District gave an overview of the 30 years of history of the DeAnza Cycle Park. The whole DeAnza site is about 3,000 acres; however, the OHV site was only about 1/3 of the area (1,100 acres) and was actually owned by Waste Management. The original purpose for the site was for waste management; however once the site was no longer needed for waste management, it was sealed and capped and reverted to the Parks Department. The portion operated by Doug Hall was approximately 200 acres of which only 60 acres was actually used for the OHV park.

The 3,000 acres were originally acquired using both OHV funds and land swapped with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Due to land originally owned by BLM being part of the park, only 2,000 acres were funded by OHV.

There were several attempts to expand the riding opportunities on the 3,000 acres at various periods of time. The original proposed facility was over 400 acres with casual riding tracks, hill climbs, competitive tracks, trails, and sand rail tracks. The park was to try and provide something for every segment of the community. Each attempt was met with obstacles. These obstacles included an interchange on the 60 Freeway, increasing numbers of residents living near the site in Beaumont, and insurance issues which became a greater issue when the original operator vacated the site.

Within a period of five (5) years, the concessionaire had had several significant accidents, serious quadriplegic accident and was faced with similar liability lawsuits. Since Doug Hall was not a corporation, he was unable to survive the affects of the lawsuits. Anthony Migliore stated that it was important for the Commission to know what went wrong or what went good.

There were four (4) grants issued to Riverside County over the period of the DeAnza project. The first two grants were issued in the late 1970s and were used as seed money to find other funds. A grant was received in the amount of \$6.3 million dollars so that Riverside County could develop a state OHV facility in the late 1970s. Due to the size of the grant awarded to Riverside County, legislation was required that dictated how the money was to be used: acquisition, environmental documentation, planning and construction. The grant was to used to reimburse funds that the County expended on OHV park development. To date, approximately \$3.8 million has been drawn down.

In 1988, an attempt was made to salvage the OHV park. A consultant was hired to review the project. Some of the issues were sizeable: the soil in the Badlands are not conducive to heavy traffic to dust and landslide potentials; fire access issues due to a single ingress and egress; the property was still under the ownership of Waste Management; \$3.8 million had already been spent on acquisition, two rounds of CEQA documentations and a master plan. Increased environmental concerns were being raised and people started to move in to the surrounding areas, into residential developments within Beaumont and the County. What had been a rural area was suddenly becoming a significant residential area.

The current major issues fall into two categories:

- Oak Valley Specific Plan is rapidly developing, generating thousands of people within close proximity. People were concerned about the noise from the OHV park.
- The Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) is in place and the area has pockets of endangered and threatened species within the park area.

The area has now been designated Norton Younglove Reserve. After the name change, the County got a call because the State saw the Reserve listed in the Thomas Bros.

Guide. The issue was that there was never any concurrence or approval from the state to rename the area or to use the funds for a general park. Frandsen stated that if you read the way the money was allocated for the purchase and development of the land -- it's gray. It doesn't specifically say that it has to be all OHV. Commissioner Grossglass stated that in the guiding documents of the OHV trust fund, it says that that money can't be spent in any other way.

Jerry Jolliffe suggested that the committee find four (4) or five (5) park sites even if they are smaller to present to the BOS as the best options to look at.

Jim Fagelson stated that the presentation will be at the BOS meeting on Tuesday, October 2, 2007. Commissioner Grossglass will be in charge of bringing the BOS members a little trinket.

Jim Fagelson went through the slide presentation again with all of the changes. Chairman Migliore wants to appoint a sub-committee to refine the presentation to the Board and suggested that a hard copy of the presentation be available for all BOS members.

Jerry Jolliffe suggested that David Jones be invited as a guest speaker for the September 20, 2007 meeting.