

Miramar Ranch North Planning Committee (MRNPC)
MRN Maintenance Assessment District (MAD) AD Hoc Subcommittee Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 20, 2014
Scripps Ranch/SRCA Community Center

Meeting Called to Order at 7:02 pm. A quorum was not established.

Members Present (5 total): Tom Meissner, Ernie Burciaga, Jan Kane (Secretary), Bill Crooks (Immediate Past Chair) and Lorayne Burley (Chair).

Guests (4 total): Wally Wulfbeck (SMRPG Chair), Sandy Wetzel-Smith (SMRPG), Casey Smith (District Manager, City of San Diego, Park and Recreation – MADs) and Mike Rasmusson (Grounds Maintenance Manger, MRN-MAD)

Introductions: Committee members and guests in attendance introduced themselves.

Public Comment (Non-Agenda items): None.

Modifications to the Agenda: None.

PRESENTATION/ DISCUSSION ITEM:

1. Discussion with Casey Smith, District Manager, SD Park & Recreation, and Mike Rasmusson, the newly appointed Miramar Ranch North (MRN) MAD Grounds Maintenance Manager (GMM) to review current MAD issues, exchange feedback and provide a budget update.

Casey Smith introduced Mike Rasmusson our new GMM and shared his background.

Recall from earlier notes: Mike has been with the MAD program for 2 years and has been assigned to the North Park, El Cajon, Hillcrest, Talmadge and University Heights MADs. Previous to working in the MADs Mike was the Nursery Supervisor for the City's Kate Sessions Nursery in Balboa Park. He has been working for the City for 23 years. He started as a Grounds Maintenance Worker II in Mission Bay and has worked with Support Services and Park Forestry crews, in the Balboa Park Botanical Building and at the Kate Sessions Nursery. Mike has a very extensive background and knowledge in horticulture and will fit well in the Miramar Ranch North MAD.

Currently, Mike has been on the MRN-MAD GMM job for 1 week and was recently in charge of the botanical sites in Balboa Park. Mike earned the title/nickname of "**Park Picasso**" at this past job position and also "**Park Mariposa**" due to his success with working on butterfly friendly materials in the park areas. He shared observations/improvements/suggestions:

- Fire resistant plant use and education.
- Adding simple botanical signs/markers.
- Use of drought tolerant/water wise plants.
- Better slope/hill management, drought materials, less maintenance, more color.
- Fire Station 37 would be excellent area to utilize fire resistant materials.
- Need to cut trees/plants that block turn views along Spring Canyon Road, signage and over hangs along Scripps Poway Parkway.
- Enhancing Butterfly Park with butterflies. The park area surrounding the SR/SRCA Community Center does not have any butterflies, needs nectar providing plants.

Casey shared that Mike has connections with area plant nurseries to assist with lower cost replace items. He looks for opportunities to use plant cuttings/younger plant materials. The simple botanical markers are very low cost.

Sandy Wetzel-Smith suggested having future kid friendly learning opportunities about planting and growing small clippings or seedlings and fire resistant plant materials. A very simple small nursery area at SR/SRCA Community Center could be developed on the grounds. Hosting garden boxes and renting them out.

Irrigation Issues

Tom Messiner led the discussion on the ever present irrigation problems around the 700 watering stations in the MRN MAD. Currently, significant amounts of water run down the roadway at the intersection of Spring Canyon Road (SCR) and Scripps Ranch Blvd (SRB). Also, the roadway along the west end of Scripps Poway Parkway has noticeable water (\$\$\$\$) running along the sidewalks and roadway. It was agreed to have both of these two areas flagged for repair and/or corrections within the present budget.

For the irrigation problems an overall survey of all the 700 water stations is ongoing by current landscape contractor, Blue Skies. With the current contract, which expires in 10-31-15, Blue Skies checks the 700 water stations biweekly and they only can cycle through areas. Watering heads are currently overhead sprays. Could be improved by using MP rotator heads or dip systems. Rotator heads do come w/ a cost. Currently, have been replacing only gaskets, as needed, on existing equipment. Current suggestions are to reduce watering in areas, split watering times, note irrigation problems/leaks.

Another challenging problem with the watering in the MRN areas is the many slopes areas with plants and trees. The slopes, with often poor soil conditions, provide potential for more water runoff. The slope area is a contributing factor to the water run-off at SCR and SRB.

Weather Based Irrigation Systems

The topic of newer watering technologies/equipment was discussed. Weather based irrigation systems and/or soil probes are popular. Potential long-term MAD goal or CIPs? Both Carmel Valley and Carmel Mountain Ranch MADs are converting areas for use. These systems use wireless watering systems operate on the principle of scheduling irrigation as a function of weather conditions. Most products use real time or historic weather data to schedule irrigation base on water moisture. Casey agreed to provide MRN MAD info on the equipment under considering with the Carmel Mountain Ranch MAD proposal. Possible vendors included: ET Water, Rain Bird. I will post a general info article on weather based irrigation systems on the MRNPC webpage.

Wind storm damage

Two recent wind storms in the MRN area damaged 13 trees. 6-7 of the trees are Iron Bark trees. Most trees were along Scripps Poway Parkway. One tree landed on fence on Blue Cypress Drive. Currently, we have \$2K remaining in our tree trimming budget and will likely go over a few thousand. We reserve \$5K for unknown problems/expenses but spent \$3K on clean up after the early March 2014 storm. We have \$2,500 in the budget set aside for fence repair and don't anticipate the funds to be spent this fiscal year so can use this overage on tree trimming if needed. Many trees were damage in other San Diego MADs.

MAD Budget

Currently we are spending approx. \$30K per month for landscaping services from Blue Skies. We are waiting for actual gas tax number to assist w/ incoming revenues. In general, the accounts are in good shape. We have dialed down extra spending. Have a good contractor. Need to consider replacing Iron

Bark trees w/ new trees and drought tolerant materials. As noted above, the Blue Skies contract expires on 10-31-15.

SR/SRCA Community Center parking lot

On May 1, 2014, I met with Bob Ilko and Casey Smith to discuss some issue regarding parking lot problems (EBS parent parking and handicap parking) at the SR/SRCA Community Center. The community needs two more handicap parking spots to service residents using the center. (Potential future CIP?) Cost for re-paint of the parking lot is approx. \$500. Quote for work is pending and the two additional ADA parking stalls can be added within the City guidelines. Funds from the MAD were considered but not recommended by MRNPC members. Development Agreement Funds are appropriate and additional line item could be added for coverage of cost for the re-paint work.

Final Comments

A request was made to see a priority list of working items in the monthly reviews. A new MRN MAD area map is available and will be shared with members.

The suggestion to host a “MRN-MAD Drive-around” to review the current area and enhance understanding for our MAD was made. I am open for any volunteers who might want to organize this activity.

Adjourned at 8:30pm.

Check your calendars:

Next possible meeting date for MRN MAD Ad Hoc subcommittee, 2 weeks prior to the December 2014 MRNPC meeting – **Tuesday, November 18, 2014?**