

General Meeting Minutes of Jan 5th, 2015



Meeting held at Giovanni's Pizza.

Called to order at 6:30 pm by Volker Hoehne

Officers Present:

President: Volker Hoehne

Vice President: Mark Henning

Secretary: John Leek

Treasurer: Joel Tracey

Director: Scott Anderson

Member Clubs: Freedivers, San Diego Dive Club, Sea Dogs.

President Hoehne presented a slide show to summarize strategies and challenges met in 2014 and anticipated in 2015.

1. Apathy, misplaced sense of entitlement and fatalism have and will cost diving its traditional esteem and guarantees of ocean access in today's political climate.
2. MPA enforcement has not been fully implemented or defined while they continue to expand. To participate and keep track, the Council should collaborate with other groups.
3. 3Rs will continue to be the centerpiece of Council programs.
4. The Council has no resources to contribute to Children's Pool or future issues like it. We can petition the Coastal Commission to require mitigation (compensation) of access loss under the Coastal Act and we can support the lawsuit to challenge replacing managed Shared Use with the hard closure.
5. Pending laws to ban metallic gear materials from the ocean such as copper or lead threaten to collaterally impact diving.
6. Two boundary marker buoys on the west side of Matlahuayl were not moved with the reserve expansion. San Diego Park and Recreation should be petitioned to move them to avoid inadvertent violations. Volker accepted a lead role. (Though divers can now transit the reserves with spears and catch in tow, the rules are not posted)
7. The secretary will continue to attend La Jolla Shores Association meetings concerning attempts to impose a City tax on instructors. We also would request the renewed tile MAP be placed outside prime pedestrian areas if it is to have a wall around it as currently planned.
8. Beach cleanups will continue at our adopted beach, South Casa and likely other sites. Public access to South Casa Beach will probably be restored soon.
9. Diversion of Cove Lifeguards to managing public interaction with sea lions. See 1st line, item 4.

With that background several proposals from joint Council/Dive Club meetings were reviewed and votes taken to:

Take as projects, deny as unfeasible, or table until better information or support are found.

1. Council should collaborate with WildCoast, MPA watch, the MPA Collaborative, etc. to monitor the effectiveness and practices in the MPAs as is. No enforcement role. Noted that the new South La Jolla MPA is the one that can yield meaningful comparative results. YES
2. Petition for clarifications to divers and City enforcement as to how to transit reserves with fishing gear and catch without penalty. YES
3. Invite speaker Zack Poplar from WildCoast to next CoD meeting to propose MPA monitoring participation before MPA's come up for review in 2017. YES.
4. Support the California Fish and Game Warden's Association with other conservation organizations requesting Code modification to allow an infraction citation in MPA's. Right now, even inadvertent violations including removing a sea shell or disturbing something in a tide pool carry misdemeanor status. The discretionary infraction is called the Wobbler. YES.
5. That a commercial air compressor or tank exchange concession be installed near the Cove. NO.
6. That the Council work with divers and instructors to reduce visibility problems at the Shores caused by poor buoyancy control – dirt clouds, crushing sand dollars, etc. NO - Not feasible.
7. To work with Fish and Game to end deployment of lobster traps in <50' and press for regulation

- of alcohol consumption while hoopnetting. NO.
8. Place buoys at favorite spots. Could be complicated and require permits and maintenance. NO.
 9. Participate in Fish ID event at Scripps for consumptive divers with San Diego Freedivers. YES.
 10. Generate support for City acquiescence to a federal suit against San Diego to require an ADA ramp with the new CP Lifeguard Tower to the beach. The ramp should only be closed when the entire beach is closed. The Council has always supported handicapped diving (DiveHeart) Vice President Henning and Treasurer Tracey to provide lead support. YES.
 11. That the Council purchase a blog page license for its website to capture diver input. NO. Gavin of the Freediver will look into using Instagram to effect better public connection by Net and the San Diego Council of Divers Facebook page will be continued.
 12. Revert to Monthly meetings. The Council had dropped regularly scheduled meetings for poor participation to seek better ways to effect diver participation. Only recently had Club/Council joint meetings been done, but physical club meetings are also waning. An alternative of well publicized scheduled quarterly Public Meetings, with agendas, was accepted on a trial basis.
 13. Collaborate with San Diego Freedivers to help them host a 2015 Nationals. YES
 14. Support the lawsuit by Friends of the Children's Pool to rescind beach closure because the City and Coastal Commission violated State and Federal laws. Press for the City to accept and settle, and make its former Shared Use policy work within existing laws. Though the City has often accepted accusations of diver disturbances of seals, it has never accepted input from us for solutions. YES. (Not to include becoming a participant in the suit)
 15. The Council shall plan a Beach Cleanup at our adopted South Casa Beach and upper areas, on Jan 25. Vice President Marc Henning in charge. The stairs should be open by then. South Casa beach is currently open to the public, by bluff trails "at your own risk". YES.
 16. A proposal that a free 6 month membership be offered to any divers newly certified in 2014 and later was accepted as a simple question to the President.