

General Council Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2015



**Meeting held at Giovanni's Italian Restaurant
Called to order at 6:30 pm by Volker Hoehne**

Officers Present:

President: Volker Hoehne
Vice President: Marc Henning
Interim Secretary: Liz Tuttle
Treasurer: Joel Tracey
Directors: Scott Anderson

1) Introduction of Officers

- a. Volker gave a brief introduction of the San Diego Council of Divers, its history and current dive club affiliates.
- b. Volker then announced the current Council Officers: President – himself, Vice Pres. – Marc Henning, Treasurer – Joel Tracey, and Interim Secretary – Liz Tuttle.

2) Treasurer's Report

- a. Current account balances: No changes from last month's report

Checking	\$3100.00	(\$2200 is earmarked for insurance, \$450 for 3Rs and \$450 for general fund)
Savings	\$501.00	(maintaining required balance of \$500)

3) La Jolla Shores Maps

- a. We had guest presenter Nick LeBeouf from the La Jolla Shores Association join us this evening to inform us about the replacement/repair of the La Jolla Shores Map.
- b. The previous map was destroyed because the glass embedded in the map was not set correctly. Now there is an effort underway to replace the previous map with a new concrete walk with tile inlay and ocean-themed fence on three sides. Photo simulations were passed out to show the proposed project as it has been submitted for permit approval.
- c. The location of the map was originally chosen because this area was known to be a mud hole most of the time. The map's location must remain where it is so that the replacement of the map can be permitted as a "repair". The fence has been proposed to protect the future map from heavy traffic and sand abrasion. In order to be ADA compliant, a "wing" must be added to the fence at the NE corner of the map to block pedestrian traffic along the concrete retainer of the playground sand pit.
- d. The current paths through the bushes at the southern end of the park would be widened and filled with decomposed granite material similar to what is currently in the "map" area to provide comfortable access for divers to walk to the beach easily.

- e. T.B. Penick & Sons, the contractor of the previous map, has agreed to cover \$500,000 of the cost to replace the map. Mary Coakley-Munk is donating \$279,000 toward the project.
- f. Nick wanted to assure the Council that the LJSA was no longer of the mindset that divers are the primary source of wear & tear on the park.
- g. He wanted to emphasize that the map would be a great educational resource for local children's groups, and with the fence, it would be easier for chaperones to keep the kids wrangled into one area.
- h. Nick, as a representative of LJSA, is seeking promotional support of this project with the dive community. In order to assist him in his efforts, we agreed to provide him with the contact information we had for the Council's affiliated clubs' presidents and delegates. Nick LeBoeuf's contact info: nick@sdexpeditions.com.

4) 2016 Council Officer Elections

- a. At the last meeting officer nominations stood as follows, no additions were made:
 President: Joel Tracey
 V. Pres: Open
 Treasurer: Open
 Secretary: Liz Tuttle
 Directors: David Pierce, Chad Jackson (Webmaster)
 Nominations were closed at this meeting.
- b. According to Council bylaws, "If, after all nominations are closed, there is only one nomination for an office, the single nominee shall be declared elected to office, and no balloting or other action shall be required." Therefore, elections results for 2016 stand as follows: Joel Tracey, President, and Liz Tuttle, Secretary, who will also serve as Interim Treasurer until that position can be filled by another. David Pierce will be director and Chad Jackson webmaster.

5) Proposed Children's Pool Policy

- a. Volker again presented the proposed statement to be placed on the Council's website:

"Attention Divers: The Children's Pool is open to the public for relaxation, swimming, snorkeling, and diving; currently a closure for harbor seal pupping from December 15 to May 15 exists.

The remainder of the year a rope may be present – with its intended purpose to "buffer" the space between seals and humans if seals are occupying the sand. Divers historically have been eco-friendly stewards and advocates of maintaining a healthy ecosystem. These guidelines below are nothing more than a request for your support in continuing our good stewardship.

When accessing the water for purposes of diving, please consider gearing up at your vehicles, checking/purging regulators and other sound producing items at the vehicle, and providing a buffer zone to the seals by using the cliff side access.

Respectfully yours,
 San Diego Council of Divers"

- b. The proposal was put to a vote. Results are as follows:

Blue Ocean	Yes	Free Divers	No
Bottom Bunch	Yes	San Diego DC	Yes
Dive Animals	Abstained	Sea Dogs	No

Proposition passed

6) Marine Protected Area Implementation

a. Volker again presented the proposal for the Council to be the lead in an alliance with other organizations, such as Surfrider, United Anglers, Wild Coast, Coastkeeper and Heal the Bay, in support of consistent enforcement of MPA's. The proposed statement reads as follows:

- We request that California Marine Protected Area implementation activities comply with Marine Protected Areas in California: Regulations (Title 14, Section 632)(a)(1) and Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas.
- We are concerned that the department distributes conflicting information on permissible activities within MPAs.
- We are concerned that the department has focused on enforcing recreational and commercial fishing regulations in MPAs while neglecting the enforcement of taking or possession of geological or cultural marine resources.
- Marine Protected Areas were intended to be ecosystem-based management tools, which need to be fully implemented to realize optimal benefit. We ask protection of geological or cultural marine as well as living resources. We request equal protection from take for fish, cultural marine resources, sand crabs, birds, wrack, and shells within MPAs.

b. The proposal was put to a vote. Results are as follows:

Blue Ocean	Yes	Free Divers	No
Bottom Bunch	No	San Diego DC	No
Dive Animals	Yes	Sea Dogs	No
Proposal did not pass			

8) Roundtable Discussion

- a. Affiliate member Ken Hunrichs mentioned that the Kiwanis Club of La Jolla had expressed interest in having a member of the Council attend one of their meetings to make a presentation to their club regarding the programs performed by the Council.
- b. Joel Tracey announced, as the newly elected president, he will be sending a 2016 agenda email discussing how he intends to have 4 general meetings throughout the year along with 3 executive board meetings. He would also like to organize a group trip to Catalina with an invitation going out to all the affiliated clubs to join in.
- c. Marc Henning expressed the thanks of the Council and its members for the 2 years of service Volker Hoehne provided as President of the Council. Volker also expressed his thanks to the Council for an enjoyable term.

9) Next Scheduled Council General Meeting

- a. The Council's next general public meeting will be announced at some future time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Liz Tuttle