

General Meeting Minutes of February 11th, 2013



Meeting held at La Jolla Brew House. Called to order at 6:30 pm by Scott Anderson.

January Meeting Recap

- Planning 3Rs, for summer of 2013, without City support as usual.
- The Council has helped with a sales and donation stand on the sidewalk at Childrens' Pool to try to make a little money and dispel malicious gossip about divers killing seals or driving them away. We made little money but undercut the APRL sales so badly they have left. No more yelling with bullhorns.

La Jolla Light, 2/8/13 <http://www.lajollalight.com/2013/02/05/la-jolla-parks-and-beaches-group-seeks-clarification-about-marine-sanctuaries/>

Three marine protected areas are in place in La Jolla and implementation is to be done. At the time it was known there were no funds and it was anticipated public groups would contribute time and money. Signs marking the boundaries so people could know where they were and what they can do were not in place. **The San Diego County MPA Implementation Collaborative** has come together to provide guidance and enforcement including Wildcoast, the Surfrider Foundation, San Diego Coastkeeper, Birch Aquarium, local municipalities (including San Diego), UC San Diego, the Port of San Diego and others. It is by "invitation only". No diving stakeholders were invited. Warning signs they have provided only state "No fishing or collecting".

The rules at our new MPA's are "Take of all living marine resources prohibited". "Take" can mean affecting or harming, in Fish and Wildlife jargon. These privately supplied signs do not clarify the situation or provide official rulings. The Council voted to send a letter to Department of Fish and Wildlife asking for clarification of terms. Raking the Shores to clear it of seaweed seems a clear violation, as does stepping on grunion eggs, collecting shells, etc. It may seem outlandish, but this sort of thing is why the City cannot wash birdpoop off rocks at La Jolla Cove. (MPA's designated as open for public access, DFG can prohibit ANY activity it deems harmful the maintenance of the reserve)

There shall also be a letter requesting a much more open process. City Municipal Code **§26.30 (e) Park and Recreation Board** requires a standing committee to give advice to the maintenance of the La Jolla Underwater Park, calling for 9 members, including DFG, a geologist, a marine biologist, *the San Diego Council of Diving Clubs....* etc.

Licensing and fee collection for diving instruction at the Shores.

The La Jolla Shores Association is reviewing fees for all "commercial activities" which are held at Kellogg Park and beach area. The Council of Divers brought instructors together and presented a Diver Code of Conduct suggestion, which was well received.

The LJSA formed a committee of 4 members from the Dive Community and 5 Association members to study the matter. This process will take a while. There is still not an estimate of what is needed besides some voluntary better practices by divers.

CHILDREN'S POOL: The City is still being forced by a 2nd lawsuit to keep alive the dream of overruling the Planning Commission and establishing a perpetual year round rope across the Pool. The Mayor had the present winter season rope moved to close the access opening to 3', small enough so the opening is not visible from above. He ignored a 24 page memorandum from the City Attorney warning it would place the City in legal jeopardy. The Coastal Commission chose not to look into the matter. If no lawsuit is filed, the law will have been bypassed by mayor to restrict public access to This is a disturbing precedent.

UPDATES:

Underwater Easter Egg hunt March 30th at the Shores, once more sponsored by the San Diego Dive Club.

Minutes submitted 1/15/2013 John Leek, Secretary