

San Diego Council of Divers
General meeting - Sept 14th and Board meeting - Sept 28th, 2010.



BOARD MEETING

9/27 Pronouncements from Parks and Recreation about Children's Pool were the dominant issues. In the first part of November it will come to pass:

1. There is to be an end to private signs in area, only City signs allowed. Two City signs to be at Children's are in fabrication. The text was reviewed with NOAA and Friends of the Seals before finalizing.
2. There will only be 2 small areas where tables can be set up by 2 lucky groups selected in monthly lotteries.
3. Each of the 2 winners of the monthly lottery will have a space big enough for 1 table, 2 chairs and 2 signs. The signs will be a maximum size and be within reach of the table tender at all times.
4. Violations will be prosecuted by the San Diego Police. (Funny, for 4 years it was wide open for activists, but when we do it for 2 months, there is a crackdown)
5. As soon as the Ranger Docent program is in place, no other "docents" will be allowed on the beach or sidewalk.
6. The Ranger Docent program will eventually be full time, meaning around 40 hours/week, and shall not contain anyone with a previous history of involvement.
7. The City Attorney decided the recent amendment to the trust only gave the City the option to declare Children's Pool a marine mammal park, but the term is not defined and there are no plans for the City to exercise the option.
8. Also by November, a new Ranger should be in place, with authorization to cite for Code violations, or to contact NOAA in case of intentional seal harassment involving demonstrable harm.
9. The Ranger and docents will cross the winter rope at will and inform anyone who wants to know that the rope is advisory only. Their jobs will be around public interaction and understanding wildlife, like park rangers do – not enforcing the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

The City is still pursuing a permit to cordon off Children's Pool Beach every day forever with a rope barrier. The same rope that is strung across the beach from December 15 to May 15, but the permit would be amended to be every day of the year forever. The Hearing Officer was unable to find a reason it could not be done.

The La Jolla Community Planning Association filed an appeal to the City Planning Commission so an appeal hearing will be scheduled downtown. Anybody can come speak or send materials to the Planning Commission in advance. Those who do sign in at the appeal hearing will be able to submit an appeal to the California Coastal Commission in the likely event the City denies the appeal and awards itself a permit.

GENERAL MEETING

The 9/14 meeting at the La Jolla Brewhouse was to honor and give award to our 2 retired lifeguards who lead the 3rs, and to hear from DFG in light of the upcoming lobster season.

1. Mark Brown and Mike Russel did attend, and our president made a presentation of a stipend and letter of appreciation before the membership for their help with 3rs.
2. Our scientist from DFG was not able to present because of the noise level at the Brewhouse, but will to come to the next meeting 10/12.
3. Stuffed seals of the kind now being sold on the sidewalk at Children's Pool were shown. Selling them at cost has taken the bottom out of the plush toy seal market there and cut into the cash flow of APRL. Two were bought right there.

The noise level at the meeting was because the back room was given to another group. Scott Anderson will check to be sure the room is available to us next time, or else we will have to meet elsewhere.