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| <p style="text-align: center;">Midcoast Community Council</p> <p><i>An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar</i></p> <p>PO Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038 http://www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org</p> | <p>Michelle Weil, Chair Claire Toutant, Vice Chair Len Erickson, Treasurer Dave Olson, Secretary Gregg Dieguez Jill Grant Dan Haggerty</p> |
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Minutes for Meeting of May 26, 2021

Call to Order (7:03pm)

All Council Members present. This meeting was conducted virtually in compliance of State and County COVID-related orders.

1. Board of Supervisors' Report

Lena Silberman opened with a moment of silence for the VTA victims. She reported that the county is expected to remain in the yellow zone until the June 15th reopening statewide. First dose mass vaccination clinics remain open to anyone. 81% of residents over age 16 are vaccinated, 30% age 12-16. The Fire Safe Council has applied for 5 grants, for Highway 35 north of 84 (awarded), Thornewood Preserve, Woodside Fire Protection District, Highway 35 in 4 MROSD preserves, and SMC Fuel Reduction Prioritization fuel reduction, inspections, evacuation routes, and hazardous tree removal (awaiting Board of Supervisors approval from Measure K funds).

Gregg asked about DPW work to help trim trees in El Granada medians. It would be from Measure K funds. Michelle said Khoa Vo would speak about this at the June 9th MCC meeting.

Dan asked if the county has reached out to Caltrans about thinning eucalyptus along Hwy 1 evacuation routes. Lena said not yet, but it will be discussed at the regular quarterly meeting next month. Len reported that the Fire Safe Council has had discussions with Caltrans on this issue, and will report at a future MCC meeting. Dan asked Lena if there were any updates on the fire station lighting. Lena said she did not have any updates. Gregg said he had been in contact with Pacifica staff on the highway, but had not yet seen a reply.

Harvey Rarback HMB CC expressed condolences for the Santa Clara tragedy. The city council has decided to fly the LGBTQ progress flag at City Hall for the month of June. The city council has set their 5 major priorities for the upcoming year: affordable housing, public health, safety and emergency preparation, climate resilience, and sustainable economic recovery. The city is discussing the possibility of hiring a police chief prior to the next sheriff's contract renewal.

Carlisle Ann Young asked why traffic wasn't one of the top 5 priorities. Harvey answered that the city has done some things in this area, but there wasn't anything major that could be done at the city level.

(7:30) 2. Public Comment & Announcement

Neil Merrilees of the SMC Park Commission mentioned that the commission has a meeting next Thursday. He will bring up the Parks mitigation fund and how it is used at that meeting. He had talked to Cid, and Cid wanted it spent on big things.

Carlyle Ann Young gave some history of how the park mitigation funds have been spent to date, and said that she thinks it should not be used for general visitor serving purposes. She'd really like to see a community center.

Gregg mentioned that he had some documents related to the parks mitigation fund from a Public Records Act request, and offered to send them to people who wanted to see them.

Barbara Dye spoke to the GCSD reference. She said that one of the top priorities for GCSD is to acquire a community center, which would be Open to all area residents.

Dave Olson said that Director Calderon reported a Parks Mitigation fund balance of \$497,319.89 at the Feb 10, 2021 meeting, and at that time said that a full report from the Planning Department would be presented at a future Board of Supervisors meeting.

Fran Pollard agreed with what Cid said, and does not feel the Midcoast has seen real benefit from the park mitigation funds, although the county did purchase Quarry Park and saved Moss Beach Park. She also would like to see a community center. She asked the MCC to consider asking CFPD to take more measures to prevent wildfires.

(7:35) 3. Consent Agenda

a. Approve minutes for May 12, 2021 Regular Meeting

Moved Gregg, 2nd Claire. Passes 7-0

(7:38) 4a. Regular Agenda - Reimagine Samtrans

Amy Linehan introduced the Reimagine Samtrans project. Millie Tolleson presented slides summarizing goals, principals, status, and the alternatives that affect the coastside. The presentation is [2021-05-26-Reimagine-SamTrans.pdf](#)

Next steps are being driven by public input from surveys and community meetings (all meetings now completed). Common objectives for all alternatives in all areas are efficiency, scheduling to minimize cost, equity (high need areas), reliability, improved connections, and decreasing route duplication.

For the coast, Alternative removing route 17 deviations such as Seton Coastside and Sunshine Valley road would allow for decreasing frequency from 2 hours to 1 hour on weekends. Would also remove College of San Mateo from route 294.

Alternative 2 is similar for route 294, but would not change route 17. Pacifica routes would change more.

Alternative 3 continues to serve CSM, and would add an on-demand zone from HMB to Princeton via app or phone. No changes to route 17.

Samtrans is actively seeking public input until May 31.

(7:53) Council clarification questions

Gregg asked about route 17 weekend service changes on alternative 1, and whether it affected weekdays. Millie answered that it's one bus each direction on weekends. No change on weekdays, weekends would now be the same as weekdays.

Dan asked what was meant by new scheduling or bus system. Millie answered that it meant to remove duplicated very similar routes, such as school and regular. Dan asked whether there were any plans for articulated buses on the coast. Millie said no. Dan asked about express buses to BART. Millie said no plans for express routes, but the other changes would reduce travel time through coordinated route schedules, but still require a transfer at Pacifica. He asked if route 17 service would be removed or changed in a major way. Millie said no, except for possible removal of Sunshine Valley Rd deviation.

Claire asked about CSM service. She frequently hears it's inadequate, doesn't run late enough, etc. Millie said ridership westbound from CSM is very low, but acknowledged that it may be crucial for some riders. Claire asked about route 17 and 18 school use and that she has heard reports of no room on the bus at times. Millie said no changes are planned in that area.

Len said that as a non-bus rider, the presentation of the alternatives is hard to understand. He asked about getting to BART under each of the alternatives. Millie said that major change would be reduced stops on route 118, and to have route 118 going to only one of Colma and Daly City, instead of both. Route 112 would remain local with more stops. Len asked what type of vehicle was envisioned that caused Moss Beach and Montara to be omitted from the on-demand service. Millie said that the reason was to balance serving as wide an area as possible with reliability, and a single vehicle, and mostly a single rider at a time. Research has shown that if people have to wait more than 20 minutes that they cancel on-demand service.

(8:05) Public Comment

Carlyle Ann Young has heard that a lot of families at the back of Moss Beach and Montara rely on the Sunshine Valley road deviation for their children to get to and from school. Millie said that might be an issue, but route 18 still serves that area. Carlyle asked whether on-demand would be similar to Redi-wheels and Redi-post. Millie said not really, more similar to a ride share in a limited area. The cost is the same as a regular bus single trip.

Marie Fleming thinks the small on-demand service is a good idea for the coast. She lives in El Granada, over a mile from the nearest bus stop, so smaller vehicles would make it possible for her to use SamTrans.

Kimberly Williams was also confused by the alternatives presentation. She has been a SamTrans bus rider, and tried for a while to commute from Moss Beach to BART, and found it to be unacceptably long commute time due to connection delays at Linda Mar. Later service would also be helpful. She often waited more than an hour between buses at Linda Mar. Kimberly asked how ridership might be affected as we come out of the pandemic, and that this might be the time to influence people to use the bus, and asked how much adjustment there might be as the pandemic winds down. Millie said that while implementation of changes would start in 2022, that they already make route changes multiple times per year, and that refinements would continue based on feedback. Linda Mar and similar connections are being improved under all alternatives.

Fran Pollard supports the smaller on-demand service, and has for a long time. It would help seniors, but thinks it should extend to Montara. She'd also like to see bus service to the beaches on the weekends from other areas to reduce traffic.

(8:20) Public Comment closed

Claire thinks of 3 major things with regard to public transit, commuter, local, and visitor. She thinks most of the time the coast doesn't need buses, other than for school children. She wonders if there has been research on why the on-demand service would be used rather than Uber or Lyft. She doesn't think it's a good idea to exclude Moss Beach and Montara. Millie said cost is one reason why SamTrhttp://www.midcoastcommunitycouncil.org/storage/mtgs-com2021/2021-05-26-HMB-SAM-Lawsuit-Slides.pdfans on-demand might be used. Would like on-demand to be marketed to visitors.

Dave said that he thinks the on-demand service really needs to serve Moss Beach and Montara, as they represent nearly 1/4 of the coastside population, and it would be a big mistake to exclude them.

Michelle pointed out that by stopping at Princeton, the affordable housing at Pillar Ridge is also excluded.

Jill said she uses the bus as a last resort, but that it's very relaxing to ride the bus.

Dan agreed with Dave about including Moss Beach and Montara, since they are hilly they are hard to get around.

(8:28) 4b. Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside

Gregg gave a presentation on the history of the SAM Joint Powers Authority, from public sources, as well as the lawsuit status and his estimate of the lawsuit costs to the districts, and to sewer customers. The presentation is [2021-05-26-HMB-SAM-Lawsuit-Slides.pdf](http://www.midcoastcommunitycouncil.org/storage/mtgs-com2021/2021-05-26-HMB-SAM-Lawsuit-Slides.pdf)

(8:42) Michelle and Claire presented the draft letter that was revised the day of the meeting. Claire clarified that the MCC has no legal standing on this issue, but wanted to present community concerns. She summarized the history and issues mentioned in the letter, and reiterated the cost to the community, as well as raising concerns about the ability to manage the basic needs of the coast.

(8:48) Council clarifications

Dan asked for more information about the state mandate leading to the formation of SAM. He asked if the council had looked at the language of that mandate. Gregg answered that he does not have fully current discovery documents from the lawsuit. He said that the funding grant does assume a fully integrated system. Gregg has not been able to find the original document leading to the mandate.

Dave asked if County Counsel had been consulted on this letter. Claire and Gregg answered that yes they had, and that there were no issues, because MCC and the County were not a party to the lawsuit.

Len said his understanding is that the expansion of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve was the main driver and asked if that was correct. Gregg said yes that was part of it, along with newer clean water regulations. Information is from long time residents of the coast, not from documents. Fitzgerald affected only MWSD, GSD (GCSD) and HMB would have had to upgrade anyway due to clean water changes. Len then asked what has to happen and who has to act to make us satisfied. Claire said that she and the other drafters did not feel it was appropriate for MCC to request specific actions.

Jill pointed out a typo "SAM plan" -> "SAM plant", and asked what the hope was for what would happen. Claire said that because it's so complex, the hope is that the parties would be motivated by the desire to help the community thrive.

(8:07) Public Comment

Harvey Rarback said that they all agree that the health and safety coastside is their aim. He said that as one would expect, the presentation and letter were Midcoast-specific. The HMB position is that their ratepayers should not pay for infrastructure that doesn't benefit the HMB ratepayers. It's now up to the judge. If HMB wins, the city expects that GCSD and MWSD will reimburse HMB for the court-ordered SAM costs that HMB has paid since the suit. HMB thought that they had a stipulation, but that at the last moment it was not agreed to.

Len asked if MWSD would pay money to HMB if HMB wins. Harvey said yes, and also GCSD. Len asked if the lawsuit covered the SAM plant, or just the transport from other places. Harvey said the lawsuit is again narrowly focused only on the upgrades to the IPS.

Claire asked about the storage tanks, and if they were part of the lawsuit. Harvey said no. Claire said the storage tanks were under protest. Harvey agreed that was the case, but that was not part of the lawsuit.

Carlisle Ann Young said that she thought the lawsuit resolution would not solve the acrimony, due to the deferred maintenance on the SAM plant, and that there were still issues with recycled water from the SAM plant. She is concerned that after the lawsuit is resolved that it's unlikely the recycled water issue will be taken up again. Also concerned about sea level rise effects on the SAM plant. Thinks the storage tank addition provides benefits to avoid overflows at the shared SAM plant.

Chris Johnson of EG thanked the council for the letter. He doesn't think there needs to be a specific outcome, that it's important to make a statement for the community. He feels that it's a ridiculous premise that the IPS doesn't benefit HMB. He would like HMB to do the right thing for the greater good, not just HMB. The IPS benefits the entire coastside. He thinks the lawsuit causes unnecessary rancor between communities. He wants it to be a strong letter.

Barbara Dye mentioned the current status of the SAM plant. Sea level rise is not an imminent threat to the plant, but Pilarcitos Creek is imminent. A lot of money is being spent now on upgrading the plant.

Ann Rothman thanks the council for bringing this issue up. She thinks that the entire coastside is interconnected on all infrastructure, including the entire SAM system.

Fran Pollard thanked Gregg and Claire for the letter and she supports it. She thinks the best thing would be for the lawsuit to be dressed.

Len asked Harvey about his statement that the lawsuit is now only the IPS, and what about the sections of HMB that use the IPS. Harvey said the judge would need to decide. Len asked just on a common sense basis what Harvey thought. Harvey said that he couldn't comment on that, because it's so complex. HMB didn't enter into the litigation frivolously, but to protect their ratepayers. He thinks the court date will be set soon.

(9:20) Public Comment closed

Dave moved that the letter be approved, Gregg 2nd.

Dave said he will make a motion to make major changes to the letter after the rest of the council has spoken.

Jill supports the letter as is.

Dan supports the letter as is.

Len supports the letter, and wants it to be as simple as possible.

Gregg points out that 18% of GCSD residents are in the city of HMB, so HMB is in effect suing their own residents. He thinks most people don't keep the history in their heads so it should remain in the letter.

Claire said that the team considered leaving the history out of the letter, because it took a lot of work to document that history.

Dave moved an amended version of the letter that he shared. Len seconds.

Jill doesn't like any of the changes, except substituting litigation for rancor.

Gregg can agree with most of the changes. Does not agree with dropping financial implications of HMB's demands, and does not agree with deleting that only HMB has the power to withdraw the suit.

Claire sees real benefits in leaving the history in the letter. She feels that people are not aware that HMB is the cause of the suit.

Michelle says it's hard to deal with the significant changes on the fly. She believes that the history should be left in place, especially with the changes made today. She agrees with a lot of the other changes.

Dan agrees with Jill that on litigation vs rancor

Len asked what exactly was in the "history" paragraphs, so the full letter was shown again. Len suggested moving some of the closing paragraphs to the beginning

Dave suggested postponing this letter so the authors could rewrite based on what they have heard at tonight's meeting. Michelle said that could be done, but it would be a month before we could see the next version. Gregg said he thought that would be OK. Claire liked Len's suggestion of moving aspirational comment to the start of the letter. Michelle would prefer that it be done tonight.

After extensive discussion, the council edited the letter on the fly with Michelle as the scribe. History remains, 2 paragraphs near end move to beginning. Some wording changes.

Dave drops his original amendment motion.

Dave moves to approve the new amendments to the letter, Len 2nd. Passes 7-0

The motion to approve the letter as amended passes 7-0.

(10:00) 4c. MCC Quarterly Newsletter Summer Edition

Michelle suggests content due June 12, review complete June 15, final edits and to translator June 17, send newsletter June 24 to beat the July 4 weekend.

Suggested content include wildfire safety as main topic, also Medio Bridge update, and Covid vaccination update. Dave asked why Medio Bridge, given that it's widely reported, and on Covid vaccine, that we'll be after the June 15th reopening, and the county has nearly the highest vaccination rate in the state. Gregg will write the Medio Bridge article. Claire suggested Covid vaccination be changed to Re-opening post Covid, and volunteered to write the article.

Carlyle Ann Young suggested Fire station lighting, and the Midcoast ECO lawsuit. Michelle said that the ECO lawsuit isn't something the MCC is involved with. She added the fire station lighting as a potential topic.

Michelle asked the council for ideas on subtopics on Wildfire safety. She doesn't want to delay for more info on this topic. She suggested EG medians as one sub-topic. One or two more to be decided by next week (councilmembers volunteering to write to send topics to Michelle).

Jill is OK with the timeline as editor, but happy to have somebody else as editor.

Dan volunteered for the fire station lighting article.

Consensus is to follow Michelle's proposed timeline.

(10:13) 5. Council Activity

Gregg worked on some updates to his tables, and proposes some of them be put on future agenda.

Len attended 2 of the last 3 Fire Safe Council meetings. Still thinks we need to be represented. Some of the largest landowners in the County are parks agencies, and SFPUC. Len thinks we need a fire marshal dedicated to our area, given all the issues with private property at risk. The round of grants reported on by Lena needs additional detail, and need to watch proposed new state budget money.

Jill spoke at the CFPD meeting tonight as a private citizen, mentioning some of the issues in the MCC letter, and why it's such an important issue because it sets a new standard for the coast. Brought up that it's unlike any other fire station. Gary Burke said it's a done deal with the county. Jill is being contacted directly by residents. She encourages residents to contact the county directly.

Claire reported she gave the normal MCC council activity report to the HMB City Council.

(10:24) 6. Future Agendas

June 9 - Coast Pride endorsement request, Wildfire preparedness DPW EG median project

TBD - Sheriff representative to talk about community policing, with regard to HMB initiative

(10:27) Adjournment

Moved Len 2nd Michelle, Passes 7-0