

<p>Midcoast Community Council <i>An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar</i> PO Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038 http://www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org</p>	<p>Michelle Weil, Chair Claire Toutant, Vice Chair Len Erickson, Secretary Dave Olson, Treasurer Gregg Dieguez Jill Grant Dan Haggerty</p>
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Minutes for Meeting of February 10, 2021

Call to Order (7pm)

All Council Members present. 84 others present. This meeting was conducted virtually in compliance of State and County COVID-related orders.

1. Board of Supervisors' Report

Lena Silberman reported that the county is nearly meeting standards to move to red from purple. The County continues to focus on vaccinating underserved populations (lower economic, elderly, homebound, agricultural workers, etc.) and frontline workers (first responders, food industry). 13% of the eligible county population has had at least one vaccination.

The county released three opportunities for community-based organizations (CBOs), non-governmental organizations, and faith-based organizations to support a variety of projects, to reduce heat and wildfire impacts on San Mateo County communities. The

funding will range from \$5,000-\$50,000 per organization. Wunderlich and Huddart Park were awarded a grant for shaded fuel breaks, fuel load reduction, and ecological restoration. A small number of eucalyptus are being removed along Highway 84, and plans similar removal along Skyline.

Supervisor Horsley's office has been receiving a lot of great questions around Eucalyptus removal, many regarding private property and the permitting process and Lena is working with Erica Harris from the RCD as well as members of the planning department to find out the answers to these questions, when I have them, I will happily report them to the MCC.

The Mirada Bridge replacement NegDec was certified by the Board of Supervisors, which means that they will not be doing an EIR. Permitting is planned for June, with completion by Fall 2021.

(7:20) Harvey Rarback reported on the Climate Action & Adaptation Program discussion at the City Council meeting, with regard to sea-level rise, greenhouse gases, etc. There will be a series of public meetings on how to deal with these problems. REACH codes on switching to all-electric for new construction. First of a number of meetings. Coastside Recovery Initiative meeting being held tomorrow Feb 11.

(7:25) 2. Public Comment & Announcements

Krystlyn Giedt Invites everybody to the State of the Coastside Chamber Event tomorrow; Michelle will speak.

Cid Young wants to keep attention on the need for a local Community Center and the Midcoast Parks Development fund. Asked interested community members to contact her to set up a committee.

(7:35) **3. Consent Agenda**

Dave moved to continue approval of minutes to a future meeting, 2nd Claire. Approved 7-0)

4. Regular Agenda

(7:37) **a. San Mateo County Parks Update**

Presentation and Discussion of Quarry Park Pump Track, Parks Fund and Fitzgerald Marine Reserve by Nicholas Calderon. He presented the plans and status for the Pump Track

Jill asked how many parking spaces will be added to Quarry Park. Nicholas said 10.

Dan asked if fencing around the pump track could be omitted. Nicholas said possibly. It is planned to be a split rail fence.

Fran asked that the new parking be in place before the pump track is completed to avoid more street parking near her house.

(8:02) Midcoast Park & Rec Development Fund balance is \$497,319.89. It will be reported from the Planning Department to the Board of Supervisors soon. For FY 2017, it was \$339,970.70. FY 2018 was \$386,312.09. FY 2019 was \$454,855.35. He does not think there were any expenditures during those 4 year, but will check.

Michelle asked what expenditures have the funds been used for. Nicholas answered that it was used for the Moss Beach Playground restoration. Dave clarified that was the first restoration, no funds used for the most recent. Len mentioned that some of the funds were used for the shared play fields at El Granada school.

Fran thought there had been a proposal to use some of the funds on the pump track, and she didn't want that to happen. She also didn't like the proposed use of the funds for new restrooms at the Harbor District West Point Trail. Nicholas said that the latter hadn't been discussed since he became Director, and that he agreed it wasn't appropriate.

(8:11) Fitzgerald Marine Reserve opening strategy is being worked on. Part of the delay has been due to loss of parks personnel to transfers and retirements. Funding is now available and recruiting for replacements will start soon.

Kris Liang thanked Nicholas for closing Fitzgerald during Covid; there has been significant abuse. She asked whether he would consider reinstating the Friends of Fitzgerald funding of a seasonal parks aide, or making it an intern position similar to Coyote Point, particularly to help protect the seals on the beach during pupping. Nicholas has spoken to the Friends, and he supports their funding of an aide. Intern probably wouldn't work out.

Bill Moore asked what the priority of Fitzgerald is for Parks projects, compared to other parks projects. Nicholas said that there are no projects currently planned at Fitzgerald. Bill asked when it would reopen. Nicholas said probably a couple of months or early summer, and unlikely to be earlier. Bill asked about the authority of the Friends volunteers; Nicholas replied that they have no actual authority. Bill asked that the signs saying that the beach is closed due to covid be changed to say that the closure is now due to staffing.

Krystlyn said the Coastside Visitors Center gets a number of questions about Fitzgerald, and would like to help disseminate information.

Stephen asked how shorthanded they are. Nicholas said they are 5 short, including Tunitas Creek, 3 at Fitzgerald. Stephen asked if other parks personnel could be transferred temporarily to Fitzgerald so that he and others can start using it sooner.

Andrew Corcoran asked a similar question, so that the beach could be opened sooner. Nicholas said not really.

Cid brought up Maverick's Cove, and that the northern part is in a reserve, and how to enforce violations against overtake, etc.. It's outside the park. The county is trying to do similar enforcement within their area.

Chad would really like to be able to use the park with his children, and asked that reopening be made a priority. Asked if residents could act as volunteers to help. Nicholas said to volunteer through the Friends.

Marcia Yates raised the same issue as Cid about take of mussels, etc. at Pillar Pt (Mavericks Cove). Kris Liang mentioned the ongoing efforts to increase enforcement there, as well as her discussions with Nicholas to try to get more enforcement of the area that isn't in the park, but that the county manages. Michelle asked if the Friends could be involved to help run a program advising people of the rules.

Dan asked for a quick update on fuel load reduction at Quarry Park. Nicholas said that his team is working on a 100 acre project to do follow up work on the areas that were cut back 2 years ago.

(8:45) b. Mirada Road / Medio Creek Bridge

Michelle started with a brief summary of the history of this issue, and our previous letter, and that the MCC had heard from many community members who wanted the bridge replaced at the current location.

Two letters were put forward to discuss further comment on the Mirada Road Pedestrian. Len summarized the letters. The first letter (A) supported Bridge Replacement in place. The second letter (B) has no further comment on the current bridge replacement proposal and emphasized planning for re-location of the bridge.

Len mentioned his discussions with the oneshoreline.org staff, and their project to work on studying erosion in the area to the north, as well as the Surfers Beach sand replenishment. He has asked them to extend their studies south to the Medio Bridge area.

Dave said that his letter was mostly focused on the armoring issues that are planned as part of replacing the bridge at the current location, and his concerns about the erosion problems that would almost certainly cause. He also mentioned that the armoring would likely require yearly maintenance, similar to the recent armoring along Mirada Rd, which has required yearly closures of the Coastal Trail.

Dan moved, Gregg 2nd to approve the first letter by Len & Michelle.

Claire would prefer we not state what we think should be done, that we leave that to later decisions, because we don't yet know enough.

Len said that the first letter relies on Coastal Commission staff to make appropriate decisions about technical issues.

Gregg asked about the newly available erosion study by WRECO. Dave pointed out that it only deals with beach sand and the creek bed, not the creek banks. The

study says that the creek bed will likely remain stable with the planned bridge replacement. He prefers letter A.

Jill said she mostly likes letter A, but likes the last two paragraphs of letter B because it stresses the importance of the bridge to community residents and visitors. She asked which sources the MCC is agreeing with in letter A. Len said primarily Joe LaClair.

Dave said that since he wrote letter B, he prefers it. His major issue with letter A is that it makes it sound as though we have substantial new data, but he doesn't feel that's the case. He also believes that if the MCC encourages DPW to rebuild at the current location, that no work will be done to start planning for future retreat to a new location, because it would require significant funds beyond rebuilding the bridge.

Len said that his biggest concern with a different location is the delay in completing a bridge, leaving the current detour in place for 3-5 years.

Possible Council actions are to approve one letter or the other, both letters, neither letter, or to combine pieces of the two letters.

(9:20) Public Comment

Many people spoke, almost all in favor of letter A. Due to the large number of comments, they are paraphrased and summarized here, rather than listed by speaker.

Major concerns were disruption of new sections of the neighborhood if the trail was moved inland, and that it would lead to a major delay before the bridge could be reopened. Most people did not feel that erosion would be significant enough in the next 20 to 30 years to endanger a new bridge at the same location.

There were multiple mentions of the petitions sent to the MCC with many hundreds of signatures, requesting that the bridge be rebuilt at the current location.

There were several mentions that the MCC should reflect the desires of the residents of the area.

A number of people said that they were not concerned that the armoring would cause additional erosion issues, citing examples such as the shotcrete wall in Santa Cruz, and other armoring in various coastal areas.

There was one mention that a replacement bridge at the current location might have a short lifetime due to erosion.

(9:35) Council Discussion

Len said that the county has not had a good process on this project, and that important information is still not available. His big concern is to not force a multi-year delay.

Dan called the question, died for lack of a 2nd. He feels that it is too early in the process to make a good decision,

Claire is not happy with the county process and the lack of clarity. She congratulated the community on increasing awareness of the issue.

Gregg feels that the MCC mission is to reflect the community, and that he has received dozens of emails on the issue. He thinks letter A reflects the community, and letter B does not.

Dave wanted to point out that neither of the two letters are urgent. At the first letter it seemed urgent due to the Neg Dec deadline. Now there is no deadline, since the NegDec was approved by the Supervisors. He said that it is not the mission of the MCC to directly reflect the majority, and pointed out that recent national events have pointed out significant problems with following just the majority opinion. That's not to say that public opinion should be ignored, but that should not be the exclusive deciding factor. He weights things differently than most of the commenters on this issue.

Dave moved, Claire 2nd to approve letter B.

Claire proposed amendments to letter A to clarify that we can't request something that isn't feasible and to reference the Coastal Commission approval of the CDP. Dave 2nd.

Amendment passes 7-0

Motion to approve Letter A passes 6-1, Dave dissenting

Motion to approve Letter B Fails 2-5, Dan, Michelle, Len, Gregg, Jill opposed

4c. MCC Quarterly Newsletter, Winter Edition

Michelle started by saying that the last newsletter process was extremely arduous, and that there had been a desire for the MCC to own the whole content of the newsletter. Due to Brown Act issues, we can't have a quorum or larger discuss each article, or the newsletter as a whole, outside a public meeting. She proposed that we have a single editor, and that we assign a single author to each article, who would then send it to the editor to review formatting, spelling, etc., but not content. Content to be final to the editor by February 27th, so it can be published in March.

Michelle suggested having a newsletter signup be added to the MCC website, and after some discussion that was the consensus.

Dave asked if we were still going to have a Spanish translation. Michelle said yes, if the county can still do it for us. Lena said that they would be happy to do it.

Jill asked if we could print it and send it out through the US Mail for people who don't want to use email. Michelle said it was possible, but that we had very limited funds. We could instead post it at the post offices, similar to our agendas. Len suggested that in the future we could allow people to request a printed version, and that would probably be cheaper than a mass mailing. Dave suggested that with Covid, the post offices probably don't want people standing next to the doors reading documents. Michelle recommended putting a printed version on hold until a future newsletter.

Dan was concerned that 4 newsletters a year might create too much work for councilmembers. He's not all that much in favor of newsletters. He thinks there are other methods to get the articles out to the public.

(10:08) Public Comment

Cid said that she was willing to finance the copying of printed newsletters if people wanted them, and was willing to write an article. Michelle answered that the County Counsel said it had to be MCC councilmembers only.

Council Discussion

Jill volunteered to be the editor, but also wanted to write articles.

Dave pointed out that if the editor was also writing articles, somebody else should do the review on the same basis. He volunteered to review Jill's articles.

Claire is concerned that the newsletter seems to be taking up more of the council's time and that we might be better off using our time elsewhere.

Gregg said that he was kind of with Claire and maybe Dan, but he sees this as an experiment.

Dave pointed out that we don't have to wait for the next newsletter if something important comes up, and that we have had community requests for better ways to get important information from the MCC out to the public. He thinks it would be a shame to let it die.

Carrie Dallman said that she is happy to help support the effort.

Dave moves that we go ahead with the process outlined and the article assignments.
2nd Gregg.

Motion passes 6-1, Dan opposed

5. Council Activity

Len provided further comment on the Medio Bridge NegDec to DPW. Received data on the armoring. They still don't have the erosion study results

Dave attended SMC BoS They passed support for Rental Assistance. He Restated the comments of the earlier Medio Bridge Replacement. The HMB Review is forming a Citizen Advisory Board – apply with the Review. HMB Review covered the fire station lighting issues, as well as the Medio Bridge.

Jill Grant – Working with Summer Burlison on Fire Station 41 lighting.

6. Future Agendas

Feb. 24 Connect the Coastside, Sheriff's Report,

Mar. 10 – First Flush

Adjourn (10:00pm)