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Date: Wed, 22 May 2002 16:39:43 -0700
To: MCC@SanMateo.org
From: Paul Perkovic <perk@montara.com>
Subject: [MCC] [Draft] Minutes from 10 April 2002 Midcoast Community Council meeting
Cc: Midcoast-L@lists.sanmateo.org, Rgordon@co.sanmateo.ca.us
Sender: <MCCC@lists.sanmateo.org>
List-Unsubscribe: <mailto:MCCC-off@lists.sanmateo.org>

My apologies to everyone for these draft Minutes being late. There are still some items (indicated by ***) where I missed what was said and have not been able to fill in the missing details. If other Council members can supply the missing information, or any other corrections, I will circulate revised and approved Minutes. Otherwise, I suggest that we delete the sentence or paragraph where I missed some of the content.

/ Perk

[Draft] Minutes of the 10 April 2002 Midcoast Community Council meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chuck Kozak at 7:45 p.m.

Members present: Sandy Emerson, Chuck Kozak, Ric Lohman, Paul Perkovic, Kathryn Slater-Carter, April Vargas, and Karen Wilson.

Member absent: (none).

Public Comment

Lt. John Quinlan (San Mateo County Sheriff's Department) announced that this coming Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., there will be a *** at the Hatch Elementary School.

April Vargas (Montara) distributed some traffic safety questionnaires that had been provided by the California Highway Patrol.

Sandy Emerson (El Granada) announced that there will be a Bay Walk in conjunction with Earth Day. The walk will be held on a series of days, all around the Bay. The schedule and complete itinerary can be found at <http://www.BayAreaEarthDay.net/> for more information.

There will be a Children's Day at Quarry Park from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. April 14.

Chuck Kozak (Montara) announced that the first Local Coastal Program Update Workshop will be on Monday, April 15, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., at the El Granada Elementary School. This meeting will address an overview of the report, the workshop schedule, goals, and recalculated baseline data for buildout in the Midcoast. For more information, contact George Bergman at 363-1851 or Elsie Sand at 363-1928.

The Partners in Stewardship / Coastal San Mateo Stewardship Conference will be held here April 26 and 27. It will focus on land management, sustainable agriculture. Marilyn Smulyan at 415-648-4062.

In answer to a query that was submitted some time ago, Rich Gordon has told Chuck that Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Officer, and Coastsides Design Review agendas will all appear in the Half Moon Bay Review.

Sandy Emerson reported on the workshop at El Granada School held on Monday, April 8, which included a set of maps showing County owned land in the Midcoast. Community members who believe we should have park or recreation facilities in specific locations should communicate their ideas to Sandy. 712-9476 or Semerson@igc.org.

Board of Supervisors Report

PK Diffenbaugh (Legislative Aide to Supervisor Rich Gordon) explained that anyone who wanted an automatic email notification of Board of Supervisors agendas should contact him. Agendas are routinely posted on the County's web site, with supporting material available on line.

Sandy Emerson asked about the status of the proposed Development Fee to assist in funding community parks and recreation facilities. Supervisor Gordon had asked the County Manager and the Planning Director to investigate such a fee.

Chuck Kozak asked about the Midcoast housing needs and requirements will fit into the General Plan Housing Element update.

Committee Reports

Treasurer,s Report: Kathryn Slater-Carter reported that our checking account balance is \$291.37.

Parks and Recreation Committee: Sandy Emerson reported that the Committee met on April 1 and did a tour of the Mirada Surf parcel. They looked at the vernal pool and the need to connect the Coastal Trail segments in Half Moon Bay across this parcel. They also reviewed photographs of various tot lots and pocket playgrounds in the community, thanks to Mary Kate Meyerhoffer. The next meeting is May 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Three Zero Cafe.

Planning and Zoning Committee: Karen Wilson reported that there will be a number of Coastside projects on upcoming Zoning Hearing Officer agendas and Planning Commission agenda, in Redwood City. The next Coastside Design Review committee meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m. at the Sheriff,s Substation in Moss Beach, with a study session at 1:30 p.m. The next Planning and Zoning Committee meeting will be April 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Three Zero Cafe.

Public Works Committee: April Vargas has reserved the fifth Monday of each month for potential meetings. So far none of the Council members has designated a committee member. Community members who are interested in serving on this committee should contact the Chair at 728-5215.

Consent Agenda

Deferred to next meeting.

Regular Agenda

1. Presentation by the Partnership for the Public,s Health.

April Vargas introduced Julia McKeon of the Coastside Health Committee. Sarah Cottrell is the epidemiologist, from the County Department of Public Health; Maureen Perron is the dietician for the project, and Edith Cabuslay is the program services manager, from the County Department of Public Health.

Partnership for the Public,s Health received a \$500,000 grant to work on surveys for health issues. The County does a survey with the hospital consortium every three years. About 50 surveys were conducted in 1998. Last year, two surveys were conducted (May through June 2001), on Quality of Life and Health / Behavior Risk. Residents were selected from ZIP codes 94018, 94019, 94020*, 94021*, 94037, 94038, 94060*, and 94074*; those marked with an asterisk are south coast. There were about 400 surveys, in English or in Spanish, done by professional survey folks. A total of 398 Quality of Life surveys were completed, 435 Health / Behavior Risk surveys.

Approximatley 90 in-person surveys were done to cover people who might live in the community but not have telephones.

Tonight we are seeing a summary of the survey results. There will be a much larger report included with the County results. They are now doing presentations to a variety of community groups, in an attempt to prioritize the most important issues.

Sarah Cottrell presented the results of the questions regarding access to health care. Factors that prevented or restricted medical area were higher on the Coastsides than elsewhere in the County, including difficulty in scheduling appointments, inconvenient hours; in-person interviews showed higher rates with difficulty obtaining access. South coast and in-person interviews tended to have more difficulty getting access, especially to vision, dental, and mental health services, compared to the County.

Maureen Perron presented the Chronic Disease section. Cancer is the leading cause of death in San Mateo County. Lung cancer causes approximately 320 deaths per year. Coastsides residents generally had very poor results in meeting dietary guidelines for servings of fruit and vegetables. Most of the children who begin smoking start between ages 10 and 13. The Coastsides has the lowest reported rate of tuberculosis within the County. The prevalence of asthma is higher than the County average. The Coastsides rate of diabetes is lower than the national average. In-person interviewees reported approximately twice the rate of self-reported depression (two years or more). The Coastsides and South Coast are similar to the overall County statistics in response to the question, "Are you at risk for cardiovascular disease?". Regarding overweight conditions, the Coastsides is slightly higher than the County average, and the South Coast is even higher. Rates of exercise (at least three times per week) were lower on the Coastsides.

Edith Cabuslay presented the Risk Behavior section. The majority of respondents felt that they were not at risk for HIV. The percentage of residents who have ever been tested for HIV has been going up slightly. Most of our young people have started drinking alcohol by the age of 15. Binge drinking (5 or more drinks per occasion) was higher in the South Coast; in-person interviewees had the highest rate. Chronic drinking (60 or more drinks per month) reflect similar patterns. The Coastsides rate for illegal drug use is significantly higher than the County-wide rate (about double), and the South Coast is higher still. The County has one of the lowest number of available alcohol and drug treatment slots per 100,000 population anywhere in the state. Child care costs for one infant would consume 86% of the monthly income of a minimum wage earner in San Mateo County. Coastsides parents rated the quality of public education lower than the County average. By the age of 18, over 50% of girls will have had at least one experience with sexual intercourse. Parents were asked if they knew whether their children (age 13 to 17) were sexually active. The responses were very low, compared to the responses of the children themselves. None of the communities are meeting the County goal of having 90% of two-year olds properly immunized. On the Coastsides, and especially the South Coast, people believe that, as individuals, they can affect the quality of their community. Coastsides and South Coast residents reported a lower level of concern over their safety than County-wide, except for in-person interviewees.

John Quinlan presented the Community Safety section. Firearms in the home are kept in a much higher percentage of South Coast homes than elsewhere. Available firearms are secured in only approximately half of the homes. There was a graph presenting the rates of possession of weapons by adolescents, by race. Turning to Family Finances, only 11% of San Mateo County residents are able to afford a median priced home compared to 37% in California and 53% in the entire United States. The rates of persons living in crowded conditions is similar except for those from in-person interviews, which was significantly higher. Families that do not have enough food on a regular basis were similar in the County and Coastsides, except for those in-person interviews (which exceeded 50%). Coastsides residents have a significantly lower response that they can rely on public transportation for everyday needs; South Coast has a very low rate who feel that.

Members of the Council posed various questions. There was a brief recess to allow voting on the most critical issues.

2. Impacts of Residential Well Drilling on the Midcoast

Chuck Kozak presented the results of the investigations performed by the Planning and Zoning Committee, some supporting documentation, and the recommended actions.

The package of documents included a summary, by community, of water wells in San Mateo County, from Dean Peterson, Director, Environmental Health; a draft letter prepared by the Planning and Zoning Committee reflecting the concerns about over-drilling of wells; an email regarding the Board of Supervisors subcommittee to provide advice on wells; a copy of the February 20, 1990 memo on Permit Requirements for Wells in the Coastal Zone from Terry Burnes, Planning Administrator; a set of facts and findings excerpted from the Kleinfelder report and other documents supporting the concept of a moratorium on additional wells until a complete hydrogeologic study can be completed; and a copy of the May 29, 1987 letter from Peter Douglas, Executive Director, California Coastal Commission, regarding Rescission of a Portion of Categorical Exclusion E-81-1.

Chuck discussed the work underway within the County and his conversation with Dean Peterson recently. Environmental Health has tried to gather together all of their internal documents on coastal water issues. They have prepared a draft report that summarizes the existing data. Barry Hecht from Balance Hydrologics has been retained by the County to conduct the study. At this point, there are no real conclusions as to where things are going.

In addition, work is being done by Charlotte Hedlund to continue compilation of data about well quantity and quality.

Kathryn Slater-Carter reported on her investigation of documents related to the water issues in the Montara / Moss Beach area and Citizens Utilities. There are two reports done by ESRI (Energy Systems and Resources, Inc.), which were done for J. L. Johnston. They conclude that there is adequate water for at least 40 wells as of August, 1985. A study done for San Jose State University did preliminary analysis of potential salt water intrusion. The package includes a map showing the categorical exclusion area for Montara and Moss Beach. Letters to area real estate agents indicate that between January 1, 1987 and March, 1988 a period of 15 months 26 domestic water wells were installed. There is a letter from the California Coastal Commission raising questions regarding groundwater. There is a letter from the Public Water Supply Branch of the California Resource Agency concerning the potential for well failures in the Montara / Moss Beach area, and the potential consequences, given that there is a moratorium on new water service connections from the local public water utility.

There was discussion of what to do with the proposed letter. Kathryn Slater-Carter requested three small changes and wished to proceed with the letter. She would change „Since then over 300 wells% to „Over 794 wells% to emphasize the total scope of the problem; add a sentence to item 7 regarding the asphaltting of drainage channels along roads, which reduces recharge; and to strong urge that a member of the Council be on the Board,s subcommittee on well issues.

April Vargas asked whether there were state-mandated constraints on what findings must be made to institute a moratorium, how long it can last, etc.

Leonard Woren (El Granada) suggested that the County is using the rule, „Never ask a question you don,t want to know the answer to.% He asserts that the County requirement is that you must get your well tested every two years. The County is only concerned with whether the water is drinkable; but the contaminants in Coastside water also causes premature aging of appliances and plumbing fixtures. His understanding is that the County was sued by J. L. Johnston, when the policy did not allow new wells; the County lost, and he questions whether the County should have appealed. The City of Half Moon Bay does not allow wells within the city limits, he says, and they have not been sued over this issue. Because of the minerals in the water, he suggests that there may be many water softeners in the community - and that those result in discharges into the wastewater stream. He also suggested an additional real estate disclosure document that required the buyer to acknowledge the potential for well failure and consequent loss of use of the property.

Paul Perkovic moved that the Council send a letter based on the proposed draft, with the changes requested earlier by Kathryn and acknowledgement of the Board,s subcommittee and the current study underway. Seconded by Kathryn Slater-Carter. It was suggested to add „cumulative effects% to bullet item 2. In item 3, substitute „Residents% for „Citizens% (to avoid possible ambiguity with Citizens Utilities. All proposed amendments accepted. Approved by unanimous consent. Copies to go to Rich Gordon and Mark Church, plus Dean Peterson and the Coastal Commission.

Kathryn Slater-Carter moved to send a separate letter with background material to the Coastal Commission. Seconded by Karen Wilson. Approved by unanimous consent.

3. Midcoast Local Coastal Program Review Update

Chuck Kozak suggested that Council members provide any input individually to George Bergman on Thursday, for the community meeting on April 15.

Update on Continuing Council Projects

(No updates.)

Future Agenda

April 24, 2002

- 1. LCP Review Update - specific projects

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Perkovic, Secretary.

There was discussion of what to do with the proposed new Kathryn Slater-Carter requested three special changes and wanted to proceed with the later. She should change (she has over 500 wells) to "Over 704 wells" to emphasize the total scope of the problem, and a sentence to that effect regarding the handling of drainage ditches along with other issues. She also suggested that a member of the Council be on the Board's subcommittee as well.

April 24th was called with there were some changes concerning what findings must be made to maintain a minimum flow of 100 gpm.

Robert Wynn (Council) suggested that the County is using the rule. However, he has a question you don't want to take the answer to. He asks that the County determine if that you can get your well tested every two years. The County is only concerned with whether the water is drinkable, but the contaminants in Colorado water are cause premature aging of appliances and plumbing fixtures. The understanding is that the County was sued by J. Johnson, when the well did not show new wells. The County got and no questions whether the County should have passed. The City of Hall County does not allow wells within the city limits, the city and they have not been sued on this issue. Because of the treatment of the water, he suggests that there may be many water collectors in the community - and that those lead to discharge into the wastewater system. He also suggested an additional rule that the County document that required the duty to acknowledge the potential for well failure and subsequent loss of use of the property.

Paul Perkovic moved that the Council send a letter dated on the proposed date, with the changes requested earlier to Kathryn and acknowledgment of the Board's subcommittee and the current study underway. Seconded by Kathryn Slater-Carter. It was suggested to add, cumulative effect to bullet item 2 in item 2, substitute "Residents for Colorado" to avoid possible ambiguity with Citizens Utilities. All proposed amendments accepted. Approved by unanimous consent. Copies go to Rich Gordon and Mark Church, plus Dawn Peterson and the Coastal Commission.

Kathryn Slater-Carter moved to send a separate letter with comments related to the Coastal Commission. Seconded by Karen Wilson. Approved by unanimous consent.

2. Miscellaneous Coastal Program Review Update

Chris Kozak suggested that Council members provide any input individually to George Gorman on Thursday for the community meeting on April 18.

Update on Continuing Council Projects

(No updates)