

Draft Minutes of the February 12, 2003 Meeting of the MidCoast Community Council

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sandy Emerson at 7:40 pm. Members present were Chuck Kozak, Paul Perkovic and Ric Lohman. April Vargas arrived at 7:45 pm and Kathryn Slater-Carter and Karen Wilson were absent.

Public Comment

Matthew Clark of El Granada requested that the item concerning the LCP Review be moved up on the agenda. Sandy Emerson announced a peace march on Sunday, February 16, in San Francisco. Chuck announced a meeting to discuss Coastside Design Review Standards to be held on February 20 from 7:30 until 9:00 pm at Seton Medical Center Coastside, where the Council holds all of its regular meetings.

Review of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as submitted.

Board of Supervisors Report

Deborah Hirst, Legislative Aide for Supervisor Rich Gordon, announced the next meeting of the Park and Recreation Task Force, set for February 25 from 5:00-7:00 PM at the El Granada Elementary School Library. She thanked Sandy Emerson for all of her hard work thus far.

Deborah will get back to us with responses to the issues raised at the MCC retreat.

Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: There was none.

Parks and Recreation: The last meeting was held on February 10, 2003. The discussion centered on highlights of the Committee's work during 2002 and top priorities for 2003. These included completion of the Coastal Trail, Safe Crossing at Highway One, Mirada Surf and the Parks and Recreation Task Force. Each Committee member chose one project to head. The next meeting will be held on March 10 at the 3-0 Cafe at 7:30 pm.

Planning and Zoning: The Committee met twice since the last MCC meeting. At the February 5 meeting, the Committee heard the use permit application from the Cozzolino family to expand the allowed uses on their Planned Agricultural District zoned property on Hwy 92 outside the city limits of Half Moon Bay. The Committee recommended that only permitted agricultural uses be allowed on this land. In addition there needs to be coordination between the County and the City of Half Moon Bay to address the worsening traffic conditions and increasing commercial development along Hwy 92 during pumpkin season. The next meeting will be held on February 17 at the 3-0 Cafe at 7:30 pm. The project at 277 7th St. will be on the agenda.

Public Works: On January 29 there was a joint Committee meeting with Planning and Zoning. The major items of interest for the coming year are drainage and the impacts of increased development and tree removal and replacement. There are organized groups in the community that are working on increased traffic safety as well. There needs to be more coordination

between the Planning and Public Works Divisions at the County to address storm water management and drainage issues.

Consent Agenda (This was actually taken out of order and voted on before the Review of the Agenda.)

Item 7a, approval of 1/12 and 2/1 meeting minutes was continued until the 2/26/03 meeting. Letters to the Coastal Conservancy and the Cabrillo Unified School District were unanimously approved following a motion by Paul and a second from Chuck.

Regular Agenda

8a. Discussion of Measure A

John Moseley, El Granada resident representing the Friends of Cabrillo Unified Schools, was introduced to speak for the measure. Stephen Okonek, of Half Moon Bay, was introduced to speak against the measure. Moseley introduced Roy Salume, Trustee of the Cabrillo Unified School District, who would field the questions for the pro side following both presentations.

Moseley: FOCUS is a group of citizens, parents and students, who intend to "change the world we live in." Budget cuts will negatively affect the school district. There will be \$1.7 million in cuts from the State and another \$800,000 cut is projected. There have been \$1 million in cuts over the last four years.

This ballot measure is the last hope for the District but it won't stop here. CUSD "is the spark that will set off a firestorm of reform statewide." Even if Measure A passes, another measure will be needed in five years. State leadership must renew its commitment to funding quality education. Will it take a class action lawsuit to make this happen? We must reach out to other school districts and build a vision for our schools for the future. The MCC is being asked to join in this effort.

The measure asks for \$250 per year for five years. Parcels that are vacant or owned by those 65 years old and over are exempt. Owners of mobile homes who live in parks will pay \$3-\$5 per year. "Intelligent and informed people place a high value on the lamp of learning."

Okonek: The proposed tax is too high and is needlessly excessive in its length. A one year situation is spread over five years. The State cannot legally carryover a deficit. This would be the third highest parcel tax in San Mateo County. Only Hillsborough and Menlo Park have taxes that are higher, passed during the economic boom. Property values in those areas are much higher than on the coast. This is an ultra regressive tax. It places the burden on one segment of the population who don't use the schools. This will allow the District to keep stalling on the middle school. The tax will go on forever. It can be extended in the future by a simple majority vote (note: this assertion was contested later during the presentation.) Californians already pay the sixth highest taxes in the US. "Send the school board back to the drawing board for something more realistic."

Ric Lohman: Can the tax be extended by a simple majority?

Moseley: Dr. Bayliss, Superintendent of the District, did research and that is not the case.

Okonek: A reporter for the San Jose Mercury News included this assertion in an article. He suggested that Okonek call the Elections office to check. The Elections office said that the tax can be extended by a simple majority.

Leonard Woren: How can the District afford not to increase allocations for administration? This measure specifically states that the proceeds cannot be used for administration.

Salume: CUSD has cut \$1 million out of administrative costs. It is the leanest in the County. The measure will retain existing programs, busing, Advanced Placement classes and special education, not add new programs.

Okonek doesn't doubt the current impact on the schools, but is it appropriate to continue the tax until 2008?

Jonathan Lundell: Asks Okonek to explain how this measure will continue stalling on the middle school. The stalling is already happening.

Okonek: Property owners are already paying for the middle school and now they are being asked for more money by the same administrators. He is willing to look at a shorter time period for the tax.

Lundell: Asks the same question again.

Salume: The measure passing or failing will not affect the middle school. The funding problem occurred rather quickly and could not have been predicted.

Emily Wilson, HMB Review reporter, to Okonek: Would you support the tax if it were a smaller amount of money?

Okonek: Yes, but parents whose children use the schools must contribute more than property owners.

Salume: It is unrealistic to expect the community to come up with matching funds for those whose children use the schools. Operation Band Aid was an heroic effort but cannot be expected on a yearly basis. A parcel tax is a legal way to address a funding shortfall.

Paul Perkovic: Is Measure A formulated in such a way that the amount of tax can be reduced if State funding improves?

Salume doesn't believe that this is possible. If the crisis lessens and the tax amount is no longer needed, Ray will put a resolution before the CUSD Board to rescind the tax and return it to the taxpayers.

Moseley: There are ten specific areas for spending stated in the measure. Transportation is one of them. Full transportation services will probably not be implemented next year. Years of less budget shortfall will mean a return to former higher levels of service.

Ken Church, head of Guidance Dept. at Half Moon Bay High School: If the tax measure doesn't pass, there will be no more peer counselling, letters of recommendations to colleges

on behalf of graduating students will no longer be written, face to face contacts between counselors and students will stop.

There was a brief discussion about whether or not the MCC generally takes positions on ballot measures. Councilmembers then made individual comments.

Perkovic: California tax structures are abysmal. There are no split tax rolls and businesses pay only 1% while having to import well educated workers from other countries. He wants assurance that the amount of the tax will be reduced if State spending returns. He will support the measure.

Lohman: Has supported all parcel taxes in the past. Has personal knowledge of funding problems because his wife is a teacher at the high school.

Emerson: We have to support our schools. Puzzled about the reluctance of the District to update its Facilities Master Plan and budget projections. She supports the measure.

Vargas: Support for education is essential. Although the middle school and the tax are two separate issues, they are linked in the minds of many Coastside residents. The Facilities Master Plan update and middle school site are issues of community concern. The District must build a bridge to the community and be open and responsive to public input and suggestions. Will support the measure and urges District to increase outreach efforts.

Kozak: Agrees with previous comments. Use the money for what is best for the students.

Chuck moved approval of a motion to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors, with a copy to FOCUS, recommending that they support Measure A and noting that there is a need for more extensive outreach by the school board to more effectively involve the community in administering the business and goals of the District. There was a request for clarification of whether or not the tax could be extended by a simple majority vote. April seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. April will write the letter and forward it to Sandy.

8b. MCC Projects for 2003: Report from the MCC Retreat of 2/1/03

Regarding the LCP Update, Chuck has begun identifying which Council members have been assigned tasks. He is working on a timeline for the project. April is following the process to obtain regular assistance from County Counsel. Sandy is working on meeting protocol and will review Roberts Rules of Order. She will work on improving community involvement, better public relations and more publicity for the MCC. Ric is working on a plan to reactivate the FOGG Committee without the MCC having the responsibility for heading the group.

8c. Midcoast Local Coastal Program Review Update

The discussion of Coastside Design Review Standards has been continued to another meeting. The question of the scope of the Design Review Committee and whether it should consider commercial projects and multi-family dwellings bears more investigation. Those who participated at either the January 13 or the February 5 workshops will be invited to attend a follow up meeting on February 20 from 7:30-9:30 pm at Seton Medical Center Coastside. The next regular workshop will be held on March 3 at 7:30 pm and will cover internal consistency and clarity within the current LCP and Zoning Regulations that apply to the Coastal Zone.

Future Agenda

Lohman commented that the language in the Design Review Standards is being loosened. He continues to support precise concepts and language. The MCC received a letter from Environmental Services Agency Director Marcia Raines, replying to a letter from the MCC requesting the option that an election be held to determine the preferred LCP amendments following the workshop process. Ms. Raines stated that she has recommended to the Board of Supervisors that it not authorize such an election.

Leonard Woren, Morgan Walford and Gary Rubio, all of El Granada, made comments concerning the lack of community representation at the workshops and the need for residents to oppose residential development on the Burnham Strip. Residents value open space.

Gael Erickson of El Granada stated that many residents are unaware of the LCP Review process and are unfamiliar with the MCC. How can people be informed and made to feel more comfortable when they attend public meetings?

Many suggestions were made about community outreach. **The Post Offices need to receive a copy of the Workshop notices and be asked to post them. April suggested enlarging the cover page of the MCC's proposal for the LCP amendments and having community members who agree with the Council's recommendations sign this cover page. This can be presented at later meetings before the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors and the Coastal Commission, complete with a photo of each signer.**

Ric asked that we receive a specific answer from the Supervisors regarding the possibility of an election on the final amendments. Ric moved that a letter be sent to the Supervisors requesting a meeting to discuss these issues. Sandy and April will meet with the Supervisors to determine a process for including the preferences of the entire community. Ric moved approval, April seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Sandy will write the letter.

8c.1 Emergency Item: Approval of a letter to the Coastal Conservancy in support of a grant to partially fund the purchase of Rancho Corral de Tierra. April presented a draft letter. Paul moved approval, Chuck seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The letter must be submitted by February 19 and the request was made after the meeting agenda had all ready been prepared and posted, hence the emergency status. **April will write the letter and submit it to Sandy.**

8d. How to Respond to Requests for Resolutions and Petitions

The Council decided on a procedure in which the petitioners can give a brief presentation during Public Comment and request that the item be placed on the Regular Agenda or a Councilmember can sponsor it and place it on the agenda. Review, deliberation and possible action will follow.

Future Agenda

February 26, 2003

1. Devil's Slide Aesthetics Committee Phase II Report preview
2. El Granada Manufactured-Home Community update and possible recommendation to the Board of Supervisors
3. Midcoast Local Coastal Plan Update

Adjournment

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary April Vargas