

Minutes of the 03/26/03 Meeting of the MidCoast Community Council

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

Public Comment

Leonard Woren of El Granada stated that the El Granada fire station sits on land leased from the San Mateo County Harbor District for a 39-year period. There are 3 1/2 years remaining on the lease. Fire officials contend that the current building is no longer large enough and want to lease one acre of the land owned by the Harbor District on the Burnham Strip to build a new station. He urged the MCC to take action.

Lisa Ketcham of Moss Beach thanked the MCC, Supervisor Gordon and his Legislative advocate, Deborah Hirst, for their support of the homeowners in the El Granada Manufactured Home Community. On March 25, the Board of Supervisors took an action which prevented a scheduled April 1 rent increase from going into effect.

Paul Perkovic, speaking as an individual made comments about the USA Patriot Act, citing an article by columnist David Lazarus who pointed out the irony of fighting for freedom in Iraq while stifling it here.

April urged her colleagues to submit their completed Form 700 to be forwarded to the County Elections Division. These forms report financial information in accordance with conflict of interest guidelines for elected officials.

Board of Supervisors Report

Deborah Hirst reported that the Board passed an interim urgency ordinance at their March 25 meeting, mandating that the owners of each mobile home community in the unincorporated area apply for a business license to continue to operate. No rent increases will be allowed until the license has been issued. The Board's legislative review subcommittee will look at the MCC's recommended resolution regarding the Patriot Act and make a recommendation to the full Board on possible action. Deputy County Manager, Mary McMillan, will lead this effort. She can be reached at 650-363-4129. The rural house size issue has been continued. The effect of house size on the viability of agriculture and the impacts of limiting house size through the use of density credits must be further studied before a decision can be made.

Treasurer's Report

The checking account balance remains unchanged: \$276.37. The accounting of ongoing expenses for the MCC still has not been received from the County Manager's office, delaying the Council's ability to open a new checking account. Work continues on this project.

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Committee Reports

Parks and Recreation: No report.

Planning and Zoning: The meeting called for March 19 was cancelled. The next meeting will be held on April 2 at 7:30 pm at the 3-0 Café. The Miller item was continued by the Planning Commission until their May 14 meeting. The MCC needs to take a position on this item no later than the May 8 meeting. Perhaps it can be heard on April 23.

Public Works: Speed humps and speed dips were approved by the Board as speed control devices in the unincorporated areas. The PW Division submitted draft procedures for the implementation of devices throughout the County. They will circulate the draft for comment and plan to bring the item back before the Board within the next 60 days.

Design Review: The next meeting to formulate standards will be held on April 3 from 7:30 until 9:30 pm at Seton Medical Center Coastside in Moss Beach. The next plan review meeting will be held on April 10 at 1:30 pm at the Sheriff's Substation in Moss Beach.

Consent Agenda

Paul moved, Chuck seconded and the Council unanimously approved the adoption of the Consent Agenda.

Regular Agenda

8a. Devil's Slide Tunnels Project: Phase II Report: Skip Sowko Caltrans Project Manager thanked the Aesthetics Committee members for their hard work and mentioned Chuck and April by name. He and Terry Bulfin of HNTB design consultants did a presentation on the Committee's work on Phase II of the aesthetics for the project. Copies of the complete report are available from the MCC.

Comments and questions from the audience and the Council followed. Zoe Kersteen-Tucker of Moss Beach thanked Caltrans for conducting a commendable public process. She urged the Council's approval of the report and mentioned concerns about the disposal area. She acknowledged that Caltrans has built in flexibility for the siting of the fill at alternate locations. Marty Kingshill of El Granada noted that many community members have spent much time on the Devil's Slide issue and urged Caltrans to get the construction process moving.

Karen Wilson suggested that the Operation and Maintenance Center building be painted a dark color, olive or deep green, to blend in with the natural site. She would like to see the treatment on the retaining walls resemble the random patterns and variegated colors of

the existing terrain. She had serious concerns about the ornamentation on the portal designs. She found it inappropriate because it does not blend with the natural surroundings. She fears that this will delay Coastal Commission approval of the project. Paul's only comment was to congratulate all involved for doing a good job. Sandy had questions on recreational access to the abandoned alignment. She acknowledged the complexity of this issues and asked Skip what the next steps are regarding public access.

Skip answered that Caltrans has made concerted efforts to work with Golden Gate national Recreation Area, the City of Pacifica and the County of San Mateo to be certain that no recreational opportunities are precluded by project design and construction methods. Sandy asked if there will be a public workshop with GGNRA or if recreational animation will be added to the project design simulations. Skip answered that the process is ongoing. The recreational amenities will not be available until after the tunnels have been completed and the new road is open, predicted sometime in 2008. There are still five years for the community and the appropriate agencies to come to agreement on these issues. April praised Caltrans and the design consultants for incorporating public input as part of the process and showing flexibility in their proposal for a new rock cut design which further minimizes the amount of fill. She urged those concerned about the current fill site to work as a community to identify alternate locations. Chuck stated that we as a community will have to keep working to make this project a reality. In summarizing, Council members agreed that potential areas of concern remain the fill area next to the seasonal wetland and the portal ornamentation. These issues can be addressed at the County level as the project will require hearings at the Planning Commission and Board levels before a Coastal Development Permit will be issued.

Chuck moved and Karen seconded a motion that the MCC accept the Phase II Report and recommend to Caltrans and the design consultants that they continue working with the community during the hearing process to ensure that the tunnels project is in compliance with relevant Local Coastal Program policies. The Council voted unanimously in favor.

8b. Midcoast Local Coastal Program Review Update: The previous workshop, on March 17, covered enacting language from the Coastal Act. Which policies? It was proposed to include 30210-30264. Is this correct or it is a typographical error from the City of Half Moon Bay's document? Half Moon Bay uses the phrase that the Coastal Act is "guiding policies of this Land Use Plan." Is this appropriate language for the County's LCP? Task 23 dealt with impervious surfaces and runoff. The County will work with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to control non point source pollution. How will this affect Public Works projects? Tim Duff of Surfrider Foundation forwarded a letter regarding water quality to the Council on the day of the last public workshop. April will forward it to all MCC members. Leonard Woren urged that adding the language from the Coastal Act is the most important component of the whole review process. The next workshop will be held on March 31 at 7:30 pm at El Granada School and will cover revised sensitive habitat maps and the definition of wetlands.

8c. Follow-up Letter on the Patriot Act: Chuck began the discussion by suggesting that the Council recommend that the Board direct County Counsel to do a study on how County agencies will be affected by the provisions of this act.

Steve Klinger of Moss Beach stated that he does not believe that the MCC has the background to represent him in matters of civil or constitutional law or public security. He took exception to the comments made by Paul during Public Comment. Don Johnson of Montara supported the intent to draft a letter but felt that specific tasks mentioned would be impossible to complete because the federal government will not release the necessary information. Leonard Woren felt that it was appropriate to send a letter but perceived a lack of clarity about whether this letter was actually a request for the Board to pass a specific resolution. Sandy moved and April seconded a motion to continue this item until the April 9 meeting. The vote was 4 yes, 1 no (~~Charles~~) and 1 abstention (Karen).

Kathryn

Future Agenda

April 9
Phase II Well Study
Quarry Park
Patriot Act Letter
LCP Update

April 23
Miller construction project

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary April Vargas.