

MCC Parks and Recreation Committee Discussion Regarding County Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey

June 4, 2001

Committee members present: Paul Perkovic, Chair, Barbara Kossy, Carl May, Gary Wood, Chuck Kozak.

Guests in attendance: Jim Blanchard, Pres. of Midcoast Parklands, Marty Kingshill, Board Member of Midcoast Parklands, Fran Pollard, Board Member of Midcoast Parklands and Granada Sanitary District Director, Leonard Woren, Granada Sanitary District Director, Bern Smith, San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commissioner, April Vargas, MidCoast Community Council Secretary, Bill Katke, El Granada resident and Jim Marsh, resident of Half Moon Bay

Carl brought up the need for increased pedestrian and bicycle accessibility to the beach and other recreational areas. Residents' needs as well as those of visitors must be met. The Community Plan, items 5 and 6, deal with amenities for residents. How can Highway One be crossed safely? Bern mentioned the need for highway crossings and pedestrian routes which connect to existing trails.

Undercrossings or enclosed pedestrian tunnels are currently not favored or considered safe. Overcrossings or bridges are an alternative although there are aesthetic concerns. Chuck brought up a successful project at San Simeon Creek which included the replacement of a culvert with a raised wooden walking bridge which did not interfere with the creek bank or the stream bed. Chuck has photos of this project. Fish and Game encourages removal of culverts. Are trails alongside creeks allowed? Carl stressed that approximately six to twelve highway crossings are needed at locations including the Chart House, Youth Hostel, Moss Beach near California Ave., Coronado Ave. in El Granada, at least one location in Miramar and Frenchman's Creek. This plan would be an alternative to traffic signals.

Carl discussed the MMBEG Community Plan and stated that the plan's goals and those of the LCP are good ones but implementation must be as important as the assessment of needs and the plans developed to address those needs. Bern mentioned P and R Division analysts Felicia Leonard and Ross Nakasone who are seeking grant money to assess and fund projects.

Smaller pocket parks are also a necessity. We need neighborhood parks. The presence of elementary schools does not nullify the need for playgrounds. The school district must not be expected to take on sole responsibility and accompanying expense of providing recreational services to the community.

Chuck listed several sites for such facilities: the El Granada Median Strip, a parcel on Tamarind St. in Montara and parts of the recent POST acquisition of Rancho Corral de Tierra. The County could lease some of the POST land. They could also acquire vacant lots in neighborhoods for pocket parks. A site in North El Granada which is 20 acres and is bounded by the paper street Alcatraz on the north and the row of houses on Sonora Ave. on the west was mentioned as a park site. The soon to be abandoned Caltrans ROW in Montara were also mentioned. The criteria for advocating for acquisition on any such parcels should be the likelihood that the land can be acquired and its location within existing neighborhoods. Bern mentioned the combination of a playground and a community park on one site. Quarry Park is an example.

Sites named in an April 26, 2000, letter to then Assemblyman Ted Lempert's office written by Chuck Kozak on behalf of involved MidCoast residents were reviewed. The letter was in response

to a request from the Assemblyman to identify areas for potential acquisition with Prop 13 funds. The list is as follows:

Rancho Corral de Tierra-Palomares, recently acquired by the Peninsula Open Space Trust and including in the proposed GGNRA boundary expansion.

The Devil's Slide Corridor, the 600 to 700 acres between McNee Ranch State Park and Shamrock Ranch in Pacifica.

Devil's Slide Bypass Freeway Right of Way, an area which has been proposed for inclusion in the GGNRA boundary expansion. It is approximately three miles long and is linear in nature.

Mirada Surf, a group of three sites divided into two parcels, in Miramar. One site is on the west side of Highway One and two sites are on the east side. These total approximately 60 acres.

Pillar Point Ridge, an area which is approximately 200 acres in size and is located between Moss Beach and El Granada along the coastal bluffs. This area has also been proposed for inclusion in the GGNRA boundary expansion. A portion of it directly around the radar station has all ready been included within the boundary.

Burnham Park (aka Goldberg Ranch, Johnston Ranch, O'Neil Ranch), a 487 acre forested parcel behind El Granada. This property includes a house and is currently for sale. It nearly surrounds the existing Quarry Park in El Granada.

Vallemar Bluffs, a 2.38 acre piece of land located on the coastal bluffs in Moss Beach. It abuts County-owned property known as The Strand and has access to the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

El Granada/Pillar Point Harbor waterfront lots, a collection of approximately 20 parcels totalling about 35 acres, among the El Granada Median Strip and the El Granada Waterfront.

Types of recreation were also discussed. Fast bicycle and pedestrian access is needed between communities. Lack of good transportation between the MidCoast and Half Moon Bay will make recreational resource sharing more difficult. There is a need for fields for organized sports. School sites are not equipped to handle adult sports. An indoor facility for court sports and roller hockey would be welcome.

In addition, picnic areas and trail links to passive use parks were encouraged. Other ideas: kite flying, rollerskating, arts and crafts programs for children and seniors, street fairs as a fund raising vehicle for parks and recreation services and the formation of a local parks foundation.

It was agreed that County representatives will be given copies of the MMBEL Community Plan and various park-related surveys conducted by Midcoast Parklands, a former MidCoast Community Council member, Bob Brown, and the City of Half Moon Bay.

April Vargas, Recorder