

Draft Minutes of the 07/11/01 Meeting of the MidCoast Community Council

Vice Chair Chuck Kozak called the meeting to order at 7:42 pm. Members present were April Vargas, Ric Lohman and Paul Perkovic. Joe Gore and Laura Stein were absent. Laura's husband was ill and she could not attend.

Public Comment and Announcements

Oscar Braun, Exec. Dir. of HMB/Coastside Foundation, formerly Save Our Bay, addressed the group. He mentioned EnviroBank, a new funding system for projects related to water, water quality, watersheds and marine environments. He had concerns about fires in the area. Lou Bertolucci of El Granada asked about the required setback for a fence. A project on Obispo Road in El Granada seemed questionable to him.

Ric announced that on Tuesday, July 24, the first in a series of three presentations on water quality will be held. It is sponsored by Save Our Shores, the MidCoast Community Council and the Surfrider Foundation. There will subsequent presentations in September and October. The first will be held at the SOS office next to the El Granada Post Office. The final two will be held at the Point Montara Lighthouse.

Paul reported that he attended the Cultural Planning Meeting at the San Mateo County Arts Council. A study is underway to increase understanding of the cultural resources of the County and plan for future cultural amenities. The MCC has been asked to be an active participant in this process. Paul asked the Council to consider how we might like to be involved and who could represent us in this effort. He also reported the Stage 4 water alert issued by Citizens Utilities.

Chuck informed the group that the first day of filing for candidacy for the November 2001 elections is July 16. The filing closes on August 10 except in those races in which an incumbent is not seeking reelection. The date is extended for a few more days in that case. The County Elections office has moved from Tower Road to the County Center in Redwood City.

Board of Supervisors Report

PK Diffenbaugh told us that the County is in the process of redistricting in the wake of the year 2000 census. The North Fair Oaks area may be included in two different Supervisorial districts. Half of the community may be added to Supervisor Gordon's third district which all ready includes the majority of the unincorporated areas in the County. The scope of study for the groundwater study of the MidCoast is being developed. There will be a consolidation of existing reports on water quality. There will be a Request for Proposal for the contract to perform the Technical Study of Water Tables in the MidCoast. This may become a CEQA review. The Board will hear the well ordinance revision a second time on July 24. Chuck mentioned that the LCP mandates that the County monitor water usage from private domestic wells. This has not been done, to date. He asked if the Board will direct Environmental Services to implement yearly reports of quantity and quality of the water being taken from these wells. PK will check into this.

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: The balance in the checking account is \$202.37.

Park and Recreation Committee: There was no quorum and therefore no meeting on July 2. The next meeting will be held on August 6 at 7:30 pm at the Three Zero Cafe. April reported on the Marine Protected Areas workshop held at Half Moon Bay High School. Commerical, recreational and abalone fishermen have concerns about the proposals. There will be more public meetings.

Planning and Zoning Committee: Chuck reported receipt of a letter from Environmental Services Agency Director Marcia Raines. She was responding to the Council's request for regularly scheduled Planning Commission meetings on the Coast. Due to logistical problems caused by holding meetings away from the media systems and information banks available at the County Center, regular meetings would not be possible at other sites. Special meetings will continue to be held on the Coastside. There were six specific suggestions in the letter outlining the ways in which the Planning Dept. can be of assistance to the Council in their efforts to provide public outreach and education and policy development and implementation. The next meeting will be held on July 18 at 7:30 pm at the Three Zero Cafe.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of June 27 MCC Meeting Minutes

Ric moved and Paul seconded a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Regular Agenda

1. Discussion of Hwy 92 widening east of Hwy 35, including bicycle route and major intersection construction at intersection with Hwy 35. Ric opened the discussion with comments about two items still under consideration. These are the potential erosion and runoff caused during construction and bicycle issues: the overall Caltrans bike plan, the Hwy 92 bike route and the proposed interchange at Skyline Blvd.

Dani Weber is the President of the Peninsula Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition. She stated that Hwy 92 is constantly used by bicyclists and access must be maintained. She is concerned that the proposed interchange will encourage higher speeds and unsafe driving by trucks. Dedicated bike lanes should be provided. The shoulders, at 10 feet in the uphill direction and 8 feet in the downhill direction, can accommodate these lanes. She urged that the striping be increased in width and a sign saying "Bike Lane" should be added to this project. This will keep trucks from using the shoulder as an additional travel lane. She fears that the interchange will encourage unsafe speeds and cause truck rollovers, endangering bicyclists and drivers. Caltrans should study a modern roundabout to manage the traffic without a separated grade. Allison Weber (no relation) spoke in support of Dani's recommendations.

Caltrans Bicycle Coordinator Julian Carroll explained that he became a part of the project after the design had been completed. No one has sought the participation of the California Highway Patrol. He contended that the project exceeds some of the minimum standards for bicycle use. Much discussion ensued regarding bike routes and citizen input on the project. Julian favors a Class 3 bike route designation rather than the Class 2 bike lane supported by the bicycle advocates present. He says that all state routes are designated as Class 3. The County has not requested a Class 2 designation. He offered to send additional information and conduct a tour of the site to illustrate the differences between Class 1, 2 and 3 facilities.

Council members expressed concerns about the configuration of the interchange, its size and its complexity. One area set for grading is near a hillside that has all ready failed. What other proposals were considered? Members of the public supported alternative design ideas being presented for public review. One person supported the project and wanted it to be built in the near future.

Julian Carroll stressed Caltrans' commitment to accommodating bicycles in all of its project plans. His contact information is: 510-286-5598 phone and email: julian_carroll@dot.ca.gov

The project manager can be reached at 510-286-5078. The Secretary was unable to get his name correctly but it sounds like Cyrus De Mille. Future public meetings will be held and MCC members will be invited. Paul urged that the Council support the Class 2 bike lane designation but not the interchange, at this point. April stated that more detailed information is necessary and suggested that Caltrans include an expert from the the San Francisco Water Dept.'s Watershed in all project planning and implementation. Chuck wanted the Council to have increased involvement with the project and is interested in better alternatives for the interchange. Ric had questions about the Class 2 components that can be included in the project and how signage can be improved.

Paul moved that the Council support the concept of Class 2 bikelane facilities along the entire length of Hwy 92 from Canada Road to Half Moon Bay. April added an amendment that the Council support the Class 2 designation only if no widening for the sole purposes of creating bike lanes would be required on the project. Paul accepted the amendment, Ric seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. In a second action, Ric moved that the Council request other alternatives to the intersection design proposed. Chuck seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Paul then moved that the Council write a letter to Caltrans requesting invitations to subsequent meetings held about the project and asking to be included on the Caltrans mailing list for notification of all future projects and inclusion in the design phase of all such projects which impact the unincorporated areas of San Mateo County. Ric seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Dani informed the Council that the next Caltrans meeting about the project under discussion is on Thursday, July 26 at noon at the 55 County Center offices of San Mateo County Public Works.

Chuck called for a break at 10:23 pm. The meeting reconvened at 10:30 pm.

2. Review and consideration of changes to design for proposed Coronado/Highway 1 traffic light in El Granada. Mr. Lau of Caltrans explained the removal of the retaining wall and the bus stops from the area near the proposed light. Caltrans is trying to satisfy the requirements of two CDPs: the County's and the City of Half Moon Bay's. The plan is to permanently close the western part of Coronado and Mirada Road to vehicular traffic. There are no provisions for a hiking trail traversing the intersection. Only a standard shoulder is included. Members of the public expressed concerns that since the project has been changed it needs another round of public review. Lou Bertolucci urged support of the revised project.

Ric asked that Caltrans present more alternatives and present an organized transportation plan for Hwy 1. Paul expressed his continuing support for the project for safety reasons. April also supported the project with the clear understanding that modifications will eventually be necessary to accommodate pedestrian/bicycle usage and the continuation of the Coastal Trail. Caltrans should plan now for this eventuality as the project is built. They should prepare to pursue funding for future trail construction. Chuck agreed that the project is necessary but is disappointed that the Council has not been included in design discussions. The Council has been asking for a Hwy 1 master plan and there has been no response. PK noted that Supervisor Gordon has organized a meeting with Mayor Ruddock of Half Moon Bay, Mayor Vreeland of Pacifica and MCC Chair Laura Stein. The Hwy 1 master plan and cooperative regional planning will be discussed.

Mr. Lau urged interested parties to write to Caltrans with concerns. Earthquake retrofitting has become a priority and many projects, including this one, have been pursued less aggressively.

3. MidCoast Local Coastal Program Review Update. There was no report.

Future Agenda

July 25 Meeting

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of July 11 Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of letter to Terry Burnes from Development Issues Subcommittee

Regular Agenda

1. Presentation by Economic Sustainability Committee of the HMB/Coastside Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Bureau. Sponsored by April.
2. Quarry Traffic Control. No sponsor designated.
3. Visioning Process (tentative, requires preliminary communication with Supervisor Gordon). Sponsored by Ric.
4. LCP Review. Sponsored by Chuck.

Future Meeting

1. Cedar St. drainage issues. Sponsored by Chuck.

The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 11:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary April Vargas.