

Midcoast Community Council

An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar

PO Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038

www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org

Len Erickson, Chair
Michelle Weil, Vice Chair
Claire Toutant, Secretary
Barbra Mathewson, Treasurer
Dan Haggerty
Dave Olson

Minutes for Meeting of October 28, 2020

Call to Order (7:00pm)

All CouncilMembers present. Total attendance 42, including 17 members of the public. Meeting held remotely via Zoom due to COVID-related restrictions.

1. Reports from Board of Supervisors and other governmental bodies

Lena Silberman of Supervisor Horsley's office

- San Mateo County had a 78.6% self participation in the Census, highest in the state
- County has moved to a less restrictive Orange tier of COVID restrictions. There is additional unused testing capacity. The County compliance team is now operational.
- Supervisors Horsley and Canepa head a committee on fire and fuel load issues. A 9-point plan includes a \$150,000 allocation to expand chipping services.
- Measure W Citizens Oversight Committee is seeking volunteers, especially on the Coast.
- Wildfire Danger / Fuel LoadReductionBeach Park is open. Celebration will be scheduled.
- Tunitas Creek Park survey of public opinion continues and is especially interested in ideas from younger people.
- An election center for the MidCoast will be located at LDS Church in Moss Beach.

Brae Hunter of SMC

- Planning for the Parallel Trail between Mirada and Coronado continues. Agreement with County and Caltrans will be done this year, with tree, riparian and school agreements by April and completion by November 2021. It will not connect with the trail immediately to the south, which is the responsibility of Half Moon Bay.

Harvey Rarback of HMB City Council agreed that this portion of the trail should be a priority but that there seemed to be budgeting problems which he promised to address.

Dan was unhappy that a "speed bump" would be at trail/street intersections

- Gregg Dieguez--Has Don responded to Dan's emailed questions about fire issues?--Lena: expedited eucalyptus removal permitting policies are in process.

Chipping continues

JoAnne Brooks--Interested in bus stop on east side of SR1 in Miramar

Cid Young--tree trimming at Alto on SR1 in Miramar could help visibility. Neighbors of Quarry Park expressed unhappiness at GCSD about the proposed pump track and associated parking. There are bags of dog droppings on the trail at Vallemar.

Chris Johnson--Pump track planning--Renderings are being considered, all of which contain separate rings with a variety of skill features for varying abilities and ages. Fencing, entries and drainage will be addressed. GCSD is a board in its own right and can make appropriate decisions. There are tentative plans for improved parking.

Dan--why are there no jumps?And why fencing?--This is a “skills” course, not a “thrills” course and perimeters will be hybrid in design.

Joel Shul of SMC Active Transportation asked for feedback on the draft plan until 11/9.

Harvey Rarback of HMB--LUP portion of LCP update approved and sent to CCC. Noted efforts to preserve Dunes Beach and noted the memorial gathering for John Lynch

2. Public Comment and Announcements

Cid--Last chipping event for the year will be 11/6 on Sunshine Valley Road in Moss Beach/Montara

Gregg wants MCC to do more about disaster planning

3.Consent Agenda minutes for 10/28 approved, with amendment to change spelling of a name.

4.a. Wildfire Danger/Fuel Load Reduction

Presentation by Rich Sampson, Forester CalFire San Mateo/Santa Cruz Division.

Removal projects are complicated by scale, financing and need for maintenance.

Grants are generally only for pilot projects. Looking at a 10-year mitigation project, which will require clear goals.

Dan--Can fire come here from over the hill?--*not a big risk*. Is some vegetation more desirable than others?--*Consult with experts when re-landscaping* Why are eucs not good for lumber and log cabins? *natural twisting*

Len--How did large fuel load reduction in Wunderlich Park happen? *Paid for by PGE as part of a mitigation project for other PGE problems.*

Cid--Is SMCA alerts related to ZoneHaven? *They are different.* There are eucs on SR1 in Pacifica.

Gregg--cites project in San Diego. Mentions controlled burns.

JoAnne--wants public or private efforts to clean up property, including creek beds.

Maintenance is the responsibility of the property owner. Removal of vegetation from creek beds is illegal.

Dan--agrees that priorities for fire risk reduction include defensible space, access, and vegetation change.

4.b. Connect the Coastside

Len presented a “roadmap” of proposed priority issues

Dave wants wording clarified

Dan objects to our participating in the CTC process, wants “CTC” removed from the presentation document. *Priority list is not a support-the-project-or-not list.*

Dolores Silva notes that she submitted an additional list of priorities and would like options that build on existing structure to get quick results be given more attention.

It's complicated and the County and Caltrans are working on it.

Dan wants Dolores' list posted immediately. *Len agrees to do so.*

Rob Carey--Worked on pedestrian below-grade crossing at Daly City BART in 1997 and wants similar crossing in Moss Beach/Montara considered. *Ask Caltrans at the 11/18 meeting.*

Chris--nobody has really studied this seriously

Cid wants more acceleration lanes.

Dan--roundabouts could impede evacuation

Dave--Burnham Strip Park is the responsibility of GCSD, not Caltrans. Unplanned lane usage at Capistrano, Coronado signalling problems, and problems (including backups) near the new fire station are priorities.

Ann Martin wants a signal at SR1 and Mirada or Alto. Medio Bridge detour makes crosswalk problematic.

Barbra and Claire--The detour and the previously-proposed crosswalk are separate but related issues.

Dan and Len discussed chronology of Miramar/SR1 safety issues

JoAnne: Miramar section of SR1 is confusing and has poor visibility. Wants mitigation for detour's effects.

Jill Grant wants a signal and a crosswalk.

Ethan Miller--concerned about concept of managed retreat

Dave--change language regarding GWC

Len--Is this list helpful? *Dave Not enough community input* Claire, Barbra, Dan, Michelle *No. Priorities should be set in context of overall community needs. Newsletter could help with this.*

4.c.Mirada Road Coastal Trail Bridge Replacement

Presentation of Concepts and Letter by Dave. Len notes that Don prefers that we wait to discuss the letter until he can attend, but scheduling limits our options to do this.

Claire--emphasis is that proposed bridge replacement is not appropriate, rather than our advocating any alternate solution.

Barbra and Michelle are ok with the letter; Dan is not. Some desire for more information on armoring is brought up.

Approval of letter moved by Barbra, seconded by Claire

Ethan Miller supports bridge re-design but sees other solutions as harmful to his Alameda neighborhood. Notes that problems are related not only to sea-level rise, but also to Harbor design projects by Army Corps of Engineers. He feels a man-made solution to a man-made problem is appropriate.

Chris supports the letter as raising ideas and encourages more participation by Miramar residents in ongoing issues. Suggests that most would prefer long-term solutions in the abstract.

Dave is not proposing or expecting eminent domain, that would be unlikely; purchase of an easement would be most likely, if built at Alameda Ave. Agrees that anything but replacement as proposed by the County will add time to completion.

Patrick Tierney--concerned about effects on Mirada Road and surrounding neighborhood. Replacing the bridge as planned would allow for comprehensive planning over the next 20 years.

Lisa Ketcham supports the letter and it should be sent to CCC. LCP states that no development is permitted within 30 feet of the center of the creek, except for trails. The trail segment near condos will need to be rerouted in any case.

Alec Hogg wants a more holistic plan, objects to maps on MCC site. Len: *The County gave us no advance notice of this, limiting our ability to be proactive.*

Dan wants more discussion. *Dave details the discussion on this over recent months. This project will not go to the Planning Commission. Time is of the essence. Comments can be made to CCC. Website materials are to provoke discussion and are not being submitted elsewhere.*

Claire says MCC has no power over this bridge than anyone else doesn't have. We are commenting, as anyone else can as well.

JoAnne and Ethan suggest rerouting the trail across highway.

Robin says the comment period is inadequate.

Len: shall we vote tonight? (No second to Len's amendment to table the topic) Michelle: *We have had the opportunity to discuss and the letter is an expression of concerns, not a decision.*

Dan wants more discussion. Barbra, Dave and Claire agree with Michelle. Len is concerned about the County request for delay for further discussion with DPW. Claire, Dave: *we are always happy to talk to Don but no need to delay the letter*

Letter approved 4-2 (Dan and Len opposed)

4.d. Caltrans Traffic Operational Systems Improvement Project

Presentation by Claire of letter to Caltrans expressing MCC opposition to signage as proposed by Caltrans Traffic Improvement Plan.

Dave, Barbra move and second.

Dan wants a stronger statement, proposes amendment to say "We oppose build as designed." Dies for lack of second.

Letter approved 6-0

5. Council Activity Dave: County starting proposal to close old dump at near Poplar Beach, which could involve bluff armoring.

6. Future Agendas 11/18 replace 11/11 holiday meeting, to include items on election, Parks and fire and possibly Medio Bridge. Michelle and others urge limiting length of meetings and prioritizing topics.

12/9 meeting will involve Don's presence to swear in new members and possibly to present thoughts on Medio Bridge.

Adjourn 11:16 pm