

Midcoast Community Council

An elected Municipal Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

P.O. Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038 www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org

Chris Johnson . Lisa Ketcham . Dan Haggerty . Erin Deinzer . Dave Olson . Laura Stein . Claire Toutant

Approved Minutes: Meeting on September 14, 2016, at GCSD

Call to Order. 7:01 PM

All Councilmembers present

Government: Supervisor's Aide Ellie Dallman, Harbor District Gen Mgr Steve McGrath

10 members of the public

1. **Board of Supervisors' Report** and Reports from other Government Officials

Ellie Dallman, Supervisor Horsley's Aide:

El Granada medians: The County will respond soon to recent Granada Community Services District (GCSD) communications regarding recreational improvements on El Granada medians. For further info, follow up with GCSD.

Sanchez Adobe: Sept 17, 2pm, will be groundbreaking celebration for redesign of this historic site in Linda Mar neighborhood of Pacifica. The \$1.57 million renovation project is designed to make the 5-acre site a regional attraction and educational center.

Cypress roundabout: County is in communication with Caltrans to clarify what must be submitted for roundabout evaluation, in order to determine consultant budget and identify funding source.

Midcoast Highway 1 crossings: Caltrans agreed to look at their re-striping maintenance schedule to see if they could incorporate striping acceleration lane at Cypress and crossing at 16th/lighthouse, as selected for Phase 1 of the crossings project.

Parallel Trail: Caltrans wrote that they didn't authorize the County to be lead agency for the environmental review (NegDec). This is tail end of planning Phase 1 -- beginning Phase 2 in October with consultant BKS, which will bring 30% conceptual design through to 100%.

Steve McGrath, Harbor District General Manager: Board approved last item needed for CDP for Romeo Pier demolition. Board selected sculpted shotcrete soil-nail wall and sand replenishment as preferred alternative for West Trail erosion protection as advocated by MCC. District is moving ahead on sidewalk improvements fronting harbor restaurants.

2. **Public Comment & Announcements**

Brandon Kwan, Moss Beach, stated he is candidate for MCC 2-year term, has a degree in recreation & parks from Texas A&M, and interned at San Mateo County Parks. He is advocating for increasing recreation, access, trails, public/private cooperation, opportunities for youth recreation; improving tourism to boost local economy, and reducing traffic with more bike trails, shuttles, school buses.

Leonard Woren, El Granada, is concerned with election irregularities where two Harbor Commission candidates were allowed to submit candidate statements after deadline.

Candidate Forums: Laura announced MCC will host League of Women Voters candidate forums for Harbor Commission Wed, Sept 28, for MWSD and MCC on Tues, Oct 4, 7:30 at Seton, and for Cabrillo School Board Tues, Oct 18.

New Granada Fire Station: Dan announced story poles are in place & plans posted online.

3. **Consent Agenda** - approved 6-0-1 (Erin abstain)

a. Approve minutes for August 24, 2016

4. Regular Agenda

- a. (7:30) **Trail Surfaces** (Ketcham). Presentation on different types of trail surfaces, their pros and cons, and discussion of community preferences. Desired outcome: Increase awareness of trail surface options, receive community feedback, determine next steps.

Lisa gave slide presentation.

Casey Schaufler, Moss Beach: Make trails as natural as possible, design them well and maintain them. Asphalt and rock aggregate are designed for wheeled vehicles, not for walking.

Ann Forrister, Moss Beach, prefers natural permeable surface, not asphalt or concrete.

Concurs with Chuck Kozak – knows what he’s doing, is avid hiker. 12-ft-wide pavement with shoulder is a road, not a trail. Prefers wood benches.

Carl May, Moss Beach: Human locomotion didn’t evolve on pavement, which is detrimental to walkers/runners. We are adapted to natural surfaces. Environmental price of pavement includes extraction/processing/transport of materials, construction. Cost is much higher than a well-made natural trail. Wider trails create more runoff. Multi-use is not required for CCT. For heavy multi-modal use of Parallel Trail, hard surface is OK. Resin-hardened surface may be less expensive/toxic than asphalt.

Leonard Woren, El Granada: Prefers compacted dirt. Listen to Chuck Kozak. Crissy Field trail looked natural but was horrible to walk on -- hard with jagged pieces sticking out. People come to the Coastside to enjoy the natural environment. People like Harbor West Trail because it’s natural. Safety fence won’t keep people from falling off the bluff.

Len Erickson, El Granada, is supportive of prior comments. Abandoned section of Ocean Blvd in Seal Cove provides a great walk by the ocean. Ask County Parks to take over that portion from Dept of Public Works.

Dale Ross, GCSD Parks Committee, is a walking user of trails. Committee plans dirt trails on El Granada medians. Yosemite’s Vernal Falls trail has new surface that is permeable. Logs make good barriers. A big rock would make a good bench.

Bill Kehoe, Moss Beach: Trail surface depends on usage -- natural surface where possible. Asphalt is fine for Parallel Trail. On wider trails, people just spread out. Re safety barrier, FMR gets lots of inexperienced people who need more handling. No concrete benches.

Comments received by Lisa and read into the record:

- Pat Morrissey, Montara: Prefers packed dirt for hiking, Park Tread for multi-use, wood benches, post & rope safety fences <3ft high.
- Ric Lohman, Miramar: Crushed rock, no oil
- Rita Pickering: prefers dirt (easier on joints) -- tired of asphalt & urbanization of coast.
- Judy Macias, Seal Cove: Jean Lauer Trail needs maintenance – uneven surface can be dangerous to some older walkers.
- Sabrina Brennan, Seal Cove: Dirt
- Barbara Dye, El Granada: Decomposed granite looks nice, holds up & drains well.

Dave: prefers natural surfaces. Engineered aggregate base is OK, but dirt on top at least. No paving, no resin stabilizers. There is a new trail uphill at Mori Point at batteries with natural surface -- GGNRA gets it. Trail surface is already coming up re Portola Trail where multi agencies are involved.

Erin: Stone benches would be nice. Prefers no barrier fences since people just go over them, but understands need for signage and delineation to protect County from liability. Will research trail surface used at Vernal Falls.

Claire: Prefers dirt. No asphalt. Aggregate is difficult to walk on. Nice new trail was just put in at Fort Funston

Dan: Big fan of natural trail surfaces -- some aggregate if needed, for more year-round usage. Color should blend with native soil. Prefers wood benches. Minimize hazard fencing -- mostly not needed.

Laura: Likes dirt surface, but not knowledgeable enough about aggregate to comment. Natural color is very important. Narrow trail width has better feel. Though it pains her, she has been convinced about asphalt for Parallel Trail. Proposes a field trip.

Chris: Prefers natural surface except for transportation corridor such as Parallel Trail. Large rock aggregate is difficult to walk on, such as installed at McNee Ranch where people wore a dirt trail next to it. Government/society sees overcoming nature as progress/improvement. Perhaps compacted DG is the fine line. We are fighting deep-set American psychology and an institutional budget issue re maintenance.

Lisa: We need more familiarity and definition of terms, especially with aggregate. We could all be picturing different things as we speak. Whether crushed or decomposed, aggregate can be sieved for maximum rock size or fines. Trail surface of fines is most natural looking and pleasing feel, but not as stable. Stabilizer can be added but doesn't last. With mixed aggregate, rocks may rise to the surface leaving jagged points or loose rocks/gravel on the surface. "Permeable" surfaces are not that permeable. Compaction greatly diminishes permeability and grading diverts runoff. If water pools and soaks through the surface, the trail will soften and fail. Permeable asphalt silts up, reducing permeability.

Best to approach this on project basis as we have been doing. We have consensus to accept asphalt for the Parallel Trail. County Parks Planner Sam Herzberg said last July that Pillar Point Bluff trail improvements would probably be something other than the existing packed dirt, but to be determined. Suggest MCC start by asking for compacted native soil. At a minimum we'll probably have to deal with County/Fire wanting something else for their fire road connection from West Point Ave to Bernal. We've got plenty of asphalt "trails" on the Coastside for those who want them. Pillar Point Bluff is about the last place left where we could save the dirt trails.

Chris: We can leverage our relationships with the County in informal settings. A community walk would be good.

5. (9:13) Council Activity – Correspondence received & meetings attended

SMC Tree Ordinance Steering Committee will assist the County in updating ordinances controlling tree protection and removal by giving input on policy revisions. Lisa was invited to represent MCC. First meeting Sept 29 and then every other month through July 2017.

Dave: Portola Trail Committee got informal notification they will get RTCA planning grant.

Chris: Attended/spoke at Sep 2 Surfers' Beach ribbon-cutting ceremony. Attended funeral service for past MCC member Bob Kline. Supervisor Horsley, Len Erickson and Leonard Woren were among those who spoke.

6. Future Agendas –

- Sept 28 — Candidate forum for Harbor Commission
- Oct 4 — Candidate forum for MWSD and MCC at Seton Coastside, 7:30pm
- Oct 18 — Candidate forum for Cabrillo School Board at GCSD, 7pm

(9:20) **Adjourn** in memory of Bob Kline.