

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
vacancy

Minutes for Meeting of September 9, 2020

Call to Order (7pm)

All Councilmembers present. Twenty-four others present. This meeting was conducted virtually in compliance of State and County COVID-related orders.

1. Board of Supervisors' Report

Carrie Dallman of Supervisor Horsley's office presented updates.

--COVID—Due to case numbers County is in purple, or widespread, category, which limits re-openings significantly.

--Census—final push as deadline nears.

--Meeting with Supervisor Horsley and County Manager Mike Callagy reviewing Coastside issues, particularly fire-related ones, preceded this meeting.

--Medio Bridge Detour—encroachment permit obtained from Caltrans and installation of K-rails and crash cushions will be installed by early October.

Len—County is appropriating \$300-600K for COVID relief—Each contract is capped at \$20K.

Dan—Have restaurants on Coast requested street closures for dining--unknown

--Wants detailed plan for fire risk mitigation in Quarry Park

Gregg Dieguez—Wants clarification County COVID positivity rate—5.7%

Harvey Rarback, HMB City Council updates

--Public Safety study underway to assess community needs

--Land Use Plan passed by Planning Commission, then will go to City Council 9/29, then to CCC

Len—plan to cancel contract with Sheriff --No, but comparing contracts with similar cities

Ed Larenas—Why no conservation section in LCP? – Considered in other sections

2. Public Comment & Announcements

Brent Turner—Encourages management of Coastside tourism, especially on holidays, in light of COVID

Fran Pollard—Frequent meetings are too stressful and should be minimized, at least until the election

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of minutes for 8/26 Dave moved, seconded Len, passed 6-0

4. Regular Agenda

a. (7:32) Coastside Fire Concerns

Nicholas Calderon of County Parks reviewed 100 acre fuel reduction, particularly along El Granada Blvd and on shaded fuel breaks in Quarry Park. Initial money was from CalFire, with County funding maintenance using Go Native. First priority is managing completed areas of retreat, followed by treatment of new areas.

Dave—Are other parks involved in fire reduction? -- Quarry Park is focus, but Pescadero, San Bruno, Edgewood also. Priorities based on vegetation type, ability to be efficient in getting results. 200 acres treated last year, more this year. Heavy equipment has been purchased.

Len—Adequate funding? – County has been generous and supportive

Dan—Will Don support removal of eucalyptus? Will he support industrial-scale compost at Quarry Park to help replace eucalyptus? -- There is vegetation management project being done to set priorities for active management, which is an active process based on data and science. It will be completed soon.

Gregg—Has been concerned about fire issues his 2018 study of MSWD hydrants and associated issues.

Claire—pleased that planning rests on science and data.

Dan—what are specific plans? – Based on pending results of active management study.

Fran—Wants dead trees near her removed – Arborist can look at them in the next week.

Len—what should the MCC consider?

Barbra—Numerous aspects of this should be considered over the coming year. Plans ZoneHaven presentation at next meeting.

Dave—many agencies are involved in this. Notes GGNRA and POST did trimming near Clipper Ridge in the past

Michelle—See focus on emergency preparedness, including hearing from local fire chief

Claire—sees role for Council of facilitating inter-agency communication and collaboration

Dan—will HMB consider removing eucalyptus grove at Sweetwater?

Claire—those trees have been identified as monarch butterfly wintering habitat.

Len—Will Dan and Barbra work on agenda item about fire/emergency preparedness they indicated would be at next MCC meeting? –They note that they are already doing this, with little support, and still plan their presentation. Expectations around agenda items were discussed

Ann Rothman—there is no price tag on human life

Lucy Wicks—Suggests separate explorations of wildfire management planning and general emergency planning along with clarifying jurisdiction and ownership of lands

Brandon Kwan—multiple related thoughts, including evacuation planning

Krystlyn Geidt—CERT is resource for planning and evacuation assistance

Barbra—CERT does not do evacuation planning

Dave—10-15 emails on the subject received. Summarized thoughts about managing eucalyptus, including allowing trimming (not forbidden by ordinance) and consideration of risk of crown fire.

Barbra—wants change of focus from CTC to emergency planning

Keith Mangold—fire breaks do not control crown fires.

b. Caltrans Communications

Considering proposed NegDeg for proposed Caltrans Traffic Improvement Project for SR1, a public meeting will be held tomorrow at 5:30 on Zoom. An MCC letter was written to describe concerns about lack of information on message signage and lighting. The letter was not available to councilmembers until shortly before this meeting and Claire, Michelle and Barbra decline to support it on that basis.

Krystlyn—signs are hideous and who will maintain them?

Chris Johnson—understands the letter can't be voted on but strongly dislikes signs.

Renderings are unrealistic, purpose is unclear, encroachments are problematic

Kimberly—there are already signs at the tunnel

Dan—Don said that community prefers rectangular flashers over HAWK signals but Dan has 1000 people who prefer underpasses

Dave—the issue was type of visual alert, not underpasses.

Michelle—budget is stretched with \$100million projected shortfall.

Council agrees 6-0 not to send letter but to approve statement to be read by Len at tomorrow's meeting—MCC has strong reservations about the installation of the permanent lighted signs currently proposed for the MidCoast and would like a representative of Caltrans to come to the next MCC meeting to provide a detailed description of the signs and installation plan.

Regarding Medio Bridge detour—DPW plans hardening of detour route in about 3 weeks

Regarding recent meeting with representative of Caltrans, County and MCC—Miramar crosswalk is on indefinite hold. All agree on need for communication and for safety from the very beginning of any planning.

Dave—decisions on Grey Whale Cove have been delayed because County and Caltrans were unclear on which agency should take the next steps

Gregg—supports sending letter

Claire—MCC had asked for a way to alert motorists of emergency road conditions

Michelle Dragony—SMC Alerts targeted to phones currently on the coast would work

Michelle Weil—How many coastsiders subscribe to SMC Alerts?

Marcia Yates—Big signs are not the answer.

Ed Larenas—Caltrans project will need CDP and people should contact Caltrans to establish standing for any appeal

Kris Liang—Sign technology is antiquated compared to WAZE

Len—Suggests special meeting to comment on this. Informal poll of council shows opposition to letter, reluctant willingness to have special meeting

Chris Johnson-- suggested statement of Council—MCC has strong reservations about the installation of the permanent lighted signs currently proposed for the MidCoast and would like a representative of Caltrans to come to the next MCC meeting to provide a detailed description of the signs and installation plan.

Moved Michelle/seconded Len to adopt and direct Len to read at tomorrow's meeting as well as sending as email

Dan moved to delete the second section. Failed for lack of second.

Dan—tunnel closures are not the issue

Dave—these signs may have standardized messages seen on regional message signs

Motion approved 6-0

c. (9:27) Connect the Coastside

Regarding comments from 7/29 study session—Len is making a table showing everyone's comments grouped by topic to share with County at their presentation of CTC to MCC. SMC document of public questions due this Friday.

Regarding SR1 priority projects—MCC priorities will be brought to 9/23 meeting with Caltrans.

Public and councilmembers invited to add extended comments to material presented to Caltrans.

d. Midcoast Newsletter

Presentation by Michelle on the status of newsletter, the first issue of which is planned for early fall. Discussed initial mailing list.

Dave—NextDoor could be used to generate subscriptions

Dan—The interests of the community and the County are in conflict. Wants to see issue before it goes out

Michelle—She, Dan and Barbra have been on team developing this and Dan has access to the initial issue.

Len—Clarifies links to use for more information. The initial issue will set stage for any future changes.

Krystlyn—Chamber of Commerce can help with subscriptions and with technical issues in publishing newsletter.

Kimberly—positive feedback but concerned about role of County and Supervisor's office and wants more focus on diversity.

Michelle—County participation is vital because we lack staff and resources. Everything can be re-evaluated after the first issue.

Dave—concerned about County doing content.

Michelle—County staff writing, but MCC committee approves content

Barbra—This was initiated by Common Knowledge but it is our newsletter and people don't want it if it is written by County staff.

Kimberly—Don's involvement is inappropriate. Community should volunteer to do the work.

Michelle—we can't do it alone.

Len—we could delete the greetings from both Don and the MCC

Claire—MCC has dual role as community representative and County-sponsored agency, which means some of our projects are open to County input. It is unlikely that the MCC would be able to produce the newsletter alone.

Dave and Barbra—did not think that the County was producing content.

Michelle—website represents the MCC processes objectively and will be linked to in the newsletter.

Carrie—The County has done initial work but MCC people are editing. The committee will meet and return with further thoughts.

e. Candidate Forums

League of Women Voters, in cooperation with MCC will hold virtual forums. 9/21 will be Harbor District at 6:30 and MCC at 7:45. 9/22 will be CUSD at 7pm. Questions for candidates can be sent to Len to give to LWV. Flyers and publicity will be out next week.

Dave reported an inquiry about including Community College candidates, but this was felt to be unworkable at this point.

Brandon asked for more sessions.

Dan noted that it was getting late.

5. (8:20) Council Activity not noted

6. Future Agendas

To include County presentation of CTC and issues around fire safety

Adjournment (10:20)