

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

<http://www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org>

Michelle Weil, Chair
Claire Toutant, Vice Chair
Len Erickson, Secretary
Dave Olson, Treasurer
Gregg Dieguez
Jill Grant
Dan Haggerty

Minutes for Meeting of February 24, 2021

Call to Order (7:05pm)

All Council Members present. This meeting was conducted virtually in compliance of State and County COVID-related orders.

1. Board of Supervisors' Report

Lena Silberman reported that at the Board meeting yesterday an agreement was approved for planning and construction oversight for the parallel trail, targeted for construction starting this summer. The Board also voted to accept County Parks wildfire fuel management program's five-year priority project list and cost estimates, as well as 4 vegetation management contracts to reduce fuel in county parks. The County is working with RCD to investigate a programmatic approach to eucalyptus removal, and discussing expanding the chipper program. The Tunitas Creek Beach improvement project preferred plan was approved. A Covid-19 grant program of up to \$10,000 has opened for food and beverage operations.

Dan asked for information on the Quarry Park fuel reduction project. Lena will talk to Director Calderon and report back.

Jill asked for access to the RCD document on simplifying fuel reduction permits. Lena will get a copy to the council.

Carlisle Ann Young asked about the County tree removal permit changes. Lena said it's still in progress. She also asked about Tunitas Creek Beach, and its impact on traffic based on it's 60 parking places. Lena said she did not know about the traffic mitigation issue, and would report back later.

Harvey Rarback, HMB City Council, reported on the Coastside Recovery Initiative process, and that it covers the entire coastside, not just Half Moon Bay. Last council meeting approved grants totalling \$200,000 for Covid relief to several organizations.

Dan asked about the Coastside Inn homeless shelter, and whether it's in use. Harvey said he only knew what the HMB Review had reported, that there are currently 10 residents. Lena said that currently only people 65 and up and Covid-compromised were currently being considered for the Coastside Inn. Dan asked for more information on how it would work, and how cost-sharing including lost tax revenue would be handled. Harvey replied that the City Council has approved a draft MOU on that issue.

Carlisle Ann asked how people could apply to be on the committee for oversight. Harvey replied that the info was on the HMB city website.

Kathryn Slater-Carter, MWSD & SAM reported on stage 2 of the wet weather overflow project in El Granada. Both Strategic meeting videos will be on the MWSD website.

(7:30) 2. Public Comment & Announcements

Krystlyn Giedt of the Chamber said that the annual awards are tomorrow night. Info is on the Chamber website. A survey for opinions on the new REACH code proposals (switching away from natural gas) is on their website. Vaccinations for local workers are being offered.

Harvey offered some clarification on the REACH codes; it's intended to apply only to new construction, if approved. There will be a number of meetings and workshops before any vote.

Kathryn Slater-Carter (as a private citizen) mentioned some of the SAM capital improvement projects; the budget was essentially passed unanimously, but HMB said that they would be paying their share in protest. The result would be that if HMB wins it's current lawsuit against GCSD and

MWSD, that HMB will be owed somewhere above \$6M dollars. She mentioned that some reports say that SAM will need about \$65M work over the next 20 years.

Dave mentioned that the Cypress Point LCP amendment will be heard at the March 12th meeting. He said that UC Irvine will be holding a 2 day online conference on implementing and scaling resilient solutions in coastal California, and he thinks it may be useful to people on the coast to attend.

Carlisle Ann said it might be better to not go all electric, after seeing what happened in Texas. She announced that she and Gregg are planning to have a committee to work on a local community center, and gave her contact information.

(7:40) **3. Consent Agenda**

a. Approve minutes for January 13, 2021 Regular Meeting

b. Approve minutes for January 23, 2021 Annual Administrative & Planning Retreat

c. Approve minutes for January 27, 2021 Regular Meeting

d. Approve minutes for February 10, 2021 Regular Meeting

Dave requested that January 13, 27, and February 10 be pulled from consent for discussion later in the meeting.

Claire requested that January 23 be pulled.

(7:45) **4a. SMC Sheriff's Midcoast Trend**

Captain Saul Lopez discussed policing on the coast. He reported that this period has been challenging for the Sheriff's Department. The most significant recent local crime has been increased theft of catalytic converters, mainly Prius, particularly in Montara. Other than that, not a lot of property crime. There have been a number of traffic issues.

Dan said that he has noticed a lot of people rolling through stop signs, and speeding, as well as unsafe turns to get to parking spaces. Captain Lopez said that he sees the same problems. He said that most of the people that are cited are tourists, so it's a continuing problem. They will be increasing their weekend patrols.

Michelle asked if the Sheriff's department had access to things like Ring cameras to help find thieves. He replied that if the homeowner has them, yes. He also said that people should not hesitate to call in suspicious behavior. She also asked about cars parked along Hwy 1 near the tunnel, and whether that was the responsibility of the Sheriff. Captain Lopez said that yes, in some cases, but in most cases, it's the Highway Patrol.

Carlisle Ann asked who patrols traffic in the tunnel area. Saul answered that it's CHP, normally. She also asked how deputies are allocated between the Midcoast and HMB. Saul said it's split 50/50, plus the supervisor in the Midcoast. In an emergency, deputies can help in either area. She asked if the Sheriff's office has changed their policy with regard to mentally disturbed individuals. Saul said that it hasn't changed, but there is more training in this area (all deputies have to take the training).

Dan asked about knee on back use. Capt. Lopez says they do not allow the use of that.

Claire asked about the group that reviews 5150 (mentally disturbed review), and whether it was the next day. Saul said yes, normally after the fact, but deputies are trained in this area. The Supervisors have funded a program to have trained professionals involved, prior to Sheriff involvement.

(8:13) **4b. Covid-19 Vaccine**

Louise Rogers, Chief of SMC Health System gave a presentation on County status with regard to Covid-19, vaccinations, and how the allocation and eligibility process works. About 100 staff throughout the county are trying to ensure equitable vaccine distribution.

(8:30) **Public Comment**

Carlisle Ann asked about vaccinations performed in the Midcoast. There are some already for Seaton Coastside, and other locations. Eventually there will be more on the coastside for the general public. She asked if vaccinated people can still spread the virus. Louise answered that current data indicates that they will not.

Tim Costello asked about water and wastewater eligibility for vaccination at this time. Louise answered that they were not currently eligible, probably within a month, though.

(8:38) Council Comment

Claire mentioned that she had seen a request from the County for medical volunteers, but that they had to be under age 60, so that she was excluded. Louise said she thought that didn't make sense, and would look into it.

Dan asked what was actually in the vaccines. Louise said she didn't have the details, but could pass on information where to find it.

Michelle mentioned that vaccinations for farmworkers and older people were starting in HMB, and asked if the County organized it. Louise said yes, and that there was a mailing list to get information on vaccination events.

Carlyse Ann mentioned people that were not planning to get the vaccine. Louise said that they were actively monitoring and dealing with rumors.

(8:48) 4c. Connect the Coastside

County staff gave a presentation on the current draft, the history, and projects being recommended in the next 5 years in the Midcoast area, as well as longer term projects. They also gave the planned timeline to final draft and adoption.

(9:26) Public Comment via chat (interspersed with presentation continuing)

Carlyse Ann asked for more detail on where the Carlos St overpass across Hwy 1 would be located. It will be near the MWSD offices.

Rob asked if there could be a feasibility study for an underpass in central Moss Beach instead of an overpass further north. Joe LaClaire answered that there were problems with drainage, and they wouldn't be recommended.

Harold asked about issues with water mains and sewer mains at the roundabout locations. Answer is that it will be considered as each project is being designed.

Kimberly Williams asked why Carlos St was highlighted. Answer was that it would be connected to 16th so that there is only one Hwy 1 intersection, rather than 2.

Michelle Dragony asked will the Capistrano road crosswalk/crossing include lights? Answer is no additional signals, but usually lighting and flashing pedestrian beacons. Details worked out during project design.

Dolores Silva asked if there is a plan to improve restroom access at parking areas? Answer is restrooms are not part of Connect the Coastside.

Len said that it seems as though there is a coastal trail shown on both sides of Hwy 1. Answer is that it is just color confusion, it's on the west side but there are also bike routes on the other side.

Beverly Garrity asked if sidewalks will be added to Coronado cross walks East of Hwy1. Not currently in the plan because the parallel trail will connect at that location.

Gregg asked about moving Hw1 inland, especially near Surfers' Beach. Answer is that the One Shoreline team is working on that issue, but it's not part of the 5 year projects in Connect the Coastside. No specific timeframe.

Dolores asked if the bi-modal trail will have a speed limit for cyclists? Answer not in plans, cyclists encouraged to use the parallel trail instead. May be a future issue with ebikes.

(9:50) Council Clarifications

Dan agrees with the ECOs letter, and thinks there is too much in the document to digest. He thinks sidewalks create too much of an urban feel.

Len asked why more focus on merging lots than retiring lots. Answer was that community feedback was to get something implemented quickly, since the 2006 plan wasn't implemented. Also that current load on staff is already significant, and resources needed on nearer term projects. Len asked if wildfire risk might create more opportunities to retire lots at the urban boundary. Joe said possibly it might.

(9:56) Public Comment

Kimberly asked how the roadmap will be implemented and followed. Answer is that the document includes a report every 5 years to the Supervisors. The goal is to continue to use this as a guide on projects.

Carlylse Ann asked for a new traffic count, with increased visitors, and new Tunitas Creek. Joe replied that major projects like Cypress Point will already require new traffic counts, so they will be done. Big question on whether the highway will be widened or not. If not, there isn't much that can be done except to divert traffic in some fashion, using other modes of transportation.

Dolores asked about cost estimates, and why they had changed. Answer is that they are very approximate for planning purposes, and the main reason they came down was calculation errors in the earlier version that were corrected. Real costs will be determined at project implementation.

(10:06) **Council Questions**

Michelle wanted councilmembers to answer what they thought about the idea of having 3 people working on a letter for council comments.

Gregg thinks the immediate goal should be to focus on the small stuff, the stuff that the community wants. He is concerned about utility costs, land use, etc., but that they are too big and long term for a council letter now. In the long run he thinks that Hwy 1 will have to be moved. He doesn't like seeing a letter only a few days before the meeting, he wants it to be two stages, one to present, raise points, and another for the final letter. Michelle pointed out that we were asked to provide feedback by the end of March.

Claire supports a letter as Michelle described. She doesn't think we need to repeat the items in all the comments already made in meetings.

Dan said that there will be major impacts from the items proposed in the draft. He thinks we should do a survey of the community and that he thinks it's clear that the community isn't paying attention right now.

Dave largely agrees with Gregg, but that if we have major points raised earlier that are not yet addressed in the draft that it's worth repeating them, but that the really small things can be handled by individual comments.. He is opposed to a survey by the MCC, that can be done by the County.

Len would like the council to take what the community has said tonight as the basis for an article in our newsletter. We could do as Dave suggested and have individual comments. We could also have a group working on the letter. He sees that as separate from a survey on the 5 year project list.

Michelle took a straw poll on whether to do a survey via the newsletter. Consensus was no. She asked about comments via the County website. Joe said the comments on the website would be extended until the end of March, as the MCC requested.

Michelle asked who wanted to work on a letter with MCC responses to the draft. Len asked to phrase the question as an MCC response, and separately councilmember individual letters, with individual letters shared at an MCC meeting. Michelle felt doing the individual letters at an MCC meeting weakens the response. Claire agreed, and that individual letters don't need to be shared. Gregg likes Len's idea, and doesn't think we can come up with a good council letter in the time available due to Brown Act limitations. Dave doesn't think individual letters should be shared at an MCC meeting, but still isn't clear on what the MCC letter would be. He doesn't think anybody has brought up anything new and significant in the last 5 public meetings, so no need to write an MCC letter, unless there is something new. Dan thinks separate letters would be stronger than what we can do for a single MCC letter.

Michelle asked who would be interested in working on an MCC letter. Dave said he's not interested unless we can reach a consensus on what we want the letter to contain, but hasn't yet heard anything. He also said any 3 councilmembers can also write a letter together.

(10:27) **Discussion of minutes from Consent Agenda**

Dave said he requested pulling the 3 regular meeting minutes because they were transcripts rather than minutes, and that it took him over 2 hours to read them. Claire said she no longer has any issues with the January 23 Retreat minutes. She was concerned with the links in the minutes, she believes the minutes should be self-contained, and shouldn't require other media, so she is concerned about the format. Michelle also had concerns about the transcript approach, that they should be a summarization, especially since the auto transcript has too many errors. She doesn't mind the links, finds them helpful. Len feels that with the virtual meetings, that there has been a lot more public comment, and he wants that captioned. Dave said given the discussion so far, we should have a separate agenda item on this matter at a future meeting.

Kimberly said she read the minutes and that they are too long, and inaccurate, they do not correctly capture what she said.

Motion to approve January 23 Retreat minutes by Dave, 2nd Claire, passes 5-1, Dan opposed (Jill not present).

(10:35) 5. Council Activity

Gregg wrote a long report on his activities, running 31 pages, related to SAM, wildfires.

Michelle said that because Gregg's report had opinion and policy statements, that it couldn't be distributed outside a meeting agenda item.

Dave attended the MWSD Sewer strategic meeting and found it very worthwhile, and suggested the public attend the upcoming Water strategic meeting.

Claire attended the HMB City Council to report on MCC activities.

Michelle reported for Jill that articles for the Newsletter are due to Jill by Saturday.

Len reported that the CCC will have the Cypress Point LCP amendment at their March meeting. CCC staff is still working with the County on the Mirada Road project.

(10:42) 6. Future Agendas

March 10 - Connect the Coastside letter, Agenda style discussion, Wildfire Risk

March 24 - First Flush, letter writing process, Connect the Coastside final feedback, wildfire preparedness

(10:53) Adjourn

Moved Len, 2nd Gregg, passes 6-0