

# 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

Laura Stein . Lisa Ketcham . Bob Kline . Bill Kehoe . Len Erickson . Dan Haggerty

## Approved Minutes: Meeting on February 13, 2013, at GSD

### **Call to Order.** 7:00

Present: all 6 councilmembers

Government: Nicholas Calderón, Mike Maskarich

13 members of the public

### **2. Public Comment**

Lisa: SMC Parks Commission hearing on new Parks Strategic Draft Plan - Thurs, March 7, 2:30pm, BoS Chambers, RWC, with Board subcommittee Supervisors Horsley and Pine attending.

Laura: SamTrans meeting for comment on final draft plan Sat, Mar 16, 9:30-11:30AM at GSD

Bill: resigned as Treasurer. Requests that Council acceptance of County requirements for annual allocation of funds be specifically agendaized for public meeting. Requests that all communications between councilmembers and county staff be copied to full council.

Dan: FDA taking comments on approval of genetically modified salmon - deadline Feb 24.

### **1. Board of Supervisors' Report** – Nicholas Calderón

**Safe Routes to School** - still waiting for Call for Project; **will** ask MCC for letter of support when time comes; Farallone View PTO has already submitted letter of support.

**Transportation Planning Grant Application** – County will make the April 5 deadline.

**FMR Trail Opening today** - Roughly 20 people attended. Trail looks great.

**Donuts with Don** resume in March (most likely 3/15) at Moss Beach sub-station, 10-noon

**CHP Captain Mike Maskarich:** Doing internal traffic study locally - slight increase in accidents in Hwy 1 corridor since January.

### **3. Consent Agenda:** approved 6-0

Minutes for January 23, 2013

Minutes for January 26, 2013

Approval of draft letter in support of SMC application for TA grant for Transportation Management Plan

### **4. Regular Agenda**

**a. Highway 1 Parallel Trail segment priority** for County application for Transportation Authority's Measure A funding. (7:15) The Hwy 1 parallel trail is planned as an inter-community non-motorized transportation route from Montara to HMB. It has long been a priority and is identified in the Measure A Strategic Plan for 2009-2013. The County will be applying for the 2013 funding cycle, and Supervisor Horsley has invited the MCC to prioritize which trail segment should be first for phased development using Measure A funds.

Nicholas: Apologized for not bringing map. Safe Routes to School grant funding will be sought for northernmost segments of the Parallel Trail in Moss Beach & Montara. Supervisor Horsley's primary concern is safety. Segmenting the trail for phased development is necessary to make project manageable. Segments are, south to north:

- Mirada/Alto (HMB City limit) to Coronado
- Coronado to Capistrano
- Airport
- Moss Beach & Montara (Safe Routes to School grant)

Lisa: Given that there is another source of funding for Parallel Trail to connect Montara and Moss Beach, would support prioritizing southern segment from HMB City limit at Alto extending up to Coronado for Measure A application. Segment lacks north/south side street connections in 2 places leaving Miramar neighborhoods isolated; has signaled crossing at north end and proposed crossing at south end. HMB's trail route will cross to east side of hwy at Frenchman's Creek continuing north to City limits. Makes sense to deal with Midcoast southern segment early on, since it is an east-of-hwy barrier between the entire Midcoast and the City of HMB.

Len: Re connection of Carlos to Main, asks assurance that “Safe Routes” would allow for type of construction needed. Nicholas: CalTrans open to ideas as long as we work within Caltrans guidelines. Trail standard is level of safety that parents will allow their children to use - not just paint on concrete. This funding is for planning/environmental. Construction would be another step.  
 Len: Could connector to EG school be included. Nicholas: Makes sense - conversation worth having.

Bill: Would Safe Routes to School route go all the way to school? Nicholas: yes, parallel hwy, then turn east to school. Physical barrier at hwy.

Dan: Agree with Lisa generally that trail should be developed south to north, have connectivity - support southern segment. The more it gets used & talked about the quicker the next phases will likely happen. Already heard very positive comments from HMB folks that use it to get their kids to school.

Bob: Agree with Lisa/Dan that continuity should be there - prioritize southern portion.

Laura: Support southern segment – easiest, connects Miramar neighborhoods to El Granada.

Sabrina Brennan: Mirada Surf has coastal trail. Prefers segment between Coronado to Capistrano.

Mike Ferreira: Biggest focus on school kids. Prefers southern segment - only 1 Jr high & high school.

Leonard Woren: Pick easiest/fastest - easier to show community the benefit. Not 25-ft wide, paved.

Carl May: No need for pavement. No k-rail.

Mary Larenas: Agree with Leonard re scale of trail project - keep eye on other proposed trails.

Bill: Coastal Trail already on west side from Coronado that goes to HMB – need to connect Midcoast communities first.

Len: Both these grants for planning/environmental? Nicholas: Yes - this stage will be 18-24 months.

Lisa move we prioritize the southern Parallel Trail segment from HMB City limit at Mirada & Alto up to Coronado for the Measure A funding cycle. Bob second. Approved 5-1 (Bill opposed)

Len: Requested next time Nicholas brings something with this complexity that visuals be provided for better public understanding.

**b. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (FMR) (8:05 - Ketcham) Review of infrastructure projects and natural resource protection issues.**

Desired Outcome: Identify priority issues for further discussion and next steps.

Lisa: 10-minute slide presentation. Asks to hear comments, what’s important to people, possible solutions, where to go with this. Ties in with Parks Strategic draft plan now open for comment.

Dan: Cherishes the area - surprised at some of planning - community assessment is appropriate now.

Bill: Beach access trail retaining wall would be covered with tiles. Future Visitor Center will fill in the open space next to parking lot. Need to raise awareness in community and BoS. Need better planning for our natural environment.

Edmundo Larenas, lives near FMR parking lot, representing self & Surfrider. Access to resources is very important, but don’t forget what draws people to these natural places when doing projects. Dardenelle Trail - opportunity to learn from mistakes made, agree with Lisa that given time and effort from community it will recover, intention was good, implementation was horrible. Surfrider’s main complaint is coastal armoring – always causes loss of beach. Also wave energy is diffracted and neighboring areas eroded. Will loose beach which is what draws visitors. Find out what community wants, try to find process where we learn from mistakes and do it right.

Barbara Kossy, lives near FMR parking lot, was at ribbon cutting today. ADA people there, very happy. Dave Sands of Go Native is doing native plant revegetation. Ferns are in nursery, not ready for planting, will plant when ready. Sam Herzberg says there is money for vegetation restoration of creek from bridge to sea. Claims reason for big trucks was for large tree work, trimming for safety. Meeting with Fitzgerald neighbors on parking lot soon.

Mike Ferreira: Attended hearings on trail where requested conditions were added. CCC added more conditions – would have thought problems resolved. None of us anticipated that’s what they would do to that place. Huge gap between permit and reality. Because of that, now wants benign neglect. You want to know that when you’re told something is going to be done, that is what is going to be done, that there would be a level of care. Doesn’t feel that’s very likely on these future permits.

Dot Norris: Marine biologist and Friend of FMR. Concerned about amount of construction proposed for beach access trail, particularly in light of what happened with the trail – much larger area of impact from construction than expected for 8ft trail. Beach access project would have even greater impact - riprap, cranes, large footprint. You can replant natives but they have to compete with new invasives that are not that easy to get rid of. Concerned about scope of beach access plan - we have ADA accessibility– don’t need asphalt and that sort of thing. This is a jewel we have in our

neighborhood - amazing reefs. Concerned about riprap causing beach erosion, trail construction impacting the area.

Jack McCarthy: 400 CA Ave Moss Beach. Thanks for excellent presentation, being proactive with informational session and opportunity to comment. FMR designated as fragile habitat. No one thought to expect such extent of destruction for 8-ft trail. Scale of beach access project is out of character with neighborhood and natural resources – we have a beautiful natural path that goes down to the sea – idea of 6-ft concrete wall and expanded riprap is out of place. Hope you guys can be spearhead on this and help maintain character of the area. These things tend to gather momentum – hard to stop them. Still don't have rendering as to what this plan would look like. Parking lot has same issues. RLF found in parking lot – big issue.

Mary Larenas: Found red legged frog in distress in parking lot during trail/bridge construction. More invasive projects will disrupt these animals further. There is established seal colony on beach which will be disturbed. Riprap will have rap-around erosion effects, and will go out onto the beach which is where people want to be in the first place. Suggest planned retreat, get riprap out of there. Can make acceptable safe way to get people with mobility challenges down to beach. Don't need to do what they're planning. If they try to, she'll be there along with a lot of other people. Please get that message to Supervisor Horsley.

Leonard Woren: Agree with Mary and probably all previous speakers. Ansel Adams: "It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment."

Sabrina Brennan: What gets lost in plans is that FMR is a marine reserve, supposed to be protected area. FMR is different and needs to be treated differently than other parks. Protecting the environment, wildlife, and marine life, should be #1 priority of any/all plans for FMR. Disappointed with Dardenelle Trail - appreciative of changes to asphalt & trail width, never had problem with bridge. What happened when work was done, amount of area cleared, grading, time of year, problem with storm erosion, etc. totally unnecessary. Hope revegetation will be taken seriously. Going forward, keep a chronicle so as not to see same type of projects in future - include more details on past projects whether built or not, ie. sculpture. Need responsive process – a planning workshop that nails down what true improvements look like. Needs to involve the County really listening and incorporating public input. Not against improvements but need to be careful how we do that.

Carl May: How many times do we have to learn these lessons? Riprap will be clobbered at CCC. We shouldn't have to be doing these appeals. This thing should be stopped cold. Toxic material from asphalt will run into the reserve.

Lisa: Need to get County Parks to:

- Reach out, welcome, and organize volunteers (like National Park Service does so effectively).
- Hire natural resource professional to guide implementation of those policies.
- Review list of FMR Master Plan implementation items for assessment of progress and current priorities. (Could pull this list from Plan, send to Sam Herzberg at County Parks asking for progress update - or invite Sam/Don to meeting for discussion.)
- Work with MCC and community earlier in planning process on desired scale and design of projects.

Does the Council want to comment on County Parks draft Strategic Plan, particularly as it relates to FMR? Written comments requested by 2/26, or at hearing on 3/7.

Len: Draft Strategic Plan states good intentions re volunteers. FMR beach has been eradicated along section of coast north of beach access trail. 3-4 years ago brought this up with County – has only gotten worse since then. Comparable restoration effort in Northwest where extensive riprap destroying major beach was 15-yr effort. If we're going for a program, would like to see recommendations extend from very practical revegetation all the way to getting the County to commit to restore the northern shoreline of the reserve – has unique geologic structures, great views. We should not shy away from major things that need to be done.

Bill: Would be good to comment on Parks Strategic Plan as Council if we could. FMR project plans are in flux – hard to tell what's still in play, what's been changed. Ask someone from County to attend & update status of all pending projects.

Laura: Clear that people are dissatisfied with Parks Dept. Need Supervisor and County Parks in the room. Need clear plan where we're going with FMR. Habitat restoration is major issue not discussed, yet infrastructure projects proceed ahead.

Lisa: Need to get County Parks to encourage/organize volunteers, hire natural resource professional, review/assess Master Plan implementation items, work with MCC/community earlier in planning process. Seems we have consensus on general goals. Would like to disseminate slide

presentation, work further refining next steps. Would like to put together more specifics on what we'd like Sam to talk to before we invite him out.

Bill move Lisa follow up with County staff to get update on FMR plans. Approved 6-0.

**c. MCC Regular Meeting Place Change to GSD - tabled for lack of time**

**d. MCC Meeting Start Time Change to 7PM - tabled for lack of time**

## **5. Council Activity – 9:15**

**Midcoast Parking Study** – Nicholas reported initial meeting will be 2/25 at Sheriff substation – Caltrans, GGNRA, State Parks, County, MCC included. Purpose of study - where are available lots, how can lots be shared, to limit number of parking lots. Len, Bill, and Laura will attend. If 3 is too many, Laura will drop out.

**Coastal Trail** – Len had breakfast meeting 2/13 with Don/Nicholas on background CCT work.

**Airport Planning** - Bill/Lisa invited to attend 1/24 meeting with airport staff and the consultants doing the **Airport Layout Plan (ALP)** update, to review draft revised layout plan.

On 2/7 the **Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) update Project Advisory Team (PAT)** had its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, which Bill/Lisa attended at Pillar Ridge clubhouse. They have completed the Inventory and Policy Analysis, which already gives some indication of what changes might come from the ALUCP update. MCC website Airport Issues page has PAT agenda, handout materials and link to consultant's project website where the public can submit comments on the documents. Next meeting of PAT in about 2 months. Coffman Associates is consulting firm doing both updates. Bill: Supervisor Horsley replaced Pine at PAT. Sarah Rosendahl joined too. Would like Airport Layout Plan update presented at MCC. Lisa felt that would be a very long conversation for those without background info.

**Princeton Planning Update** – Lisa: 4 proposals were received and all 4 consultant teams were interviewed the last week in January. County in process of checking references & has requested limited additional information. Upon completion of this process, County will move into contract negotiations with the preferred firm, which will likely take 2-3 weeks. If that goes smoothly, contract approval will be on the April 9 or 23<sup>rd</sup> BoS agenda.

**Harbor District** – Lisa attended 2/6 meeting, Commissioners approved bid for GeoTech borings at the planned Admin Bldg parking lot location and also for construction of long rows of fishermen storage lockers, in the parking lot along Capistrano near the concession building, and also along the Hwy side of the upper parking lot. Speaking as an individual, she pointed out the community had heard nothing of these storage lockers, and there are already acres of them in Princeton; encouraged the HD to pause in their development plans at least until up-to-date needs assessment studies are completed as the first part of the Princeton Planning update. Urged them to take advantage of this opportunity to update their 1991 Master Plan, and to consider that some of the land uses they propose for the limited space in the harbor would be better located in Princeton. Other members of the public and Commissioner Brennan also urged the District to update their Master Plan. Laura: Also attended and commented that Harbor District spends so much on long term studies for projects that never get built.

**GGNRA:** Laura reported she & Lisa were invited to meet with Howard Levitt and Christine Carey on 1/30. Topics discussed included trail heads, volunteer efforts, newsletter. They are not moving ahead until Parking Study done. Will attend MCC tentatively on 3/27. Laura will write up more complete meeting notes for website posting.

## **7. Committee Reports**

**Website Committee** (Len) Committee has met criteria - voted to cease operation.

**Meeting Audio Committee** (Bob) – No need to upgrade audio at GSD - committee disbanded.

## **8. Future Agendas**

Fire Board candidate forums – uncertain due to lack of response from candidates to LWV  
2/27 – Montara Coast (Peggy Jensen), Treasurer nomination/procedures, FMR follow-up  
3/13 – GSD to GCSD presentation & letter of support, CCT Committee report (45min)

**Adjournment** – 9:40