

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

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

Minutes for Meeting of September 25, 2019

Call to Order (7:00)

Councilmembers present: Toutant, Erickson, Olson, Mathewson, Haggerty, Weil, Powell.

1. Board of Supervisors' Report

Don Horsley (near end of meeting), mentioned homeless issues on both coast and throughout the county. Increasingly includes RVs. 40% of US homeless are in California. County has been supporting a farm that donates produce to homeless. Also helping people find housing. No success in finding additional locations for homeless housing; the County has established one shelter that is for only women (30 beds). Trying to have facilities closer to transportation and housing; many homeless on coast don't want to leave the coast to go to shelters on bay side.

Mentioned that new state laws on bail will reduce jail population.

Said that County Manager's office is allocating money for the Arroyo de la Medio pedestrian bridge replacement. Roughly \$3M dollar project.

Funding nearly complete for construction of the parallel trail south of El Granada, to connect with HMB trail.

Discussed Moss Beach crosswalk, he and county were completely surprised. He contacted our legislators and Caltrans, and asked why the crosswalk wasn't up to Caltrans standards. Showed some of past drawings of crossing concepts, including overhead lighting and other beacons. County had gotten streetlight moved to better light Virginia/Hwy 1 intersection. Don suggested the MCC about a single person to work with Don on the crossing issues. He wants Caltrans to bring new crosswalk up to standards, and would like another crosswalk at California/Hwy 1.

Dave asked about Climate Emergency Declaration, and funding. County has funded quite a bit of work on the Sea Level Rise and flooding efforts through the Office of Sustainability. Thinks that on the coast, there will be some protection efforts, some managed retreat. The cost will be high, and thinks most of funding will come from Federal and State funding, also probably some large corporations located along the bay shore business parks.

Barbra asked whether the County could get the speed limit reduced in Moss Beach. Don said he and MCC had tried several years back, without success.

Don gave brief description of HAWK system for crosswalks; it's been very effective in reducing injuries and fatalities on El Camino Real.

Dan asked Don if County could work with Harbor District on a community room in their new office. Don said that he had started to work with the Harbor District when they were looking at the location next to Sam's.

Harvey Rarback, Mayor HMB. Discussed closure of Bay City Flowers and impact on the works and community. Hoping community comes forward with job opportunities. City Council has approved the Bike and Pedestrian plan. Highest priority is East side Hwy 1 trail. Numerous trails between bluff and Hwy 1 are under consideration for improvement.

Dan asked if any advance notification to the city on Bay Cities closure. No, there wasn't. Also asked if any way for community to persuade Bay Cities to stay in business. Unlikely because owners decided it wasn't financially viable any longer.

CHP officer Chris Martini said that crosswalk has been redone with appropriate signage. CHP is keeping an eye on that area for speed and pedestrian safety. He had pictures from yesterday; Barbra said the signs have changed again since yesterday.

Question about speed at crosswalk. Law requires vehicles to stop for any pedestrian in a crosswalk. Further question if somebody was waiting at edge of road. Answer is that drivers are not required to stop with this type of crosswalk and signage. CHP did get confirmation that Caltrans did the work.

Dan asked what distance vehicle from crosswalk should pedestrian view as safe? Answer is no set answer. It's unfortunately subjective judgment on what is safe.

Len asked if center left turn lane has any effect on what drivers are required to do when a pedestrian is in the crosswalk. Answer is if in main lane, vehicles have to stop. OK to go once pedestrian out of lane of traffic. Len pointed out vehicles waiting for left turn can obscure line of sight.

2. Public Comment & Announcements (7:05)

Chris Johnson - GWC Neg Dec comment deadline is September 30. Doesn't think the project is good.

Dave mentioned GWC Neg Dec deadline also, docs are on MCC website

Claire mentioned Seabin project ribbon cutting. Also the survey and meeting for the Pedro Point trail connecting at Hwy 1.

3. Consent Agenda (7:25)

- a. Approve Minutes for regular meeting September 11, 2019
Move Barbra, second Dave. Passes 7-0

4. Regular Agenda – The Council may take action on the following items:

a. (7:30) Midcoast Neighborhood Commercial Districts: Existing uses and development standards

Lisa Ketcham gave presentation on C-1 and related zoning, locations, and uses, explaining goals and purposes of CDRC effort to include review of commercial projects.

The documents and presentations are on the MCC website, because the CDRC doesn't have their own website.

Chris Johnson (CDRC member) gave more detail on CDRC goals and rationale for the effort.

Beverly Garrity (CDRC member) said the goal is to improve day to day life of Midcoast residents. She hopes the MCC will help spread the word and help with community input.

Claire highlighted the need to keep and improve commercial for residents.

Michelle asked about process for CDRC to have review of commercial. Lisa replied that there will need to be changes to zoning ordinances, and to LCP, through the Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, and then Coastal Commission. She asked what the community should do to be effective in this process. Lisa said reading past material and new materials each meeting, and stay involved for multiple meetings for continuity. Chris added that at recent meeting, the CDRC discussed communication plan, but group decided that

they really needed a draft that is fairly solid, to gain interest and invite discussion, followed by multiple meetings with the community.

Len asked if CDRC has involved the Chamber of Commerce to date. Answer is that they have reached out to Chamber, but minimal involvement to date. He asked Don about Sheriff substation might be able to be downsized and used for more commercial. Don asked what it used to be; Dan replied it was an auto parts store at one point. Don said that yes, it is possible to move the sheriff substation, given a reason.

Dan says community wants walkability, including local business with appropriate design. Mentioned lot that Harbor District purchased for offices, not a community purpose.

Chris clarified that CDRC wants to be sure that the zoning and rules encourage and allow businesses that are economically viable, so developers create projects that allow this businesses. Currently developers are most interested in residential because that's where they believe they can make money.

Beverly and Lisa made clear that they aren't trying to encourage or zone for specific businesses.

Tamar asked how easy it was for commercial properties to switch to residential. Lisa said that in general there hasn't been county involvement, it just happened.

b. (8:15) Overview of Coastside Commerce by Chamber of Commerce

Krystlyn Geidt gave a presentation on purpose of the Chamber, Midcoast membership, projects the Chamber is working on, and new opportunities.

Tamar asked if the new maps mentioned in the presentation are available. Not yet, panned by end of year. Replaces the existing single map with 4 more specific maps. E.g., shopping, places to stay. They will be both printed and online.

Claire mentioned the Chamber's weekly email update (anybody can sign up for it).

Michelle asked about Chamber source of funding. Most comes from members, some from the County (for visitor center), and some from HMB (this year for the business center and new programs).

c. (9:00) Consider Letter to Caltrans Regarding Moss Beach Crosswalk

Len summarized history and past discussion. Showed letter and briefly discussed it.

Michelle asked why FRRB request rather than HAWK as at Gray Whale Cove. Len mentioned not wanting a stop light. Don said that HAWK at GWC was required by Caltrans due to limited sight-lines, probably not necessary with better sight-lines in Moss Beach. Further asked about how FRRB works, Dave gave brief answer.

Dan doesn't support the letter. He wants to wait and get more community input before asking for flashing beacons. Suggested "festoon" lighting from cable across highway above crosswalk for visibility.

Barbra doesn't support the letter.

Michelle thinks we need something, now that crosswalk is in place. Wants flashing only activated by button, not continuous. Has seen crosswalk being used. We need to continue working on other solutions.

Dan asked about other crossing alternatives, such as two stage.

Dave showed a brief video on what the FRRB looks like in use (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjltMAbVvak>).

Krystlyn asked what about painting something on the roadway prior to the crosswalk. Suggested the flashing lights in the roadway. Dave answered that we've asked for those, and that Caltrans said they were not qualified for use on California state highways.

Chris Johnson supports the letter as such, but is very unhappy about the project overall, and that each change still has problems. No safe place to stand waiting to cross. One of the signs blocks another sign. New sign installed further north today not visible from a car because of blocking tree branch.

Barbra still feels it's not safe, has seen unsafe behavior. The owner of the tacqueria says a woman fell and broke her hip, and nearly got hit by a car while on the ground. Believes it was that incident that triggered the crosswalk activity.

Tamar feels that we need to do something to improve safety.

Claire believes we need something to improve safety quickly, and supports the letter as something Caltrans already knows how to do. Things like medians are too big a project to get done quickly. This is the least of the evils to improve safety quickly.

Michelle feels that if we send this, that we can't send more letters, so we should make this as thorough as possible. Agrees with Claire on median issue.

Len feels that this is the fastest way to get improved safety. Asked Don his opinion. Don says that this letter will put Caltrans on notice, and doesn't lock the MCC or the community into anything.

Dan feels a yes vote is irresponsible because he thinks it's well documented that FRRBs give a false sense of safety. Dan moved an amendment to remove specific recommendations from letter. Second Barbra. Strike 3rd paragraph, last sentence of first paragraph, second sentence of second paragraph.

Amendment fails 5-2 (For: Barbra, Dan).

Motion to approve letter as written passes 5-2 (Opposed: Barbra, Dan)

Len appointed to work with Don on the issue.

5. Council Activity – Correspondence received & meetings attended

Barbra reported on a call from Caltrans Adopt-a-Highway; they need a template for our sign. She is working on the design of the sign, and will send it to Caltrans

Dave gave a brief report on the CTMP TAC meeting, comments due back Sept 30th, and "final" draft should be ready by Oct 21, should be available to public.

Tamar was contacted by HMB Review on a story on the compost issue (appeared in today's paper).

Some CUSD schools are below community standard for immunizations

Claire attended the Sea Level Rise meeting this morning, emphasis was on social impacts. Tables arranged differently, all coastside reps at same table (Bolinás to Santa Cruz).

Len attended meeting with Granada Blvd residents with CalFire. CalFire continues to work on fire safety, and residents feel like they were heard.

6. Future Agendas

10/9 – MidCoast schools (renovations)

Adjournment (9:45)