

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
Lisa Ketcham . Dave Olson . Chris Johnson . Laura Stein . Erin Deinzer . Dan Haggerty . Joel Janoe

Approved Minutes: Meeting on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at Mavericks Event Center, Princeton, CA

Call to Order 7:06 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Ketcham, Olson, Johnson, Stein, Deinzer, Haggerty, Janoe.

- Aide Nicholas Calderón
- San Mateo County Sheriff's Department Coastside Lieutenant John Munsey
- San Mateo County Parks Director Marlene Finley
- National Parks Conservancy Community Planner Christine Carey
- California State Parks Senior Environmental Scientist Joanne Kerbavaz
- ~50 members of the public

1. Public Comment

- Lisa Ketcham, MCC — Surveyed audience to determine how people heard about tonight's meeting. ~55 people heard about it as a result of MCC email outreach; 0 from Facebook or the MCC website; ~5 from flyers.
- Neil Merrilees, Moss Beach — Thanks again to everybody that helped save Moss Beach Park. Park is in great shape; a few minor issues like splintered wood and need for improved handicap accessibility. Bathrooms are coming. A new group called Friends of Moss Beach Park is organizing. Also, Maverick's Surf Contest is coming up and that means big waves; be careful in the water. To volunteer to help with Mavericks, contact Michelle Dragony.
- Bill Kehoe, Moss Beach — Had many questions and concerns about the LAFCo decision on 1/15/14 regarding the Granada Sanitary District's (GSD) application for Community Services District (CSD) status. Bill has sent a letter to Supervisor Horsley listing his questions and concerns. One reason he has questions is that no minutes are available and the only report from the meeting is hearsay. Questions/concerns include: what are the details regarding the formation of an ad hoc committee to study the consolidation of the GSD and the Montara Water and Sanitary District (MWSD)? Why is LAFCo extending the CSD issue into a discussion of consolidation? Is this being done intentionally to confuse the issues in the June election. Timing seems suspicious to Bill. Would like an explanation. Also, does not feel that Allan Alifano should be a member of this ad hoc committee, which is focused on Midcoast issues, because Mr. Alifano does not live on the Midcoast and according to Bill has professed a disinterest in Midcoast priorities.
- Leonard Woren, El Granada — There is a low-frequency radio station in Half Moon Bay (KHMB, AM 1710); they will soon be broadcasting an interview with Leonard, who is a director with the GSD. GSD will be holding its quarterly recycling event at the end of Portola in the Burnham Strip on 1/25/14.
- Sabrina Brennan, Moss Beach — The California Coastal Commission (CCC) has a draft policy for sea level rise guidance available on their website and are asking for public input. This is a great opportunity for the public and the MCC to make public comment.

2. Board of Supervisors' Report and Other Community Information

- New Coastside Lieutenant for the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department, John Munsey, introduced himself and answered questions from the audience.
- Jim Sullivan, Pacifica — What is the range of your purview? A: Pacifica to the Santa Cruz County line, coastline to Skyline.
- Lisa Ketcham, MCC — Will the general procedures for Maverick's Surf Contest be

the same as last year? A: Yes.

-Brigid O'Farrell, Moss Beach — Is there a crowd estimate? A: Estimate is about 30,000, but there is no way to know for sure. Sheriff's Department is "prepared for a lot."

-Sabrina Brennan, Moss Beach — What streets will be closed? A: Don't exactly know yet; incident action plan is fluid.

--Aide Nicholas Calderón provided a report from the Board of Supervisors (BoS).

-The "Donuts with Don" event scheduled for 1/24/14 has been cancelled; Nicolas will provide notification when event is rescheduled.

-During the week of 1/27/14, the BoS will discuss and vote on a grant application for Measure A funding for planning and permitting of the Parallel Trail from Miramar to Coronado.

-The County has received several applications for positions on the Coastside Design Review Committee (CDRC). County staff is reviewing the applications and will be contacting the MCC to set up interviews.

3. Regular Agenda — Midcoast Parks

a. San Mateo County Parks Department: Midcoast County Parks and Coastal Trail — County Parks Director Marlene Finley

-Marlene spent a few minutes talking about her background, which includes stints in Alaska, Utah, and Muir Woods with the National Park Service (NPS) and the United States Forest Service (USFS).

-The San Mateo County Parks Department (PD) is now separate from the Department of Public Works (DPW). The PD has about 60 employees, including nine new park rangers. There are 19 parks within the PD; new parks include Devil's Slide, Moss Beach Park, and Friendship Park in North Fair Oaks. The budget is about \$10 million, which is supplemented by grants from sources like Measure A and from the Midcoast Parks Development Fund, which provided about \$440,000 for Moss Beach Park and other programs. Morale is high in the PD. Marlene understands that people live here for a reason, and she wants to enrich everyone's "sense of place."

-Plans for the future will be based on review and use of many studies and reports, including:

--2002 Needs Assessment: shows what's needed in parks and rec on the Midcoast, and has been used to inform the Midcoast Action Plan for Parks and Recreation. Looks to this doc as a starting point for where County is focused for future action.

--2010 Highway 1 Safety and Mobility Improvement Study: used to inform the Parallel Trail project.

--2013 San Mateo County Parks Department Action Plan: strategic plan with four main elements: 1) Stewardship; 2) Environmental literacy and education; 3) Community engagement; and 4) Fiscal management. Doesn't want Parks Department subsumed into another department. Wants to ensure fiscal sustainability.

-Noted tremendous support for parks right now; wants to maintain and build that support. She remarked on her great staff and noted that there is a lot of synergy, such as the fact that she has previously worked with San Mateo County Assistant County Manager Dave Holland.

-Reviewed a list of things that San Mateo County has accomplished on the Midcoast, including acquisition of Mirada Surf East and West; working on the resource assessment for Fitzgerald Marine Reserve; the Midcoast park mitigation fee was implemented; the 2004 Fitzgerald Marine Preserve Master Plan; 2010 El

Granada Elementary School playfield improvements; 2009 Pillar Point Bluff improvements made by POST and acquired by PD in 2011; California Coastal Trail (CCT) signs installed from 2010-2011 -- Marlene wants to learn much more about the CCT; Moss Beach Park acquisition in 2014; Mirada Surf Phase III CalTrans right of way at Surfer's Beach and the bathroom installation at Magellan; opening of Devil's Slide park in March 2014.

-Wants to learn more about what community engagement looks like on the Midcoast. What's been working, what's the forum, how can PD set the table for more and better community engagement?

-Wants to know if the community feels that the PD has completed what they said they were going to do. Is there something that you've noticed isn't done yet? She wants to know. It is important to her; she wants to follow through.

-Devil's Slide Park: tentative plans for ceremonial ribbon cutting on the morning of March 21; PD trying to organize a shuttle. Open all day to the public on March 22. Needs help simulating trail usage on new trail to get nesting Peregrine Falcons used to new traffic; looking for volunteers to help walk the trail. Work being completed includes putting in a fence, new viewing areas, trail reinforcement, restrooms at both ends, signage, and benches.

-Clipper Ridge Park: On County property; looking to help Princeton-by-the-Sea homeowners group refurbish the park.

-Green Valley Trail: some planning still needed; working with CalTrans on the right of way.

-NPS Parking and Trailhead study: working with NPS on that.

-GSD to Community Services District (CSD): working with Local Agency Formation Council (LAFCo) and GSD to better understand service agreements and shared duties.

-Fitzgerald Marine Reserve parking and beach access ramp: On the to-do list. There are at least three different plans for the parking lot according to Parks Department Planner Sam Herzberg. Marlene met with the Fitzgerald Friends group to hear more about parking issues and concerns.

Public Comment

Jim Sullivan, Pacifica — Interconnected, multiuse trails that connect separate properties need to be pursued; these types of trails would be very valuable to local residents.

Bill Bechtel, Montara — Green Valley Trail must be completed, otherwise people will be walking along Highway 1 from Devil's Slide Park to Gray Whale Cove parking area and back. Very dangerous. Also would like to see the gate at the northeast side of Montara Mountain removed/opened to allow access to more than just equestrians.

-Bern Smith, former Coastside resident — Is there an update on the Natural Resources Manager position? A: Have had the first round of interviews; next round of interviews scheduled for next week. Expects to make selection within two weeks.

-Leonard Woren, GSD — Invited Marlene to attend a GSD board meeting. Concerned about the close mowing of the Mirada Surf properties; feels it is not appropriate and is hurting the wetlands.

-Ben Judice, El Granada — Are there any plans for a skate park in El Granada? A: Have not heard that there are, but would like to hear about it if that is something that is important to you.

-Kris Mickelson, Miramar — Welcome from Friends of Mirada Surf East. Close mowing of Mirada Surf is a problem, please take a close look. Looks forward to working with Marlene and PD.

-Sabrina Brennan, Moss Beach — Please contact multiple groups when getting feedback about the Fitzgerald Marine Preserve. There are many interested groups

in addition to the Friends group. Dardanelle Trail revegetation project not completed as planned; please put this project on your radar. MF: How should PD increase community engagement with Fitzgerald stakeholders? SB: Offered to connect Marlene directly with stakeholders.

-Marlene Finley, PD: Public field trip onsite for forest health and safety trimming at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and for San Vicente Creek restoration on Saturday, January 25 at 9:30 a.m. Looking for feedback from public before moving forward on these projects.

-Steven Hill, El Granada — Are there plans for developing the medians in El Granada? Interested in sustainable, natural parks designed to enhance the setting; quoted from the original Burnham Plan.

-Len Erickson, El Granada — Has been very involved with the section of the California Coastal Trail (CCT) that runs from Fitzgerald Marine Preserve to Pillar Point and would like to discuss this section of trail with Marlene and walk it with her.

-Gael Erickson, El Granada — Erosion is getting really bad along the CCT. Are there plans for mediating this? Any communication with City of Half Moon Bay on this issue?

-Pat Tierney, Miramar — A longer-term solution is needed for North Mirada Road, which is becoming threatened by erosion. The bridge is eroding and about to lose an abutment. South Mirada Road needs a comprehensive, multi-agency solution/task force/work force to deal with repair and development; Coastal Trail usage is increasing every year.

-Bill Kehoe, Moss Beach — The 2002 Needs Assessment document is too old to be relevant; it needs an update because priorities may have changed since then and new outreach and input is needed with the current population. Need recreation opportunities on the Midcoast for tweens and teens, 8-17 years old. Hardly any parks at all for this group; a beach or trail doesn't satisfy kids of this age. Keep any new development to scale; this may be a reason why the Fitzgerald parking lot plans have not moved along.

-Cid Young, Moss Beach — Please consider adding signage to the Devil's Slide Tunnel letting motorists know about the parking lots at either end of the tunnel. It is dangerous and confusing right now.

-Kris Liang, Moss Beach — Neighbors of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve in Moss Beach are very excited about the San Vicente Creek restoration project. This project and the Fitzgerald parking situation are interconnected because of the gravel parking areas next to the creek. Residents are very interested in the rebuilding of the Dardanelle Trail. Would love to see a seal cam.

-Michael Liang, Moss Beach — Consider additional law enforcement in the Fitzgerald Marine Preserve at night.

-Erin Deinzer, MCC — Are there plans for overflow parking at Devil's Slide Park? A: We are setting up a multi-agency operations meeting with the Sheriff's Department and the CHP; going to emphasize public transportation like shuttles.

b. Golden Gate National Recreation Area: Rancho Corral de Tierra — National Parks Conservancy Community Planner Christine Carey

-Rancho Corral de Tierra update: NPS took over management in 2011; becoming familiar with the park and the community. Have installed new signage and bridges, made trail improvements; leading guided hikes; erected new fences and barriers. Off-road vehicles entering the park have been reported as a problem. Ongoing outreach through the quarterly newsletter and volunteer days. Vegetation removal for invasive plants is ongoing.

-Strategic planning efforts include fire protection planning and dog planning.

-Christine went through her strategic planning document (handed out at the

meeting) and highlighted issues relevant to Rancho, including end of LeConte Avenue issues and rerouting the Spine Trail. Document represents NPS vision of the future for the park, what they are hoping to accomplish in the next three years, depending on funding. Asked for public input and feedback. More trail signage is coming. Additional cultural resource surveys are planned.

-Upcoming volunteer days on February 1, April 5, and June 7; volunteer days will alternate between trail construction and stewardship.

-Volunteer Horse Patrol Program: This program has been successful in Marin County; Christine thinks it would be appropriate here given the type of use in the park.

-NPS manages five sites in San Mateo County, comprising 7000 acres. Rancho is the largest of the sites. Look to Mori Point as an example of how NPS management can improve site conditions.

-Updates: Interim Trail Plan establishes the trail network at Rancho that NPS will maintain. Putting it out for public comment. Will be sent out soon through the newsletter. Dog plan SCIS public comment period has been extended to February 18. Last open house meeting on January 30 in Stern Grove Park. Golden Gate NRA hosting National Geographic Bioblitz event in March to identify and document all species in the park. Volunteers wanted. "Once in a lifetime event."

Public Comment

Peggy Bechtel, Montara — Some confusion about the name. Is it a national park or a national recreation area? A: GGNRA is a collection of separate national parks; technically it is a national recreation area.

Jim Sullivan, Pacifica — Interagency cooperation is very important. Please be sure that recreationalists are included in all plans, especially given all the attention to bio with the Bioblitz activities and publicity.

-Sabrina Brennan, Moss Beach — What are the next steps for trail planning and the trailhead plan going to look like? A: First thing NPS will do is send out the Interim Trail Plan for public comment via a web link within the next couple of weeks. Also working on a longer-term trail plan. Sabrina: Does the Interim Trail Plan include trailhead parking? A: No, that will come later as specific projects. Looking at a larger strategy, working with all land managers on the Coastside, to identify where parking is needed, how much, and where it can benefit Coastside as a whole.

c. California State Parks: Midcoast Parks — California State Parks Senior Environmental Scientist Joanne Kerbavaz

-Have applied for and received money from the Cosco Busan settlement funds for work on the Martini Creek parking lot on the north side of Montara State Beach. Plan (handed out a map of the project) is not to expand the site but organize what's there now. Goal is to make it work better. Improve it by fixing the stairs down to the beach, reorganize the parking area, establish rainwater capture to improve habitat by creating wetlands, add amenities like picnic tables, and make it more wheelchair accessible.

Public Comment

-Cid Young, Moss Beach — Are the picnic tables only going to be in Half Moon Bay or are you planning them in Montara as well? A: This is just for this specific project. There are two ADA-accessible picnic tables planned.

-Chris Johnson, MCC — Is the parking lot on the east side of Highway 1 north of Martini Creek parking lot included in this plan? A: No, just the Martini Creek lot, but the other lot is part of larger planning and has been identified as a lot in which use exceeds capacity. Chris: Please increase law enforcement presence for both of these lots.

-Len Erickson, El Granada — At south end of Montara State Beach the bluffs are

heavily overgrown. If that was trimmed, there would be a nice walk up to the bluffs there.

-Sabrina Brennan, Moss Beach — How long will the parking lot be closed for construction? A: Good question, but I don't know.

-Carl May, Moss Beach — Have you looked at the Native American site that is close to the parking lot? A: Yes. Most of the area in the footprint has already been disturbed. State archaeologists have looked at the site and determined no significant impact to native artifacts and that there are no substantial cultural deposits in the project footprint.

-Leonard Woren, El Granada — Will the parking lot surface be ordinary asphalt or something more appropriate to a semi-rural setting? A: Asphalt is the preliminary design. Asphalt can come in colors that are not black and shiny; dirt-colored asphalt. Leonard: Are they ever going to complete the Coronado intersection project? A: That is not our project.

-Dave Olson, MCC — At Montara State Beach, is there any thought to using the existing service road down to the beach for wheelchair access? A: No, the grade is too steep.

-Jim Sullivan, Pacifica — Consider posting the project map/plan at the site. Has that happened? A: Not yet. The map/plan will go out to everyone. After the concept stage, we will put it out for public input. Hopes we can all agree that this project is a good thing. This is just the kick-off.

d. El Granada medians — Leonard Woren of the GSD asked to address a comment made earlier in the evening by Steven Hill of El Granada about developing medians for recreation.

-One of the conditions stipulated by LAFCo for approval of CSD application was that the GSD adopt as their initial guiding document the County's Midcoast Parks and Rec action plan. One of the elements in this plan is making improvements to the medians in El Granada boulevards. For more information and to provide input, contact Leonard through the GSD website. Median development will be high on the board's list when/if they get approval.

Adjournment -- 8:50 p.m.