

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, March 26, 2014, at Granada Sanitary District Offices, El Granada, CA

Call to Order — 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Ketcham, Olson, Johnson, and Haggerty.

Absent: Deinzer, Janoe, Stein

--Captain Mike Maskarich, CHP

--9 members of the public

1. Board of Supervisors' (BoS) Report

--Surfer's Beach update — Chris Johnson

-Attended a conference call for the County-sponsored agency workgroup dealing with funding for planning/permitting of southern segment of Midcoast Highway 1 Parallel Trail on March 20, 2014. Also on the call were reps from County, California Coastal Commission (CCC), and Caltrans. Formal project description and scope of work to be made publicly available in the next few weeks. Spirit and tenure of the meeting and participating parties was cooperative.

--Traffic safety update — Captain Mike Maskarich, CHP

-Sunshine Valley Road — This is an ongoing concern for CHP. Continuing high-visibility enforcement and safety efforts to curtail speed problem. Most tickets being issued are to local residents who should be aware of the posted speed limit. Traffic survey is ongoing. County is considering some engineering changes to improve safety. Good spirit of cooperation between County and CHP.

-CHP also working on improved public safety for Highway 1 and general Midcoast. If anybody has concerns, questions, or comments, contact Captain Maskarich.

-CHP is preparing for Dream Machines on April 27, 2014 and the Half Moon Bay International marathon on September 21, 2014.

-Lee Champion, Montara — Is there a speed monitor currently in use on Sunshine Valley Road? A: Captain Maskarich — Yes. And the road has been striped. Speed bumps are not applicable to this area because they could actually make conditions less safe.

-Dan Haggerty, MCC — Is it legal to park on Highway 1 unless it is specifically posted as no parking? A: Captain Maskarich — Yes.

-Dan Haggerty, MCC — Is a car that is parked on Highway 1 and is touching the fog line ticketable? A: Captain Maskarich — There are many factors to consider, and it is ultimately up to the officer on the scene. If the vehicle is determined to be a hazard as it is parked, then yes.

2. Public Comment

--Chris Johnson, MCC Secretary—The County of San Mateo's Devil's Slide Trail Park opens on Thursday, March 27. This park is amazing; the roadway is one of the most beautiful stretches of roadway he's ever been on. However, he will be riding his bicycle to the opening to highlight the fact that there is no safe bicycle or pedestrian access, from either the north or the south, to this wonderful new bicycle and pedestrian park. He feels that the lack of sufficient parking means that people will be parking in places other than the two associated lots and then walking along Highway 1 to the park. Worries that somebody is going to be killed. Says it is imperative that the County develop the Pedro Point Trail and the Green Valley Trail ASAP.

--Natalie Mutz, El Granada — Attended the County Planning Department's preapplication planning workshop for the proposed 15-unit Mavericks Apartments project in El Granada on March 25, 2014. Opposes the Mavericks Apartments

project. Stated that the community's greatest objections were to the density of the project and parking issues. She hopes that there is a way to affect change to the zoning/permitting ordinances so that larger and larger developments won't be proposed for El Granada or to at least address existing parking problems. Feels that high-density development doesn't make sense in El Granada because it doesn't have the supporting resources needed by a high-density population. Wants to get a dialogue started on code changes, specifically the County's parking formula.

-Lisa Ketcham, MCC Chair — Will collect documents that explain the existing zoning and send them to Natalie. Stated that changing zoning is no easy proposition and any changes have to be approved by the CCC, which can be a lengthy process, as witnessed by the 12 years it took to certify the most recent version of the Local Coastal Plan (LCP).

--Alma Salas, El Granada — Portola Road and Palma Road are already difficult to navigate and their drainage is extremely poor. Says that County continues to add layers of surfacing to the middle of the roads so that runoff water will flow to the curb gutters but the middle of the streets are now so high that runoff is splashing over the tops of the curbs. Dip is now so big that her car scrapes its undercarriage. Wants street drains or some re-engineering of the streets to provide for better drainage. Has previously contacted County Public Works and Supervisor Horsley's office but has received no response. She also opposes the Mavericks Apartment complex project because it is out of place in El Granada and the density is too high.

--Leonard Woren, El Granada — Opposes the Mavericks Apartments project. Feels that the proposed parking plan is especially a problem. Wants the MCC to agendaize an item about Midcoast parking requirements. Feels there is too much reliance on street parking. The Mavericks project is too dense for the Midcoast, and its proposed roof deck is prohibited by the LCP.

--Lisa Ketcham, MCC Chair — Made a couple of announcements.

-Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training sessions will be held on Thursdays in April in Half Moon Bay. Contact Michelle Ortiz at 650.726.5213 for more information.

-On April 12, 2014, there is a County-sponsored household hazardous waste drop-off event scheduled. It is by appointment only. Call 650.363.4718 to make an appointment and find out the location.

3. Consent Agenda Approved 4-0

- a. Approve letter to Harbor Commission requesting MCC representation on Harbor District Strategic Business Plan Advisory Committee. See www.midcoastcommunitycouncil.org/storage/mtgs-com2014/2014-03-26-MCC-HD-SBPAC-rep.pdf.

4. Regular Agenda

- a. **Conversion to LED street lighting in the Midcoast.** MCC Chair Lisa Ketcham filled in for Nicholas Calderón and showed Nicholas' digital presentation regarding the replacement of existing street lighting with LED lighting. See www.midcoastcommunitycouncil.org/storage/mtgs-com2014/2014-03-26-LED-Basics.pdf.

--County wants to replace existing fixtures with LED lights. No additional lights proposed. Lumens (brightness, intensity) will be comparable to existing conditions.

--LED lighting uses substantially less energy and costs less.

--LED lighting offers a more natural color spectrum. For an example, see the new lights installed by Air Force at Pillar Point.

--County wants to install some "pilot" lights in commercial areas of Montara, Moss Beach, and El Granada to give the community a chance to see what they will be

like. No new light poles will be added and the new lights will not be brighter than the existing ones.

--P. Shawn McGraw, El Granada — Opposes switch to LED lighting. Moved to Midcoast to see the Milky Way. Feels nighttime visibility has diminished over the last 20 years. Concerned that LED lighting will add to night sky pollution and reduce the star count. Cited a recent study (see www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/09/110912092554.htm) that found that LED lighting decreases melatonin production. Feels this is a very important issue for the Midcoast.

--Lee Champion, Montara — Opposes switch to LED lighting. Used a print of Van Gogh's "Starry, Starry Night" to highlight how she'd like the Midcoast night sky to appear. Wants more darkness and wants to be able to see the constellations at night. Feels the scope of the lighting project is too large. There are too many lights.

--Leonard Woren, El Granada — Opposes switch to LED lighting. Midcoast is semi-rural. Doesn't want the Midcoast to look like San Francisco or the San Fernando Valley. Feels that any power savings will be offset by municipalities who will use the cost savings to increase brightness. Wants an iron-clad assurance that no new lights will be added and that the intensity/brightness will not be increased. States that there is no consistency to the lighting fixtures currently in use; feels there should be no more than two different kinds of light fixtures on the Midcoast. Asserts that one "pilot" light per community is enough.

--Bill Kehoe, Moss Beach — Wonders why PG&E is really doing this and asks why Midcoasters should trust them after what happened in San Bruno. Feels that PG&E is trying to establish some kind of mandate that will deliver a financial gain to them in the form of government rebates or some similar vehicle. Asks where is the County's lighting plan for the Midcoast? Feels there is currently no rhyme or reason to lighting on the Midcoast. Asks whether the Midcoast really needs all this light; darkness is one of the reasons people move here. Doesn't believe the County even knows exactly how many lights they have on the Midcoast, therefore how can they promise us, in all good faith, that no new ones will be added? Proposes the following questions: Where is the current County lighting plan? What is the current level of lumens? Without the current plan as a baseline, there is no way to know if this new plan will be better.

--Lisa Ketcham, MCC Chair — There are three lighting districts on the Midcoast. PG&E charges a flat rate for each light. Princeton and Airport St. are not in any lighting district – all lighting there is private.

--Natalie Muntz, El Granada — Opposes switch to LED lighting. Notes that stargazing is a tourism/visitor driver. Related a personal story about living in Tubac, Arizona, and how that city's introduction of LED lighting ruined the view of the night sky.

--James Stafford, El Granada — Downward-facing street lights make it worse for people under the lights. The benefit is for people living away from the lights who won't see the glow.

--Chris Johnson, MCC Secretary — Took an informal poll of the audience with a show of hands for how many opposed LED lighting and how many favored the status quo. All but one member of the audience raised their hands in opposition to LED lighting, but audience was about split as to whether they favored the status quo.

--Dave Olson, MCC Vice Chair — The Board of Supervisors (BoS) sits as boards on the lighting districts. This is the chance to provide feedback to the BoS on this issue.

--Dan Haggerty, MCC — Is not necessarily opposed to the cost-savings and environmental benefits of LED lighting but moved to the Midcoast for the chance to

see and appreciate the night sky. Doesn't want night sky taken away from him; doesn't want brighter lights. Wants things to stay the same. Asks whether a change should be made right now when LED technology is rapidly improving. Wants to see the data the County is using as the basis for this action. Can the County use LED lights that duplicate the light/intensity/feeling that the current lights have right now?

--Leonard Woren, El Granada — Wants the light stanchions lowered so that light is less expansive. Wants brightness reduced. Feels the only light needed at night is just enough to see the sidewalk in front of you. The County should use this as an opportunity to tone down the intensity of the lighting.

--Dave Olson, MCC Vice Chair — Mentioned several points.

- There is now a much wider selection of LED light colors; the County should be asked to consider many spectrum choices and fixtures.
- Dark-sky lighting does make a substantial difference in reducing night sky light pollution.
- Incandescent lights are going away, so something new will be on the Midcoast eventually.
- The County should be asked what their plans and policies are for the Midcoast lighting districts. Whatever the plan is, it should not be the same plan as an urban community.

--Lisa Ketcham, MCC Chair — Comments MCC has received on Facebook and Nextdoor mirror comments made by the audience tonight: concerns about light pollution, excess glare and brightness. Notes that the optimal color spectrum would be as close to natural moonlight as possible.

--Jim Boyle, El Granada — Night lights do help to deter crime. If we keep crime out, we can better enjoy our community. We may have to sacrifice some things if we don't keep the criminal element out and lights will help do that.

- b. **Letter of support for County application for Active Transportation Program grant funding for the Highway 1 Parallel Trail in Moss Beach and Montara (Ketcham).** The MCC reviewed a draft letter to the County requesting that grant funding be provided for this critical active transportation trail. See www.midcoastcommunitycouncil.org/storage/mtgs-com2014/2014-03-26-MCC-PTnorth-grant-support.pdf.

--Bill Kehoe, Moss Beach — Warned that the Highway 1 Parallel Trail should not cross back and forth across Highway 1 near the airport. Instead, feels the trail should run along the east side of Highway 1.

--Lisa Ketcham, MCC Chair — This letter does not address this section of the trail. This is for the section from Marine/Cypress in Moss Beach up to Montara State Beach.

--Leonard Woren, El Granada — Does not want the County to name any of the trail segments after people, especially politicians.

--Councilmembers voted 4-0 to approve the MCC letter.

- c. **Update of 1999 Midcoast Public Services Guide.** The MCC tabled review of the existing County-published Midcoast Citizens Public Services Guide. See www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/vgn/images/portal/cit_609/10073412mc_com.pdf. MCC councilmembers agreed that it would be better to make any notes or recommended edits offline and then send those comments directly to Nicholas Calderón, who will be the one updating the version of the guide on the County website.

5. Council Activity

--MCC Secretary Chris Johnson reported on the following meetings and events:

- Coastside Design Review Committee (CDRC) monthly hearing, March 13, 2014. Johnson reported that the two community subcommittees that reviewed projects at the meeting were fully staffed and working well.
- County-sponsored agency workgroup dealing with funding for planning/permitting of southern segment of Midcoast Highway 1 Parallel Trail conference call, March 20, 2014. See Board of Supervisors Report.
- Granada Sanitary District (GSD) monthly board meeting, March 20, 2014.
 - GSD board member Ric Lohman is now an alternate on the LAFCo board.
 - GSD is talking with County Parks Director Marlene Finley about a letter of understanding that would enable County Parks to manage the parks and recreation aspect of a newly formed Community Services District (CSD).
 - The redesigned GSD website is now live.
 - GSD board member Leonard Woren reported that the SAM board is working well together right now and is not experiencing the personality conflicts of previous years.
 - SAM has formed a recycled water committee that includes Ric Lohman, Allan Alifano, and Scott Boyd.
 - GSD reported that over the last 20 years, the average GSD rate has increased just 1.8 percent.
 - LAFCo approved without debate an impartial analysis of the GSD application for CSD (Measure G) by LAFCo executive officer Martha Poyatos.
- County Planning Department pre-application public workshop for the proposed Mavericks Apartment project, March 25, 2014. This workshop was attended by about 35 members of the community. Overwhelmingly, those in attendance opposed the project, primarily for the following reasons: too high density, parking issues not resolved, drainage problems, design not representative of El Granada.
- MCC Chair Lisa Ketcham made the following announcements:
 - The Half Moon Bay City Council invited an MCC representative to attend Library Stakeholder meetings. MCC Vice Chair Dave Olson volunteered to be the MCC designate at the April 9, 2014, meeting.
 - At the next Harbor Commission meeting on April 2, 2014, at Seacrest School in Half Moon Bay, there will be an agenda item for consideration of the purchase agreement for the GSD building in El Granada. Chair Ketcham stated that she feels it is a good thing for the Harbor Commission to purchase this building for their needs rather than build a new structure at the harbor.
 - At the Harbor Commission meeting on March 19, 2014, the Harbor Commission voted to resume video recording of its meetings by Pacific Coast TV.

6. Future Agendas

- 04/09/14 — Removal of the 7th Street fence in Montara; County staff will present a proposal for what they intend to do for the end of 7th Street. Midpeninsula Region Open Space District (MROSD) staff will make a presentation about their recently completed vision plan and their upcoming ballot measure for June 3, 2014. GSD GM Chuck Duffy will make an information-only presentation about the GSD's upcoming ballot measure for June 3, 2014, regarding converting GSD to a CSD.
- 04/23/14 — Rodenticide presentation from Raptors Are The Solution (RATS).
- MCC Vice Chair Dave Olson agreed to begin developing an agenda item for review and discussion of County zoning requirements for parking.

Adjournment — 8:55 p.m.