

# 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 April 23, 2014, at GSD

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

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

Government officials: CHP Capt. Mike Maskarich

>30 members of the public

### **1. Board of Supervisors' Report** and other government agencies

Nicholas Calderón:

**Joint Office Hours Gordon/Horsley:** May 2, 8-9:30AM, HMB Coffee Company.

**Grant App for Hwy 1 Parallel Trail North Segment:** have MCC and school district support; will ask Parent Teacher Organization.

**Congestion Mgmt Project Hwy 1 crossings/medians:** will meet shortly with MCC sub-committee to plan community outreach and meeting.

CHP Capt Mike Maskarich:

**Hwy 1 shoulder line at Safeway** – repainted by Caltrans, not meant for traffic, except for 100 ft from intersection for turning.

**Movie filming** recently caused Hwy 1 traffic backup. Permit from CA Film Commission was being operated appropriately. CHP can shut down operations if there is a safety issue, but this step is not taken lightly. CHP will look at permits more closely as to proposed operations and reach out to Film Commission if necessary. Caltrans approves/denies permits.

**Parking complaints** – will work with DPW to help resolve issues.

**Triathlon traffic impacts 4/20** – caused considerable congestion in HMB (Sheriff Dept jurisdiction). Will work with organizers to improve future events – avoid crossing hwy.

Nicholas Calderón:

**Special Events Permit Process** – Supervisor's Aide Chris Hunter is working with Planning Dept, Sheriff Dept, and CHP to refine process to mitigate/avoid congestion/safety issues.

**Dream Machines** Sunday, April 27, 10-4.

### **2. Public Comment**

Leonard Woren: **GSD recycling event**, Sat. 4/26, 9-1 on Burnham Strip property at end Ave Portola. **GSD Town Hall meeting May 1**, 7:30, at El Granada Elementary School: Q&A regarding Measure G (GSD reorganization as Community Services District in order to provide parks and recreation services).

Dan Haggerty: Coastside Fire Board is discussing purchase of Harbor District lot next to Post Office at their meeting tonight.

### **3. Consent Agenda:** no items submitted.

### **4. Regular Agenda**

- a. (7:20) **Rodenticides** (Deinzer). Poison baits used to control rodents, and the unintended secondary poisoning of wildlife and pets that eat dead or dying rodents that have consumed these baits. Presentation by Lisa Owens-Viani, representative for Raptors Are The Solution (RATS), a Bay Area conservation group working to eradicate anticoagulants from our ecosystem. **Desired Outcome:** Informational

Ms Owens-Viani gave powerpoint presentation. Her website:

<http://www.raptorsarethesolution.org/>

EPA and CA State have passed legislation restricting the extremely potent second-generation anticoagulant poisons, but Reckitt Benckiser, manufacturer of D-Con, is fighting them in court, delaying enactment of the legislation. At WildCare in San Rafael, wildlife rehab facility, 76% of all animals tested came out positive for rat poison. Even if not killing animals outright, rodenticides are affecting their behavior and survival.

Rodent control alternatives at <http://saferodentcontrol.org/site/>

Marin County has a pest specific management plan for rats that uses no poisons:

[http://egovwebprod.marinpublic.com/depts/PK/Main/IPM/Data%20Files/Pest\\_Specific\\_Plans/Rat\\_Plan.pdf](http://egovwebprod.marinpublic.com/depts/PK/Main/IPM/Data%20Files/Pest_Specific_Plans/Rat_Plan.pdf)

Leonard Woren: Thanks for pursuing this issue. County had rat poison bait stations along Denniston Creek near outlet. County needs to get on board.

Unnamed public: Does the County have a rat abatement program? Rats in his neighborhood.

Lisa Ketcham: County Vector Control includes rats as well as mosquitoes.

Nicholas Calderón: County has no ban on rodenticides, is careful in their use. He will find out more from Environmental Health Dept. on County rodenticide use on the Coastside.

Dan Haggerty: Do bird feeders have any effect? [Birdseed attracts rats, not raptors.]

Lisa Ketcham: Proposed action for future meeting: at minimum, ask County Vector Control for additional information on their website regarding secondary kill of pets/wildlife that eat poisoned rodents. County vector control person came to Pillar Ridge un-asked a couple years ago to offer to place poison bait stations along the creek behind our neighborhood which is surrounded by open space preserve with nesting raptors. We said no thanks.

Nicholas Calderón: If Council wants to take action, he could have either Environmental Health or County Vector Control person come to future MCC meeting to discuss County rodent control policies.

Erin Deinzer suggested someone from Marin County come to discuss their program.

Nicholas Calderón: County does like to consult with other counties in situations like this, such as work with Marin and Santa Cruz County regarding roadside herbicide use.

- b. (7:50) **Montara Coast 7<sup>th</sup> Street fence** (Ketcham). County staff will present the plan for removal of the fence that closes off the coastal end of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and installation of guardrails for vehicle safety. **Desired Outcome:** Informational

Nicholas stood in for County Counsel and Public Works staff who had been scheduled to attend. He reiterated Supervisor Horsley's commitment to getting the fence removed, but had no new information about the guardrails that will replace it and other details, or the date when this might happen. Supervisor Horsley has instructed County Counsel and DPW to revoke the encroachment permit and remove the fence which is in the public right of way. County and adjacent homeowner are in conversations about how to retain privacy along the public Marine Walk to the west of their house.

Lisa: The hedge laced with barbed wire across the south part of the end of 7<sup>th</sup> St. should be cut off at ground level since it consists of invasive *Pittosporum* that is invading the cliff face, blocks the view almost as much as the fence, and naturally grows to 12 ft tall. It is the same invasive species slated for removal as part of San Vicente Creek restoration.

Nicholas: Thought only part of the hedge would be removed due to steep drop-off behind the hedge. Don't want to create a situation where people will endanger themselves. Project needs specific permits from both County and Coastal Commission.

Dave: Would like details on when the drainage ditch upgrade along 7<sup>th</sup> St. will happen.

Karen Wilson: Concerned with continual delays and lack of information that was scheduled for this agenda item. 2x4 bracing recently added at cliff edge to hold up the fence is damaging the cliff.

Nicholas: The encroachment permit will be revoked (if it hasn't already) and the fence will come down, but can't provide a timeline now. County Counsel via email: "will need to get CCC approval for this matter."

Sabrina Brennan: Midcoast is lined with steep cliffs and it isn't practical to fence them all for safety. The split rail fence style at FMR would be more appropriate because you can see through it.

Leonard Woren: Happy to hear 7<sup>th</sup> St fence will come down. DPW should not issue any new encroachment permits on the Coastsides. Suggest County inform property owner to cease maintaining fence. Fencing not needed to keep people from falling off the cliff – caution signage is sufficient. What is status on new mound of dirt at Hwy 1/Coronado?

Nicholas: Mound of dirt was added to keep people from parking there. Mound is less view blocking than cars.

Len Erickson: Please ask the owner to keep the gate open – it has been closed lately.

c. (8:20) **Moss Beach Skate Park** (Olson) – a community discussion.

--Safety and the future of public access at the 11-acre parcel owned by California School Employees Association (CSEA) in northern Moss Beach. In addition to WWII barracks foundations and MWSD water storage tanks, the parcel contains a user-built concrete skate park, slated for demolition by the property owner.

--The need for a Midcoast skate park – where, how, who can get it done?

Dave Olson: Opened the discussion. Hopes a way can be found to keep access to the property, keep it clean and safe, without significant liability to the property owner.

Dan Haggerty: This demonstrates the need for recreation facilities on the Coastsides; sad that issues were not addressed early on, and that the kids lose out.

Roy Ramos, CSEA Facilities Director, said he has managed this property for 14 years and had allowed ongoing activities (skate park) until recently. Recent complaints/pictures of activities/conditions on the property were received and discussed by CSEA Board. The insurance company required for liability reasons, demolition of the skate park, no trespassing signage, fencing of the property, and a security patrol. He was tasked to carry out those directives. Fence will be 6ft chain link. Hired patrol visits property at random times. Offered his business card, said public could email him with their concerns. There is no long-term plan for the property -- likely will be sold eventually.

Dan Blick, Moss Beach: Thanks for time that his son and his friends have had there while it lasted. Vacant property was a valuable recreation asset for young people on the Coastsides. Fervently hope that something can be developed to replace it.

David Blick (son): Learned all his skating skills there, video skills, devastated that it's gone, now have to go to Pacifica or HMB to skate. We need a park built with permits.

Ronnie Beck, Moss Beach skater: Amazing important place to many skaters – memories and friends made there. What will replace it? Local kids/teenagers who can't drive have no good close places to skate. "California Skateparks" could build it. Boys and Girls Club could help fund. Suggest near or next to Jetty ramp in El Granada.

Valerie Dubois, Moss Beach: How can we work together on the next step, building a new skate park somewhere? At that property, or open space?

Dave Olson: Initial answer from POST, County, MROSD is either not interested in property or short of money. Property was listed for sale in 2007 for \$2.6 million, but that lapsed. MWSD has big expanses of concrete on their property west of Hwy 1, which is also former military base.

Gino Padua, Moss Beach: Need to get creative for 12-18 yr olds. Willing to help find a way to purchase this property or find another location.

Sean Handel, Moss Beach: Clearly a need for skate park - at another location. Access for delivery/emergency trucks on Lincoln impacted by proposed fence. Would like to see the

property go back to the way it was, just for peaceful walking, bicycles. Could County or community organization buy it?

Audrey Patchett, Moss Beach: Have not used property lately due to safety concerns, so have mixed feelings about what is going on now. Agree with Sean about accessible but safe with some kind of oversight.

Jeff McKowan, Moss Beach: Support banding together as a community to help find a way to preserve that open space. Thank Mr. Ramos for attending and explaining. Wonder how 6ft chain link will address liability in terms of people just hoping over or cutting out the fence.

Roy Ramos, CSEA: We're just doing what is required to keep our liability insurance. If someone goes on the property anyway and gets hurt, that's their problem.

Bill Kehoe, Moss Beach: Brings up the issue of Midcoast parks for teens and tweens. Where's the County plan for parks?

Sabrina Brennan, Moss Beach: Measure G (June 3) gives an opportunity for residents of El Granada Sanitary District (El Granada, Princeton, Miramar) to vote to have a parks district.

Leonard Woren, El Granada: Have been advocating for parks powers for GSD for 14 years. This issue and Moss Beach Park underscore that public recreation areas need to be publicly owned.

Richard Gates, Moss Beach: Watched skate park construction. Kids were great neighbors. Only problem was off road vehicles. Thanks for great use of the property over the years. Sad about the skate park, but when you build something on private property you can't expect to keep it.

Kai Conragan, Moss Beach: Need alternatives for the skate park. Fence will have high impact on Lincoln St. properties' access by large vehicles. Please consider setting fence back into the property. Have you considered an Environmental Impact Report on fencing such a large parcel that has been open for over 35 years? [Ramos: County Code Enforcement did not request one.]

Deborah Harter Williams, Moss Beach: This is most impressive public meeting she's ever attended – level of civility, listening, true conversation. Her group, CoastsideConversations.com, is trying to get that to happen across the Coastside, collecting groups of people to discuss specific issues such as parks.

Victor Lee, Moss Beach: Most people respected the property. Putting the fence would be a travesty. At least allow space for turning fire trucks on Lincoln. {Ramos: send request in email and he will see what he can do.}

Julie Brookman, Friends of Moss Beach Park (MBP) - new on Board: Very upset about losing skate park. Personally would like to see MBP have a skate park. We need recreation for kids and the County needs to help us. Skate park is healthy activity that keeps kids out of trouble.

Lisa Ketcham: Showed slide of MBP parcel and smaller adjacent parcel, across from grocery store, that might be available and suitable for skate park. There will be meeting of Friends of MBP and County Parks staff in May (date to be determined) where the public could attend and bring this up. Younger children using play structures will soon grow and may be interested in skate park.

Richard Gates: Many of the skaters were in their 20's -- won't go to a playground. This was an advanced park built by skaters. Young skaters advanced their skills quickly there.

Dave Olson: Talked to some skaters on the property (not from Midcoast) – it was clear the building of it was an important part. If we can find a new location, it would be good to include the skaters in the planning/building process.

Dan Haggerty: Regarding GSD forming Community Services District, good example is El Dorado Hills, CA: <http://www.eldoradohillscsd.org/> - skate park is always in use.

Roy Ramos took his leave.

Nicholas: Recap: Several community members had brought safety concerns to the county as far back as 3 years ago, asking us to talk to the property owner and pass emails along. Recently when the property owners saw the emails and videos they became concerned, and took the action they felt was necessary. Will pass along to Supervisor Horsley the concern about retaining emergency vehicle access so he also can directly request that. Will make sure Parks Director hears that we need more forms of recreation for teenagers. Thanked everyone for coming and for your civility. Know you're all being directly impacted.

Julie Brookman: Private Security Patrol is very disturbing and intimidating. Sheriff was doing a good job – don't think private patrol is necessary.

Nicholas will see if Sheriff can work together with Patrol.

Dave Olson: Could prescriptive rights be explored, given the property is within 1,000 yards of the coast?

Nicholas will pass that along to County Counsel.

Erin Deinzer: How did Pacifica get their skate park?

Nicholas: Cities have Park/Rec departments for community parks. County only recently acquired their first pocket park (Moss Beach Park), but that was a unique situation where intervention was urgently needed to save the park from tax lien sale. County doesn't do park & rec. Managing a tot lot is more difficult than you might imagine. Still figuring that out, getting structure up to code. Skate park is a whole other beast. Will see if there is a future for County-run skate park, but so far that is not the direction we are going.

#### **5. Council Activity** – none reported

#### **6. Future Agendas**

May 14 – Coastside Emergency Corps (Gottuso)

Devil's Slide Ride

Unpermitted encroachments in the public right of way (DPW)

**Adjournment** – 9:40pm