

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

Dave Olson, Chair
Chris Johnson, Vice Chair
Lisa Ketcham, Secretary
Dan Haggerty, Treasurer
Erin Deinzer
Laura Stein
(Vacancy)

Approved Minutes: Meeting on Sept. 9, 2015, at GCSD

Call to Order (7:02)

Councilmembers present: Dan Haggerty, Laura Stein, Dave Olson, Chris Johnson, (Erin Deinzer arrived 7:35). Dave Olson acting as Secretary
Government: Chris Hunter, Capt Mike Maskarich, CHP
Approximately 20 members of the public.

1. Board of Supervisors' Report and Reports from other Government Officials

Chris Hunter:

Library Community Meetings: 5 meetings being held throughout the Midcoast and Half Moon Bay. Flyers on the table, and on the MCC website.

Seton Hospital Update: Blue Mountain bid in process, under review by California Attorney General's office. Supervisor Horsley and Chris met with the Daughters of Health Charity Sept 8th. There is no new information on approval or conditions. Supervisor Horsley is committed to action, if the deal fails and closures are scheduled.

MCC applicants: At least 2 applicants, interviews will be scheduled soon.

Surfers Beach: No update on start date for construction, will let council know as soon as available.

Pescadero, Butano Creek: Grant approved, joint effort with RCD and other organizations, will restore portions of creek and reconfigure to reduce flooding.

CDRC: Applications received and passed along to County Clerk (response to question from Laura Stein).

Capt. Mike Maskarich:

Traffic: Met with PMAC and Lt Munsey of Sheriff's office. No easy answers, but working with Caltrans and other organizations, looking at signal timing, and other possible solutions to improve traffic flow. Not enough officers to routinely use officers to direct traffic. Anybody who would like to see higher staffing levels should write to their local state assemblyman and state senator.

Planning is in progress for Pumpkin Festival. Audience member asked about Linda Mar bridge project. Capt Mike didn't have an update; Chair Olson gave info from Caltrans about plans to complete the project (including signal timing) over next 2 weeks.

Surfers Beach: Mary Larenas asked that CHP enforce no parking in red curb section south of Pillar Pt RV Park because of impact to traffic. Capt Mike said that they would try, but they are extremely short of officers all through their territory, so can't put extra officers on this and similar issues. They will address safety issues when they see them.

Accidents: Main cause of increased accidents on Hwy 1 seems to be DUI-related. Off Hwy-1 (local streets), unsafe turns are the major cause. Gael Erickson mentioned seeing increasing numbers of passing on the right.

2. Public Comment & Announcements:

Chris Johnson (as an individual) spoke on his concerns of Surfers Beach, Pumpkin Festival, and DPW work on the street resurfacing all happening at nearly the same time, and also GCSD pipe replacement projects. He hopes we can avoid it, but everybody should be prepared for more traffic delays.

3. Consent Agenda: Minutes for August 26th, 2015 and Treasurer's report for 2014-2015, approved 4-0.

4. Regular Agenda

a. (7:31) Letter to Department of Public Works in regards to LED streetlights -

Chris Johnson introduced the letter, and stated that the County has listened to the council and residents, as well as encouraging comment via the website. He summarized the current status that we were waiting for confirmation and dates for lower intensity versions of the amber streetlights. Also that general feeling was that the amber lights were still too bright.

Laura Stein asked about shield prices, and what does Chris Johnson see as the ideal result. Chris answered that specific process for shields, a form to request them (rather than just email or phone calls), and a timely response from the County, with committed dates installation. Laura asked about the current process. Dave replied that many people don't know it's possible, and the process is to call DPW on the phone, or send mail to streetlights@smcgov.org

Dan Haggerty requested actual intensity values. Dave looked at specs and gave values for the "whiter" equivalents, didn't have actual amber values. The current amber lights are 3960 lumens, the requested amber would be 2990 lumens (about 25% less bright). Dan wanted information the MCC website; Dave responded the specifications are on the MCC website already.

Public comments:

Mary Larenas, MB: Darker is better for good sleep. Said light at Beach & Nevada near her is too bright. Wants a process in place before LED streetlights are installed

Ed Carter, Montara: Supports letter, thinks more work is needed, will need to resolve issues when neighbors disagree about shields.

Ric Lohman, Miramar: Favors dimmer lights, mentioned astronomical filters to avoid streetlight. Wants the Midcoast to be dark and quiet.

Deborah Lardie, Montara: Current streetlight near her house is too bright. Wants shields and diffusers on all streetlights. Would like a delay installing lights to see if better LED streetlights become available.

Karen Wilson, Montara: submitted an email, summarized by Dave. Asks that all lights be installed with shields and diffusers, agrees with Deborah Lardie. Thinks the demonstration lights should have been installed in residential areas.

Dave responded that all LED streetlights have built-in diffusers, with no extra diffusers available. The diffusers set the pattern of the light on the roadway, etc.

There is no way to have a universal shield, and shields can actually increase light pollution, because they concentrate the light in a smaller area.

Chris Johnson said he would prefer fewer or no streetlights. Mentioned that Palm Desert has no streetlights on most streets, and he liked it. Mentioned the possibility of requesting streetlight removal in the future. Has a streetlight shining in his bedroom currently, agrees that the current ones are too bright.

Gael Erickson, EG: Asked reason for lights, just cost saving? Chris Johnson answered cost saving, and CO2 reduction. Gael asked why not in residential area. Dave answered that demonstration lights were installed where they would be seen by the most people, seemed like a bad idea to have lots of extra traffic through a residential neighborhood to look at the lights. Gael asked who is making the decision, and whether a consultant was involved in the decision. Dave answered that DPW is making the decision, and PG&E is doing the installation and initiated the project (because PG&E does the maintenance, and will get a tax credit for the lower energy use). Asked how to make comments. Dave said that the process has been going on for 20 months, there was a website earlier. Comments can be made through the MCC. Next round will be after the lower intensity lights are installed.

Michael McAllis(sp?), Montara: Asked why the lights are being replaced, was it being forced. Dave answered that it's being done because a lot of lights are burned out, and in addition we'll save money and energy by switching to LED. Asked about cost savings. Dave answered about 60% energy savings. Michael thought that if we delayed, the streetlights might improve significantly. Didn't like the 4K color. Doesn't like bright lights near residences.

Curt Grisham, MB: Talked about the specs and what to look at in the specs. There was some back and forth with Dave on meaning of specs. Dave re-iterated that lumens are the thing to look at.

April Vargas, Montara: Why do we need the lights replaced if nobody seems to want them? It's worth repeating old comments if they aren't being heard or acted on. Asked if any new lights are going to be installed. Dave replied No, but burned out lights would be replaced.

Mary Larenas: Reiterated concerns, and asked for further delay. Asked that we include in the letter a process for removal. Chris Johnson said no, it would detract from the purpose of the letter, and that Dave was working on a process for removal. Dave apologized for the delay in requesting that process.

Deborah Lardie: Doesn't like the light pattern or brightness, and we should delay for improvements.

Michael McAllis: Asked why now. Dave mentioned one reason for replacing burned out lights is possible liability if somebody gets hurt. Asked for specific maintenance costs vs replacement. Dave asked Chris Hunter to see if he could get those costs. Wondered why replace now. Dave explained again that PG&E is doing the replacement at no cost to the county (for the tax credit). Asked about Hwy 1 streetlights. Dave replied that it would be Caltrans District 4, and that the contact info is on the website.

Motion: Approve the letter as written. approved 4-0 (Erin had to leave prior to vote)

5. Council Activity (8:30) –

Chris Johnson reported on GCSD selection of Parks Advisory Committee, 7 voting members appointed, and 1 non-voting member from outside the district. Committee will meet at least 4 times/year, and all meetings are open to all interested parties.

6. Future Agendas (8:45) -

Sep 23 - Community Choice Energy Update, Parallel Trail southern segment design/alignment

Oct 14 (tentative): Connect the Coastside (County presentation)

Nov 11 – Sister Cities program presentation

(TBD) - Midcoast Highway 1 crossings preferred alternatives.

(TBD) – Coastside Health Services (Seton)

Adjournment (8:55)