

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 . Claire Toutant . Dan Haggerty . Chris Johnson . Brandon Kwan

Approved Minutes: Meeting on October 25, 2017, at GCSD

Call to Order. 7:00 PM

Attendance: all six Councilmembers present,
3 government representatives, and 20 members of the public

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

Ellie Dallman, assistant to Supervisor Don Horsley:

Broadway street-end improvements, including wooden benches and signage are now complete. Public Works is now looking at beach access improvements at Vassar and Columbia. Steeper topography at Columbia will require survey and soil analysis to determine what is needed there.

Homeless encampment in the riparian area behind HMB Safeway will likely be disbanded. County is working with HMB to address the challenges. The impact will possibly be partially offset by the expansion of the stock of shelter beds on the Bayside by 20-30.

HMB Airport DART disaster drill will be conducted by the HMB Pilots Association this Saturday, 10/28.

Parallel Trail: A meeting was held with the consultants today who are working to have 60% plans done by December. Since the trail is within the Caltrans right-of-way, Caltrans requires additional design review for the steel bridge and for the retaining wall along the willow thicket.

Gray Whale Cove crossing planning process continues. Although Caltrans does not prohibit over- or under-crossings, the environmental impacts, space required, and increased expense are problematic. The County is responsible for funding the project. Based on 10% design, estimated construction cost is \$1.25 million for the at-grade crossing and center turn lanes.

Harvey Rarback, Member, Half Moon Bay City Council:

Homelessness: After a special meeting, no suitable proposals or locations for a local homeless shelter have been located. Due to severe environmental degradation, people will be evicted from the creek-side camps within 90 days. Efforts will be made to provide individual planning for those evicted, including making accommodations for pets and property in shelters over the hill.

Cannabis: City Attorney is working on a draft cannabis ordinance, which will be published soon. A one-month public comment period will follow.

2. Public Comment and Announcements

Dave:

HMB Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Committee will present their recommendations on bike/ped improvements at their 11/2 meeting.

Ohlone-Portola Heritage Trail event: movie and hike to the site of the European discovery of San Francisco Bay will take place 11/4 on the anniversary of the discovery.

Lisa:

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District will present its current Coastsiders projects 11/1 at 6 pm at Senior Coastsiders, 925 Main St in HMB.

3. Consent Agenda – approved 6-0

- a. Approve Minutes for October 11, 2017.

4. Regular Agenda

a. (7:34) **County Commercial Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance**

Presentation by Andrew Berthelsen on the draft ordinance:

<http://www.midcoastcommunitycouncil.org/storage/issues/cannabis/2017-10-25-Cannabis-presentation.pdf>

A group of residents of Half Moon Bay and Miramar, including Ken Dow, Rosa Brady, Graham Howell, Thianh Vo, Wendy Dasmalchi, Anne Martin, Jim Kupec and Glen Mitchell expressed their wish that the moratorium on commercial cannabis activities be continued. They voiced concerns about family atmosphere, tourism, property values, traffic, odor, and safety.

Dan repeated concerns about how security for growing operations would affect the atmosphere of the community. He hoped that enforcement would not simply be a response to complaints, but an even-handed and regular process.

Dave said well over 2/3 of voters in local precincts voted for Prop 64. The suggestion for mile setback from residential would likely be struck down in court because it would eliminate 98% of county ag areas because very few ag parcels are larger than a square mile. Personally he is in favor of anything that keeps the farmers going and fully supports this. He is disappointed we don't have dispensaries but this is a good start. He also noted that there have been no problems with break-ins and odors at existing distilleries and breweries.

Chris said that, whatever his personal thoughts might be, the ordinance was tightly crafted. There would be no non-growing operations, such as a tasting room. He asked about Federal policy enforcement, and was told that the Cole Memo and Warbacher Farm Act limited the use of federal funds to enforce otherwise legal cannabis activities, although there are no expressed or implied guarantees about what the US Justice Department might do.

Claire felt that supporting agriculture would preserve community identity and reduce pressure to develop. She also said that effect on traffic should be minimal, since only greenhouse growing would be allowed, not associated operations. She also noted that production here would be for export only.

Brandon sought to ensure that there were restrictions on smoking and chewing marijuana in public. He hoped that we would not become a marijuana haven like Santa Cruz. He stated that we could identify other profitable crops for local farmers to grow.

Lisa was in favor of supporting agriculture and thought that cannabis greenhouse operations would generate significantly less traffic than existing agritourism, particularly on Hwy 92.

b. (9:10) **Applicant Interviews and Recommendation to fill MCC vacancy.**

Lisa: MCC desires to fill an existing vacancy for a term ending November 2020, which was created by the resignation of Councilmember Laura Stein effective August 15, 2017. The County Manager's office advertized the vacancy and accepted applications during the period from September 18 through October 20, 2017. The Notice of Vacancy was announced to the MCC agenda email list, posted on the MCC website and Facebook page, as well as on the Nextdoor social network in the Midcoast, and at the local post offices. Two candidates submitted applications by the deadline:

Penelope Evelyn Floor, residing in El Granada

Barbra Anne Mathewson, residing in Moss Beach

The Council will interview the applicants and select one to recommend for appointment by the Board of Supervisors.

The applicants were individually interviewed by the Council, with additional questions from the public, regarding their backgrounds and views on local issues, followed by a brief discussion and expressions of thanks for the interest of both candidates.

Motion/second (Dave/Lisa): Nominate Barbra Mathewson to recommend for MCC vacancy appointment by Board of Supervisors -- approved 6-0.

5. Council Activity – Correspondence, meetings attended

Dave attended 10/24 HMB Planning Commission LCP land use plan study session.

Dr. Charles Lester, former Coastal Commission Executive Director, who is consulting for the City, gave a presentation on land use policy and growth management in HMB.

Lisa attended 10/18 Broadway bench ribbon cutting and spoke on behalf of MCC, thanking Supervisor Horsley for his support of coastal access and views, and thanking County Parks and DPW for listening to our request for rustic wood bench and natural trail surface. Side conversation with Parks Superintendent Scott Lombardi: Parks will continue to use grey aggregate from local quarry. Will not seek out brown rock from Marin quarry used by GGNRA for their park trails. Pillar Point Bluff trail rock project announced for this fall is postponed until spring.

Lisa attended 10/18 Harbor Commission meeting regarding two items with potential for future public meeting space. Agenda item seeking Board direction on investigating options for permanent district-owned admin building now, was controversial and General Manager will likely table that for now. Agenda item to move ahead with leased admin office alterations was approved. Lisa spoke in favor, and expressed the hope that MCC will be able to use the meeting room, which will have somewhat larger capacity than GCSD room. Floor plan shows 30 audience chairs in addition to front table with seating for 11.

6. Future Agendas to be announced

Adjourn: 10:10 PM