

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

Claire Toutant, Chair
Len Erickson, Vice Chair
Barbra Mathewson, Treasurer
Dave Olson, Secretary
Dan Haggerty
Michelle Weil
Tamar Powell

Minutes for Meeting of March 27, 2019

Call to Order (7:00)

Councilmembers present: Toutant, Erickson, Mathewson, Olson, Haggerty, Weil

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

Ellie Dallman: At the March 26th meeting, Tamar was appointed. Ellie congratulated Tamar. Wild land fire risk; approved 250K funding for coordination of fire agencies and RCD. Second unit (ADU) ordinance amendments approved. Mirada Road grant submittal by DPW approved, funding for design phase of pedestrian bridge. Funding for parallel trail 100% design approved (HMB boundary to Coronado Road); still needs additional funding for construction, looking for grant funds.

Chris Johnson, Dog Management Comm (Parks). Working to establish pilot program for policies approved in 2018. Selected Coyote Pt and Junipero Serra parks for pilot. Next meeting Mon, 1 Apr @ 2pm in BoS chambers due to large attendance. Some discussion of pilot for off leash; likely to be in July, and may include Quarry Park (few violations) or Pillar Point (many violations).

CHP Lt. Mayolo Banelos, introduced himself, asked if any questions (not on agenda). Barbra asked where boundary between RC and SF is. It's in between the two state parking lots. Barbra asked how often SF patrols that section. Officer Lindsay said she's not sure, but she occasionally covers that area. The area from Montara to the county line is the largest beat in the Redwood City district. Claire mentioned noticing significant enforcement last weekend, asked if that would continue. No commitment, but they'll try.

2. Public Comment & Announcements (7:15):

Gregg Dieguez: Attended seminar on fire preparedness. Concerned about official contacts and procedures. Spoke to Deputy Fire Marshall about procedures, concerned about hydrants not tested.

Announcements:

Dave & Len to meet with Caltrans on Moss Beach Corridor.

Farm Day on March 29th.

3. Consent Agenda (7:20):

Len moved to approve, seconded by Barbra. Approved 7-0

4. Regular Agenda

a. (7:20) – **Moss Beach Park Presentation** – Scott Lombardi presented.

The park will be closed for about 4 months for demolition and replacement of structures. New structures will be metal and plastic. Funding will come from Measure K funds, not Midcoast development fees.

b. (7:40) Discussion of road closures and related issues by California Highway Patrol and Caltrans

Lt Banuelos started out with background. Len asked about tunnel. Not CHP, Caltrans. SF CHP responded; escorted cars out of tunnel. Closure was for CO levels, not just fire & smoke concerns. SF district sent out supervisors, looked at alternatives, ended up routing to 92 as no other choices (also sent out Sigalert mentioning 84 as alternate).

Highway 92 partial closures due to planned tree trimming. Was planned to start at 7:30, actually started at 8:30, partly due to contractors getting stuck in traffic. RC CHP office attempted to improve situation by changing to allow more westbound traffic. PG&E did stop work early, but boom truck was still in position blocking part of roadway.

Len asked about coordination between two CHP districts when Hwy 1 and 92 both affected. Yes. And RC CHP supervisor did end up asking PG&E to shut down work early. Traffic started flowing "normally" between 10 and 11pm. SF CHP was onsite. CHP did issue Sigalert, but that wasn't picked up by SMC Alert system.

Dan asked if CHP can make on the spot decisions, answer is yes, but within the rules.

Carlyle Young concerned about accuracy of reports, went Pacifica route, but tunnel hadn't reopened, ended up going home by 84. Also concerned about lack of notifications for St Patrick's day accidents.

Carl May tried to go 92, but even by 7pm traffic was backed up going east. Wondered if maybe lane closure started prior to tree trimming. Wondered if anybody knew why. Complained that tree work started early several times. Complained about tunnel cost, and design features, compared to older tunnels. Suggested that CO detector be installed, and only close if CO levels unsafe.

Michelle asked Lt Banuelos what would happen in a "real emergency", if there could be generators. He said, that the coastal commission didn't approve the backup generator.

Ellie said that a backup generator has to be tested on a monthly basis, and that might have significant noise and exhaust pollution.

Claire asked about whether tunnel would have been open in a major emergency, and Lt Banuelos said yes.

Lt Banuelos said that CHP does communicate with local public safety agencies, and did in the case of the tunnel and the accidents. The CHP dispatch center can put messages on the highway message signs.

Len asked if an ambulance could get through if needed. Lt answered yes, can be done in opposite traffic lane with escorts, where safety allows.

Dan asked about time between first call, and time CHP responded. Wondered why traffic went through for a while. Caltrans made the decision to close.

Carl suggested that MCC try to provide a single reliable source of info (working with the various agendas).

c. (8:15) Consideration of letter to Caltrans and others regarding road closures

Barbra thinks it's too soft. The community wants answers, need to make that urgency clear.

Len asked if we plan to send the letter now, or wait, now that we know the OES and Sheriff are here.

Michelle also thinks it's too soft, but does a good job covering the issue. Wants some elaboration.

Len, already in contact with Caltrans on other issues. Heard from the public information officers couldn't respond until Caltrans. Thinks letter should be delayed until meeting after the 24th, after we've heard from all the agencies. Suggests we send a letter to Jerry and Don about our and community concerns, but not agencies.

Tamar suggested listing the incidents in time order and impact to emphasize the severity.

Dan asked if council thinks it's OK that tunnel was closed, and if not, that we say it's unacceptable. Dave concerned about sounding adversarial. Thinks we should delay letter until after Apr 24 meeting.

Claire also wants to gather information, and maintain a non-confrontational tone in the letter. Michelle agrees, since Caltrans and other agencies have already agreed to come to the MCC meetings. Thinks we should hold off on letter until after April 24th meeting.

Len asked Carl if he could assemble the data on the information about when planned work closures actually happened, especially if early. Carl reiterated earlier points. Discussion about doing it via Nextdoor. Carl doesn't feel like he should be the person. Carl would also like to see a plan for how to deal with problems when routes are closed. Michelle willing to compile the data, but wondered how we would use it.

Dolores thinks length of closure and lack of communication was the big issue, especially for visitors who may not know alternate routes. Think the letter should emphasize plans for dealing with the closures, and to make clearer the impact on the community. Thinks knowing the number of people from a poll or survey not useful.

Barbra moved, Dan seconded to table letter, after council consensus. Approved 7-0

5. Council Activity (8:45)

Barbra reported Adopt-a-Highway had a successful event on 3/26 to clean the highway. It was planned on short notice, so not widely notified. Caltrans picked up the bags of trash almost immediately. Planning another one soon.

Banking change, somehow in the process they changed the address from our PO Box to GCSD, so we weren't getting our statements. That's been fixed. Our balance is \$4592.72.

Len went to fire meeting (get name from video at 20:45), mentioned Quarry Park and Montara in "hot list". Brief mention of desire of fire department to make old Quarry Park roads acceptable.

6. Future Agendas

April 10 – Devil's Slide Ride

April 24 – Emergency Services with SMC Sheriff's Department and OES

Adjournment (8:50)