

<p>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 http://www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org Email: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.c</p>	<p>Gregg Dieguez, Chair Claire Toutant, Vice Chair Dan Haggerty, Treasurer Scott Bollinger, Secretary Gus Mattammal Ann Rothman Kimberly Williams</p>
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Minutes for Meeting of July 12, 2023

(7:00pm) Call to Order

This meeting was conducted as a hybrid teleconference meeting. The physical location for the in-person portion was held at the Granada Community Services District office, 510 Avenue Alhambra, 3rd floor, El Granada, CA.

Council members present:

- Gregg Dieguez, Chair
- Claire Toutant, Vice Chair
- Dan Haggerty, Treasurer
- Scott Bollinger, Secretary
- Gus Mattammal
- Ann Rothman
- Kimberly Williams (7:09)

1. (7:10pm) Board of Supervisors report and reports from other government officials

A. Harvey Rarback, Half Moon Bay City Council, reported the following:

- 1) The HMB 4th of July Parade and celebration was a success.
- 2) CERT training for neighborhood leaders will take place on July 15, 2023 at 8:30am at Station 40 on Main Street in Half Moon Bay.
- 3) A collaborative effort is underway between the Midcoast and HMB to pursue a community fiber network grant.

B. (7:05) Mike O’Neill, Community Liaison to Supervisor Mueller, reported on the following items:

- 1) The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors’ July 25th meeting agenda includes a resolution to authorize San Mateo County Parks to apply for all permits necessary, including a Coastal Development Permit, to make off-leash dog recreation a permissible use at Quarry Park in El Granada.
- 2) The special Board of Supervisors meeting scheduled for July 19th to consider a tenant protection ordinance has been canceled. They may revisit the ordinance later this year or in early 2024. The public is encouraged to submit any feedback or questions about the potential tenant protection ordinance to the entire Board, not just Supervisor Mueller.

- 3) San Mateo County Parks will provide an informational overview about Roundup use and answer questions at a future MCC meeting.
- 4) The County will be hosting a community listening session for input on how Measure K funds are allocated for needs of the Midcoast. The listening session will take place on Wednesday, August 9th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Supervisors office in Princeton, at Harbor Village.
- 5) Volunteers are needed for the Coastside Design Review Committee. There are currently 9 vacancies.
List of openings/vacancies: <https://www.smcgov.org/bnc/vacancies>
Link to application for commissions: <https://www.smcgov.org/bnc/application-boards-commissions-and-commtees>
- 6) The 19th Annual San Mateo County Disaster Preparedness Day is Saturday, Aug. 5th, from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the San Mateo County Event Center. It is free and will include CPR and first aid classes, interactive preparedness demonstrations, giveaways, free hot dogs and free parking.
Learn more at www.smcdisasterprep.org
- 7) San Mateo County and the Human Services Agency launched a new statewide benefits system that will make the process of applying and maintaining benefits easier.
 - The California Statewide Automated Welfare System is a first for the state in bringing all 58 counties together under one Joint Powers Authority.
 - Consistency across all 58 counties means clients can move to another jurisdiction without any breaks in service. There is also a courtesy call back feature so that clients do not have to stay on hold. The feature holds the client's place in line and will attempt a call back three times once an agent is available.
 - The phone number for questions is 800-223-8383.
- 8) Local Congresswoman Anna Eschoo will be speaking and taking questions on Saturday, July 15th at 9:30am at the Sharp Park Restaurant in Pacifica. All are welcome. A "No Host" breakfast will be available.

Comments/Questions:

- Claire Toutant requested that the MCC have more involvement in the Measure K meeting. She expressed concern that the timing of the meeting overlaps the MCC meeting.
- Dan Haggerty expressed concern about the transparency of Civic Bell.
- Ann Rothman requested that the Board of Supervisors include the MCC on any outreach around potential legislation that impacts the Coastside unincorporated areas.

C. (7:15) Hannah Ormshaw, San Mateo County Parks, provided an update.

- 1) Hannah followed up on community concerns about off-leash dogs in the meadow areas of Quarry Park, especially above the playground, and any conflicts with use by families and children. She said Parks staff hasn't observed any issues or received any complaints, and hasn't strictly enforced an on-leash requirement in this area. SMC Parks will continue to monitor the issue.

- 2) In response to community concerns about drainage from Quarry Park affecting the local neighborhood, Hannah reported that SMC Parks is continuing to work on resolution of this issue with the Department of Public Works.

Comments/Questions:

- 1) Gregg Dieguez mentioned installing a new culvert to divert water under the entry road so that temporary water diversion constructs do not block access to the Park parking lot.
- 2) Kimberly Williams asked about enforcement in the playground area and the meadow above it, and whether complaints made at MCC meetings from community members are being recognized by SMC Parks.
- 3) Len Erickson clarified that the concern is whether dogs are on leash or off leash in the meadow beside the playground, noting that off-leash dogs in the area could be prohibitive to access to the playground.
- 4) Burnett Silveria commented that neighbors are seeing off-leash dogs in the area above the playground, and he has provided photos of dogs off leash in this area. He said it is a concern because it is prohibitive for some people.
- 5) Burnett also commented that diverting stormwater runoff in the area mentioned won't solve the problem; it creates flooding in other places, and that a better long-term solution needs to be found.

2. Public Comment:

- 1) **Tyler Hawes on behalf of Civic Bell.** Tyler introduced Civic Bell as a platform for local community engagement. He invited MCC members to join civicbell.com.
- 2) **Jane Praysilver** would like the community to be informed in advance of any tenant protection ordinance or planned meetings. She expressed concern about increasing density and the impact on seniors.
- 3) **Steve Terry** expressed concerns about the revenue model of Civic Bell and how the platform might be used to sway public opinion, allowing monied interests to have outsized influence through paid surveys.
- 4) **Burnett Silveria** requested that the MCC include clarifying language in its instructions for submitting written public comments, that persons may request that their comments be read or summarized during the meeting.

3. (7:55) Consent Agenda:

Upon a motion made by Dan Haggerty and seconded by Ann Rothman, the minutes of the June 28, 2023 MCC meeting and the Treasurer's report were approved by a vote of 7/0.

4. (7:35) Regular Agenda:

- A. **Ecological Effects of Light Pollution:** Actionable science to manage coastal lightscapes.
Dr. Travis Longcore, Adjunct Professor at the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, gave a presentation about light pollution, the effects of artificial night lighting on wildlife and human health, and ways to reduce its impact on the environment.

Dr. Longcore addressed the following points in response to questions from the public:

- When encountering challenges in helping local governments understand the issue, he suggested talking with planning staff or reaching out to those who are interested, engaging advocacy groups, being part of the team that does the planning, sharing information and leveraging the Dark Sky community and DarkSky International's resources, and doing the work to educate on a project-by-project basis.
- There are lighting engineers who can show how to make these changes and meet code. There are also Networks of manufacturers that can work with communities to find the right lighting.
- Become involved during the planning process and intervene early in the design process, which usually doesn't increase costs; retrofitting is harder.
- There are best practices that can be promoted locally and he will forward these.
- Both approaches to regulation for municipal lighting and lighting on private property are needed.
- There are ways to balance wildlife and safety issues. Motion detectors are preferred over timers. "Clearview red" lighting is wildlife friendly and least damaging.
- Research on unlighted versus lighted university campus areas shows that darker spaces inhibit criminal activity; intruders need light and it can be seen easily in a dark space. Bright lights also create more shadows and places to hide from view.
- Crime studies generally are inconclusive as to whether more light reduces crime.
- Government can legislate for screens to reduce light from greenhouses at night.
- There is a large variation (~50 fold difference) in human sight sensitivity; some people are more sensitive than others to brightness, ability to detect flicker, and hormonal cycles triggered by light.

Comments/Questions:

- 1) Steve Terry commented on the challenges of working with local government planning and building entities and asked how to approach helping local governments understand the issue.
- 2) Edmundo Larenas commented on the negative impacts of high-intensity lights in Pillar Point Harbor on seasonal roosting pelicans. He asked the MCC to help address new excessive lighting installed by the County in Moss Beach neighborhoods.
- 3) Melinda MacNaughton wants San Mateo County and the Harbor District to be open to making changes to address these issues.
- 4) Mary-Anne Giglio raised the issue of lighting on private property, and how to address people's concerns about security.
- 5) Natalie Downe supports dark skies on the coastside and has concerns about the plant nursery lighting in Half Moon Bay.
- 6) Ann Rothman asked about the studies that show increased cancer rates related to artificial light at night.
- 7) Gus Mattammal asked for a list of precise legislative solutions (DarkSky International has a good list).
- 8) Deborah Lardie submitted a written comment that was read at the meeting in support of local Dark Skies initiative efforts.

B. Update on fuel reduction efforts. Timothy Federal (Resource Conservation District) and Hannah Ormshaw (San Mateo County Parks)

- 1) Hannah Ormshaw reported on the following items:
 - a) Bids for Quarry Park South ridge fire road were higher than was budgeted for and the project is on hold due to budget constraints.

- b) SMC Parks will begin implementation of a 200 ft non-shaded fuel break in Quarry Park and Mirada East, as part of the 2021 Wildfire Fuel Management Program. Work will begin this summer. Fuel reduction efforts are focused on reducing overstory eucalyptus and leaving understory natives as much as possible.
- 2) **Timothy Federal**, manages the Forest Health and Fire Resiliency Program at the San Mateo RCD. He provided an update on the following:
- a. The RCD is partnering with SMC Parks on creation of shaded fuel breaks along fire roads in Quarry Park with work beginning in August, as well as the non-shaded fuel break work that Hannah mentioned.
 - b. The RCD is working with GGNRA, private landowners, and POST to gauge interest in future projects that align with recommendations from the El Granada Wildfire Resiliency Scoping Project. They are also exploring regional solutions to the emerging issue of biomass management, what to do with vegetation once it's removed.
 - c. The 2023 neighborhood chipping program has wrapped up on the coastside. It served 370 homes, of which 84 were on the midcoast. This program has secured funding for 2024-2025.
 - d. Implementation of hazard tree mitigation projects on private property and along the Hwy 35 corridor and Sneath Lane evacuation route.
 - e. They are continuing the CEQA process for a 19-mile (230 acres) shaded fuel break around the community of La Honda, funded by CalFire.
 - f. Forest Health project funded by CalFire at Butano State Park involves 450 acres, focused on Redwood ecosystem restoration after the CZU fire. The project will enable the use of prescribed burning over 2000 acres in the future, as a maintenance and habitat restoration tool. 50 acres have been completed.
 - g. RCD collaborated with CA Natural Resource Agency and USGS to have new lidar data collected for San Mateo County. The new data sets allow RCD to update fine-scale vegetation maps and fuel models, beef up project planning tools and data analysis.
 - h. There are preliminary scoping conversations about a potential fuel reduction project along Hwy 1 north of the Tom Lantos Tunnel, with the County, RCD, Coastal Conservancy, and Caltrans.

Comments/Questions:

- 1) Carlyle Ann Young asked how many tickets have been issued for off-leash dogs in Quarry Park. (Response was none)
- 2) Natalie Downe expressed concerns about impacts to bird nesting and bat maternity, and asked if there is a qualified biologist onsite for tree removals.
- 3) Jane Praysilver had concerns about potential flooding and soil stability near Deer Creek .
- 4) Melinda MacNaughton asked about fuel break maintenance and herbicide use.
- 5) Kimberly Williams said she has observed workers in Butano State Park speeding on roads inside and adjacent to the park and running over wildlife, and she asked about marked trail closures and posting signs during any herbicide use.
- 6) Scott Bollinger asked that the entrances to the south end of Quarry Park be secured.

5. Council Activity:

- **Claire Toutant** confirmed that projects from the County Planning Department will be reviewed by a subgroup of herself, Ann Rothman, and Kimberly Williams.

- **Gregg Dieguez** recommended purchasing Issue Management Software to track the progress of issues the MCC is working on and collaborations with other organizations, including San Mateo County and its associated departments and he recommended purchasing Adobe software. The Council agreed that Gregg should explore this further. He also reported on continuing efforts for the development of the community fiber network.
- **Gus Mattammal** had questions regarding Brown Act compliance related to the transportation work groups.
- **Kimberly Williams** attended the CA Coastal Commission meeting.
- **Ann Rothman** attended the Board of Supervisors meeting. She reported that there is a movement to get the CA Constitution amended to allow for a simple majority vote rather than 2/3rds to allow for bonds and tax increases to be implemented more easily. A bond measure to fund affordable housing by assessing home owners may be on the 2024 election ballot. The County of San Mateo would receive 1/10th of the monies received by the State for putting this ballot measure forward. The ballot measure would also expand how general obligation bonds can be used from the narrow definition currently in place.

She reported that the potential meeting about tenant protections legislation has been postponed to the end of the year as three of the five supervisors could not support the protections as written.

Ann Rothman and **Dan Haggerty** plan to attend the Moss Beach Fire Station Open House public meeting and are excused from the next MCC meeting on July 26th, because it overlaps the regular MCC meeting time. There was discussion of whether to delay the MCC meeting to 7:30pm or reschedule it.

Comment:

Tyler Hawes on behalf of Civic Bell, commented that the use of Civic Bell should not have a budget impact on the MCC.

6. Future agenda items:

- July 26: Stormwater issues
- July 26: Telecommunications follow-up (letter to fund feasibility study)
- August 23: Glyphosate item
- Cypress Point development
- Shoreline issues
- Montara Mountain issues
- Wildfire management on the coastside
- **Burnett Silveria** formally requested three items on an upcoming agenda:
 - Repeated flooding and stormwater runoff from Quarry Park.
 - Increased neighborhood parking and traffic.
 - Off-leash dogs in the children's playground area in Quarry Park.
- There was discussion of how to best utilize the Supervisor's new office meeting space.

Adjournment (10:30pm)

Gus Mattammal Moved, Scott Bollinger 2nd, Passed 7-0