

<p><b>Midcoast Community Council</b>  <i>An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar</i>          PO Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038  <a href="http://www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org">http://www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org</a></p>	<p>Michelle Weil, Chair          Claire Toutant, Vice Chair          Len Erickson, Treasurer          Dave Olson, Secretary          Gregg Dieguez          Jill Grant          Dan Haggerty</p>
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## **Minutes for Meeting of July 14, 2021**

### **Call to Order (7:02pm)**

All Council Members present. This meeting was conducted virtually in compliance of State and County COVID-related orders.

### **1. Board of Supervisors' Report**

Lena Silberman reported that the Governor's Project in Quarry Park has been completed, including re-treatment this month. It improved first responder and public safety by reducing fuel loads in the park. The El Granada Fire Resiliency Project grant will be at the August 3rd Board of Supervisors; a committee is being organized to oversee it by Lena and Sheena Sidhu (RCD) to oversee it; it will include an MCC representative. The Fire coordinator grant process continues, with Lena meeting with the organizations involved.

The SMC Planning Commission approved the CDP for the pump track at Quarry Park.

The Big Lift, preschool to third-grade collective impact initiative, will be receiving \$1 million in state funding to help fund a five-week summer program for 1,200 low-income kindergarten through third grade students. The funds will also support a literacy program for 720 low-income preschool students. The County began the "Second Course" program to deliver 3,250 meals per week to 650 residents.

Covid cases in SMC have been increasing; and there is still a significant difference in areas with lower average incomes. The 12–15-year-old group has now reached a 63.5% vaccination rate for first doses however there are almost 15,000 young people in this age group not yet reached. As of July 11th over 87.4% of eligible residents ages 12+ of San Mateo County have received a COVID vaccine. The County continues to monitor the Delta strain, and it has become more prevalent in the county.

Carlyle Ann Young mentioned that some people are upset that masks are no longer required at

supermarkets and pharmacies, and asked for more information about the meals program, and

whether a new signup is required. Lena will put a link in chat and said that people probably need to sign up again for the new Second Course meal program.

Dan requested that workers could take before and after pictures of fire resiliency work at Quarry Park. He also said he's still waiting for Fire Station lighting info from Director Monowitz. He also asked about the status of new grants. Lena said that no others are currently being pursued, but they would be happy to hear of other opportunities.

Graham Wood asked questions about the incompleteness of the Governor's Project. He hasn't seen any work near him at Quarry Park, although he's heard the work.

Michelle asked if the \$500,000 for the El Granada Medians tree cutting had been allocated. Lena said that it has

**(7:16) 2. Public Comment & Announcement**

No comment

**(7:18) 3. Consent Agenda**

**a. Approve minutes for June 23, 2021 Regular Meeting**

**b. Approve FY 2021 Treasurer's Report**

**c. Approve letter on Brown Act**

Len asked that the Treasurer's Report be pulled. Dan asked that the Brown Act letter be pulled. They will be heard after 4c.

Claire moved 3a be approved, Gregg 2nd, passes 7-0.

**(7:20) 4a. Wildfire Status Update**

Len started by reporting on the Fire Safe Council. There will be 5 zones (he showed a map) in the County, and will be requesting applications for 2 people per zone to be on a committee. Len summarized presentations and discussions at the MCC in October and February, as well as a number of following meetings.

He asked Lena to try to add Quarry Park to the name of the El Granada Fire Resiliency Project because he thinks it's an important part.

Len said that the next steps are to have the MCC followup with all the agencies involved, both governmental, fire, and RCD, as well as parks agencies, particularly to work with the RCD. He plans to have a walk on El Granada Blvd with Director Calderon, and residents.

He feels that a much larger budget is required than is currently planned or available, and said that a group working on fire modeling presented at the Fire Safe Council meeting today.

(7:30) Gregg has been working with Caltrans to remove eucalyptus along highway 1 north of the tunnel and in Miramar. He has received what appears to be an automated response. He mentioned a community petition to deal with eucalyptus on the Caltrans Bypass lands. Both are separate from Quarry Park issues. He is expecting to see a draft of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in the next couple of weeks.

He asked Len how the grants that Len discussed would help maintain momentum. Len said that he feels that the agencies listed in his slides are the best bet, and then asked Lena for more information on the Coordinator grant. Lena said it's through the state Fire Safe program. It is to hire someone to oversee Countywide fuel reduction and she thinks that evacuation routes might be allowed within that for educating the public.

Dan asked about progress working with Caltrans north of the tunnel.

Lena said (earlier in chat and then in response) that Supv. Horsley, Supv. Canepa, CalFire, Fire Safe Council, and North County Fire are co-signing a letter to Caltrans asking for fuel reduction work on Highway 92 approaching Half Moon Bay & Highway 1 at the Southern end of Pacifica. The letter is complete, and is just awaiting the necessary map attachments from CalFire. Should be ready by next week.

### **(7:40) Public Comment**

Carlyle Ann asked if the letter could be sent to the MCC for the public. Lena said yes. She asked if a Fire Camera was yet installed in the Midcoast. Dave said yes. She would like to know exactly where all the grant money is going and how it's being spent. She mentioned a law that requires property owners to disclose whether they had cleared brush and prepared for a wildfire.

Graham Wood said he hadn't heard about Len's proposed walk. He mentioned that El Granada Blvd residents had written to the MCC and spoken, and he wanted to know why that area is not on Gregg's spreadsheet. Gregg said that he'll put it on. Len said he had just started the discussion with Director Calderon about the walk. Graham said he'd like to see the MCC request work on upper El Granada Blvd.

Lucy Wicks requested that the MCC write a letter supporting the County and RCD grant proposals. Len said he's targeting that for August. Len asked if the Coordinator grant was for staff or other. Lena said it's for staff. She also said that she didn't know if letters of support were allowed for this grant; she will check.

Donnalyn Polito asked about the houses on the north side of Quarry Park, the north side of El Granada Blvd.; they aren't protected by any fire breaks yet. She has talked to CFPD, and was told that the CFPD won't ask homeowners to cut trees, it's up to the homeowner.

### **(7:55) Council Discussion**

Michelle suggested that the council say what they see as next steps.

Dave said that he thinks that enough is happening that really all we need to do is to keep following up with the various agencies and activities.

Claire would like us to write letters of support for grants, and if we can discuss having HMB and Pacifica do the same, so we have coordinated support.

Dan mentioned CUSD properties with eucalyptus, and GGNRA property as well. He'd like us to ask the County to coordinate with CUSD and GGNRA to thin their properties. Lena said she would check with Supv. Horsley.

Jill thinks followup is really important, and thinks we could write a letter in support of the County letter to Caltrans. Lena said there isn't time for comments on the letter, but another letter will likely be written soon, involving cities, etc., and the MCC could be involved in that.

Len said that followup is a very time-intensive process. Coordinating is important, and mentioned explicitly that having us write a letter to Caltrans without seeing the County letter (Pacifica Hwy 1 eucalyptus) would be difficult.

Gregg would like to see a letter to Caltrans, covering the issues that we have already identified. He is OK waiting to see the County letter, if not too long. He mentioned the same issue as Donnalyn that CFPD won't require eucalyptus to be removed from empty lots (as pointed out by a GCSO board member); Gregg thinks we should write a letter requesting that CFPD do that. We should plan for a letter on the Local Hazard Mitigation Program immediately after the draft comes out, covering the issues that we have already identified. He is also concerned about drought, and thinks we should write a letter requesting no new development as long as there is a water shortage.

Michelle summarized and said that she, Len, and Gregg will continue to work on the issues and followup.

#### **(8:05) 4b. Upper Miramar Drive Dispute Report**

Gregg started by summarizing the issue, including neighbor statements at the March 23rd and June 23rd meetings. He made it clear that this wasn't a formal investigation. He spoke to the owner of the property that the neighbors were concerned about. Both parties have made allegations about the other. On the tree removal issue; it isn't completely clear if any significant trees were removed, but the county concluded probably not. He said that in general, eucalyptus removal is likely to be viewed with approval, and is made much easier with the recent order from Director Monowitz.

Gregg acknowledged the residents' concerns about the tree removals, but thinks that no action is needed by the MCC. So far, with stumps remaining in the ground, erosion does not appear to be likely.

It does appear that the lot at the top will have a home built on it in the near future, although no plans are yet submitted. Videos and other statements by the property owner that show vandalism and some acts of near violence have been described

He concluded that this largely appears to be a neighborhood dispute.

#### **(8:20) Council clarification**

Claire mentioned that the County has a mediation team, and asked if it would be appropriate and if the neighbors would use it. Dave said he thought it would be appropriate, but didn't know if the parties would be interested.

#### **(8:21) Public Comment**

Ann Martin spoke and said that none of the people who spoke were party to lawsuits and that a new violation order is open with regards to the fence. Dave said the owner has filed the permit to legalize the fence.

Carlisle Ann spoke about the "median" and the trees cut. Dave said that it's not a median, it's private property, and that the trees were all too small to require a permit (he checked them all).

Matt Show said he wasn't party to any lawsuits, and that erosion was their main concern, and secondarily privacy. They are now satisfied on the erosion issue, and a restraining order was issued to remove cameras that addressed their privacy concerns.

Paul Blanton said he was primarily concerned with erosion. He mentioned a permit to clear cut trees, and felt it was a smokescreen. He said that they don't like the way the property owner conducts business. He and his wife have lived at 655 Miramar for only 6 months. He feels that the fence impairs his access to the road easement to his property.

Genevieve Wortzman-Show introduced a neighbor (Brad Lucas) and feels that there has been a policy of harassment. He feels that the fence creates a hazard.

Dick Martin spoke, and said that he is disappointed that councilmembers only heard from one side.

#### **(8:35) Council Discussion**

Michelle asked for council opinions on the recommendations of Gregg and Dave.

Claire said that she appreciates the neighbors bringing this to our attention, and their trust in us.

Dave summarized that it's important to remember that we have heard only one side of the story, and it's difficult to determine actions with only some of the facts, and that's why he thinks no action should be taken.

**(8:40) 3b. Treasurer's Report (pulled from consent)**

Len said that it's incomplete due to not yet having received the June 2021 bank statement. He pointed out that with the next two years stipends, and ignoring other expenditures, we would have \$15,000 available in 2 years time.

Michelle asked about the \$3000 statement received in March 2021, and which year it was for. Len said that was late due to the MCC being late, and would normally have been received in 2020.

Dave mentioned that the \$15,000 should have about \$500-\$1000 removed to account for normal yearly expenses over the next two years.

Claire asked if we had yet set up electronic banking. Len said that it hasn't yet been set up. Claire has therefore not been passing on the paper statements. The Treasurer's report will be on consent at our next meeting.

**(9:42) 4c. MCC Website Upgrade**

Len Presented two-phase project plan, as described in the agenda document

Len proposed that Dave take his place on the website committee, because he is overloaded with the Wildfire and other work. Dave said that unfortunately, he didn't have the time to devote to it, although he has an interest in the results.

Dan asked if the work could be done by a contractor. Len said that yes, that was the expectation, including migrating the data.

Gregg asked what our risk is, given that we are running on a Squarespace version that is no longer supported. Dave answered that it's not high, but the big issue is that parts of the website or the whole site could fail, until it is upgraded or replaced.

Jill said she likes the way the site works, and asked what would change, or what should change. Len said that is up to the committee to determine. She asked if Lisa would be involved, and Len said yes.

Michelle asked if Len was in contact with Lisa. Len said yes.

Claire asked what might happen if the whole site went down. Dave said that there is some risk that the data might be lost.

**(8:55) Public Comment**

Carlyle Ann said she felt that this was a very important resource to the community, and echoed Dan that it would be really important to keep all of the information available, even if it's in a different form.

**(8:56) Council Discussion**

Michelle said that it's important that the committee first determine what we would want, then determine what might be possible within our budget.

Dave commented on the unexpected problems that often occur across major version upgrades of websites, and even more so when changing basic infrastructure. They often run into many thousands of dollars of consultant time to resolve. He said that the current version of Squarespace 7 (the MCC website is on Squarespace 5) is significantly different, so there may not be a real advantage in staying with Squarespace (current versions are oriented primarily to sites that are online stores). He also said that part of the problem is that the website is used to store many files

related to the Midcoast, and that was part of the upgrade problem. He suggested moving the files elsewhere (perhaps Google Drive), and linking from the MCC website to the file store.

Gregg said that he has worked on very large websites, as well as smaller websites. He hopes that a new website would have collaborative capabilities, and that we should ask for changes in the Brown Act to make that possible.

Dan asked if and how the website could be restored if it went down permanently.

Jill suggested we reach out to the community to see if we could get volunteer and/or discounted rate help.

Claire agrees with Jill.

Confirm steering committee as Michelle, Gregg, and Dave. Dave plans to drop off the committee as it gets more into detailed design, etc.

Dan would like to allow councilmembers not on the committee to be able to help, as long as we can do it without Brown Act issues. Michelle agreed that might be possible, if we get to the point where we need chunks of work.

### (9:11) **3c. Brown Act Letter (pulled from consent)**

Dan moves approval after having read it, Gregg 2nd.

Claire requested that councilmembers make a stronger effort to read material before the meeting, so we can be more efficient

Passes 7-0

### (9:12) **5. Council Activity**

Len talked to Caltrans about the Virginia Ave crosswalk. Caltrans says that they have a part of a pole that isn't available, so the crosswalk won't be completed for a while). Claire mentioned that it's now worse than before.

Dave reported on hybrid meeting equipment and process discussion with Jason Francisco at PCTV. Michelle mentioned that the County Counsel's office has said that there may not be a requirement for in-person meetings after Sept 30th.

Gregg said that he spoke as a citizen at the Board of Supervisors asking for a moratorium on new building. He also wrote an article requesting a moratorium on new water connections because of the drought. He's also written articles on drought impact on the Sewer districts.

Michelle reported that the newsletter is again ready to send out (delays due to wildfire article), and should go to translation this week.

### (9:21) **6. Future Agendas**

July 28th – Learnings from PLN2020-000369 (Eucalyptus removal), other wildfire topics, report on hybrid meeting experience

Sept - Additional Quarry Park parking with Director Calderon

Have water districts report on water rationing?

Possible reply to HMB letter response to the MCC

### (9:25) **Adjournment**

Moved Len, 2nd Dave, Passes 7-0