

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

Draft Minutes for Meeting of January 26, 2022

Call to Order (7:04pm)

All Council Members present: Claire Toutant, Gregg Dieguez, Michelle Weil, Len Erickson, Dave Olson, Jill Grant, Dan Haggerty.

This meeting was conducted virtually in of State and County COVID-related orders.

1. Board of Supervisors' Report (7:10)

Lena Silberman for Supervisor Horsley:

- Covid Update for San Mateo County
 - o Test kits available
 - o Infection rates remain high
 - o Vaccination Rate – 88% one dose, 80% two doses
- El Granada Blvd petition and meeting – response requested
 - o Follow up – Consider Hannah Ormshaw’s email of Jan. 7 to the council and others as the county response.
- Mirada Bridge Coastal Trail - work plan on schedule for completion in 2022
- Multi-Modal Trail project out for bid
- SB9 – has different constraints on the coast

Carlisle - asked about PPE materials level left outside

- County took responsibility

Michelle – COVID data tabulation errors for Midcoast

Dan – noted trees down in medians. Asked about county action

- No Update yet

Harvey Rarback for the City of Half Moon Bay:

- Noted recent court decisions have gone against the City of HMB
- District map established with five districts and rotating mayor
- City working with Libertad for a pilot program for mental health response to 911 calls. It will be funded for 7 months for the City

Sheena Sidhu for Rural Conservation District

- Gave a summary update on the Wildfire Listening Session held on Jan. 25.

2. Public Comment & Announcement

Carlisle Young – disappointed in county government mis-handling materials in the medical center

Krystlyn Giedt – conducted state of coast event. Thanked Claire for her excellent comments

Sabrina Brennan – asked local agencies to seek recovery of costs in lawsuits filed by HMB if ruling against the City holds

Dan – acknowledged recent nights with exceptionally clear visibility

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes for Regular Meeting, January 12, 2022:
Posted late, item moved to next regular meeting

4. Regular Agenda

a. Comment Letter On Connect the Coastside Final Plan (Olson, Erickson, Dieguez).

Claire noted that the study session covered input. Dave posted the draft letter on Jan. 19. No comments that led to changes received. Len made motion to approve the letter, Gregg seconded.

Amendments Len presented the letter via Zoom and proposed a wording change that added wording to request the document be referred to as the Comprehensive Transportation Management Plan (CTMP) strengthened the document as living document. Len moved and Gregg seconded this amendment. (Approved 7-0)

Dan objected to the wording of minority support for considering an undercrossing in Moss Beach. Dan presented an amendment for a change. No second.

Dave noted the concern about absence of lot retirement.

Michelle made a motion for two changes in the fourth paragraph. One was wording and the other requested adding a phrase: “The community would like additional Safe Route to School projects around Farallone View and El Granada to be accelerated.” (Moved – Michelle, 2nd Jill, Passed 5-2, No – Dan, Dave)

Public Comment

JQ Oswein – questioned whether the community supports roundabouts.

Carlyle – noted that people support roundabouts over signals if a control is required. concern about evacuation route

Ann – Concerned about roundabouts

Chris Johnson – noted the length of review and process. Commends and supports the letter. Expressed concern about below/above grade crossings. Concerned about future sea level rise impact.

Kimberly Williams asked about the long sentences in the opening paragraphs. Dave provided background comments.

Rob expressed concern about wording related to under crossings. Wants note of an expression of interest by the community.

Claire proposed the wording “some people in the community have expressed interested (Moved by Claire, 2nd Michelle, Approved 7-0)

Len highlighted the sentence “We look forward to working with County Agencies, CalTrans, and the Midcoast community, in advancing improvements to this traffic corridor.” Noted that Chanda Singh the senior transportation planner is supportive of working with the community.

- Question Called (Failed 3-4, No - Dave, Dan, Jill, Gregg)

Gregg highlighted concerns of sea level rise and impact of sewer lines on roundabouts.

Claire request for final comments from council – none voiced.

Dolores supported letter, but would like further support for transportation.

Claire called the Question (approved 7-0)

Final Vote – Approved 7-0

Break in meeting – 8:30pm to 8:35pm

b. Comment Letter on PLN2021-00333, Pilot Off-Leash Dog-Walking Program

Background – Claire Toutant opened this item and reviewed the request for comment from the San Mateo Planning Department on a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for a “Off-Leash

Dog Recreation Pilot Program”, a project that would involve a year trial of dogs off-leash in two county parks, Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluffs. The focus of the MCC comment was the CDP and associated Negative Declaration. MCC’s comments go to the SMC Planning Commission which reviews the project and makes a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Claire said there was considerable attention on this matter and that the MCC had received 193 emails, 100 against and 92 for the dog walking proposal. Claire made it clear that the focus of the letter is the CDP and not the bigger question of whether dogs should be off-leash in the parks.

A three person MCC committee (Olson, Toutant, Weil) drafted a letter which was posted on January 23. Another council member, Jill Grant, developed an extensive set of comments and brought them forward on the day of the MCC meeting, January 26. Jill was asked to bring her comments to the council. A draft letter was posted on the website shortly before the meeting started.

Presentation – Nicholas Calderon

Nicholas provided an overview of the Off-Leash Committee and the several year process which led to the project proposal to the Board of Supervisor and a discussion of the details of the project. This slide set is available on the MCC Website.

Council Discussion

Public discussion was began, but was halted. Claire asked Dave to define the path forward.

Dave Olson reviewed the two letters (original letter) and (second letter). He defined a course forward which was followed:

- Motion made to adopt the original letter (Moved – Gregg, 2nd – Dave)
- Amendment proposed to have the second letter replace the original letter (Moved – Jill, 2nd Dan)

Council was undertaken following these actions:

Gregg spoke in favor of the original letter, recognizing the work done to date and that the proposal followed a clear path of review

Michelle spoke in favor of Jill’s letter, citing in particular her young daughter’s fear of dogs when encountered on public trails. She said that while she helped develop and had supported the original letter, she now favored the second letter.

Len noted that if the amendment passed it would eliminate further discussion of the original letter. Dave confirmed this point.

This became a point of concern and discussion. The Question was called on the amendment by Len. The Question of passed would have led to an immediate vote on the amendment. The Question failed (For – Len, Gregg, Michelle -- Opposed – Dave, Dan, Jill, Claire)

The point of disagreement was recognized whether dogs should be allowed off-leash on the bluff). After further discussion Claire asked for a straw poll – supporting dog off-leash on bluff: (For - Gregg, Len, Claire; Against – Dan, Michelle, Jill; Abstain - Dave).

Dave clarified that he did not want to base his response but on considerations of the CDP and NegDec.

With the council deadlocked, Jill withdrew her amendment.

Claire opened public discussion

Community Discussion

24 speakers expressed diverse viewpoints and opinions with a variety of arguments.

Points of Commonality: A clear majority of speakers were supportive of an Off-Leash trail program in Quarry Park. There was a divided opinion on dogs off-leash in Pillar Point Bluffs. Of note, representatives of Surfrider and Green Foothills, expressed the view that they could accept either letter.

Council Discussion

Amendment proposed to have the second letter replace the original letter (Moved – Jill, 2nd Dan)

After discussion of several wording options the council agreed that Michelle would draft an amendment to the second letter. When brought forward and examined in comparison to the original letter there were areas of overlap, most notably the paragraph:

Common Paragraph

If this Pilot Program were to proceed at Pillar Point Bluffs, we would ask that signage be extremely clear in delineating which trails are open to on- and off-leash dogs. We think that the cross-trails that run east-west must only allow dogs on-leash, because they lead to the Ross Cove trail, which is on-leash only, and they traverse sensitive habitat, including seasonal wetlands. These east-west trails must be clearly signed at the east end of the side-trails.

The two letters differed in their concluding paragraphs:

Concluding paragraph of Original Letter

Pillar Point Bluff is a rare environmental and geological resource. Damage to it would be irreparable. We would prefer it to be limited to passive recreation. If dogs are to be allowed off-leash at all, we request that guidelines, signage and enforcement be upgraded.

Concluding paragraph of 2nd letter amended by Michelle

We can all agree that Pillar Point Bluff is a rare environmental and geological resource, one that should be shared with locals and visitors alike. Opening the area to off-leash dogs would force many people, including those who have been using these trails for years, to go somewhere safer. **Therefore, we strongly oppose an Off-Leash Dog-Walking Program at Pillar Point Bluff.**

Votes on the final letter:

Vote on approving the Amendment to replace the Original Letter with the 2nd Letter

Moved: Jill, 2nd: Dan - Approved (5-2 No: Gregg, Len)

Vote on approving Michelle's amended version of 2nd Letter

Moved: Michelle. 2nd: Dave. Approved (5-2 No: Gregg, Len)

Vote to approve the Letter

Moved: Jill 2nd Dan = Approved (5-2 No: Gregg, Len)

5. Council Activity

6. Future Agendas

Adjournment (11:55pm)

Moved: Dan, 2nd: Michelle, Passed 7-0