

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>

Claire Toutant, Chair
Gregg Dieguez, Vice Chair
Michelle Weil, Treasurer
Len Erickson, Secretary
Jill Grant, Assistant Secretary
Dan Haggerty, Assistant Secretary
Dave Olson

DRAFT Minutes for Meeting of September 28, 2022

Call to Order (7:01 pm) All council members present. This meeting was conducted virtually in compliance with State and County COVID-related orders.

1. (7:01) Board of Supervisors'

Lena Silberman (Aide to Supervisor Horsley) reported on airport issues (leaded fuel and soil testing), the parks fund, plans to propose a minimum wage for the unincorporated county, the county decision to stop sending inmates to federal agencies, and county use of plastic turf. Cid Young gave an update on Park's mitigation fee and asked when there would be a full accounting. Claire Toutant and Dave Olson are encouraging an up-to-date report to the Board of Supervisors be made. Dan Haggerty acknowledged Lena's effort on artificial turf. Jill Grant asked for further information RHNA (regional housing needs allocation for the County). Lena reported on her current understanding and she will provide further information later. Harvey Rarback provided further information on RHNA.

Harvey Rarback (Half Moon Bay City Council) reported on the city CARES team which handles local mental health calls not requiring armed response. This team met with the Star Vista team which handles the nation 988 number for suicide prevent and mental health emergencies. The city is using funds from the Chan Zuckerberg Foundation to educate local people who need assistance and as well as equipment to effectively use the internet. The first Maverick's festival will be held on Oct. 1. Cid asked about people terrorizing homeless people at Smith Field. Dan asked about getting support for programs that eliminate use of plastic turf for home landscaping.

2. (7:19) Public Comment & Announcements

Cid expressed concern the MCC calendar had inaccurate information on Fire Board meetings. Gregg Dieguez said that Harald Herrmann was killed in an automobile accident and acknowledged his many contributions to the community.

3. (7:22) Consent Agenda

- a. The minutes for August 24 and September 14 were moved to the end of the regular agenda at Dave Olson's request.
 - b. MCC Recognition of Jewish New Year
- Motion to Approve Item 3b (Gregg), Second (Michelle), Approved (7-0)

4. Regular Agenda

4a. (7:36) Quarry Park Master Plan Review Process

<[Link](#)>

Overview [slide presentation](#) by Len Erickson explaining the background of the park's creation, work to create a Master Plan over the past six years and the roadmap for presentation to the Board of Supervisors (Oct. 18), environmental review and final presentation of plan for board adoption. The proposed [comment letter](#), recommending approval by the Board of Supervisors and initiation of an environmental review was presented.

Hannah Ormshaw discussed the role of the Master Plan in relation to projects and the environmental review of the Master Plan in relation to the environmental review of the specific projects.

Clarifying questions from the council

Gregg asked whether the Master Plan includes all the fire mitigation measures. Hannah said the plan refers to the fuel management program and current programs but will expand with further efforts in the future. Gregg asked why the south trail fire road was singled out and Hannah said it was referenced because of its relation to overall trail planning and management.

Dan said that the Quarry Park contains a eucalyptus jungle and is concerned that the threat it poses is not acknowledged. Hannah said this concern is recognized in the plan and proposes specific measures to address this issue. Dan asked about the cyclone fence around the corporation yard and would like to see a natural hedge. Dan asked about the criteria to provide a separate bathroom for the pump track.

Claire asked whether the SMC Parks needs a letter of support for the Master Plan. Hannah said a specific letter of support is needed when the environmental review is finished and the board is asked to adopt the plan and the environmental review. Len said this letter is intended to provide support for the process.

Questions from the community

Claire acknowledged the receipt of letter concerning the plan.

Cid expressed concern about storm water flowing out of the park and onto adjacent streets. At a Parks Commission meeting Nicholas Calderon said that this was a Department of Public Works problem.

Burnett Silveria noted previous communication about the Master Plan and highlighted three major concerns: Park drainage runoff that flows onto local streets, flash flood danger, and lack of parking which forces Quarry Park users to park on community streets.

Fran Pollard supported Burnett's comments and asked that these concerns be reflected in the proposed letter. Fran asked more funding for the park border. Fran acknowledged the Planning Commission's approval of additional parking for the Park but feels that it isn't enough. Fran would like to see a dog park which was a #1 item in earlier meetings. Claire asked that letters be forwarded to the county. Len said he would forward letter received to Hanna. Hannah also noted the concerns were identified in Pacific Watershed Attachments to the Master Plan. Hannah said the Dog Recreation Working group had responsibility for that dog program and went with a focus on trails rather than dog parks.

Final Comments from the MCC

Dan noted that MidPen's Rancho San Antonio has adopted a process for avoiding eucalyptus re-sprouting and asked Parks to consider this approach.

Dave said that separate from the master plan Parks and DPW should address the overflow of storm water into local streets. Mirada East should not be considered entirely a wetland.

Jill agrees with residents' concerns about drainage.

Len identified three new items: drainage flow to public streets, better use of Mirada East, addressing the eucalyptus forest as larger than a parks issue. As an overall comment he said the MCC should consider responding to large continuing projects with committees and the community as well should consider organizing to address these type of issues.

Dan expressed support for the Parks use of wood chips.

Dave agreed with Claire who prefers sending no letter on the Master Plan at this time.

4b. (8:01) Comments on Proposed AV kiosk at Seal Cove stairs (PLN2022-00156)

<[Link](#)>

Michelle Weil [presented slides](#) to describe the concerns with the TV kiosk proposed in the Seal Cove Stairs area of Fitzgerald. A key issue is that other than the area around the Ranger Stations visitor experience should emphasize the natural setting and feature of Fitzgerald and its tide pools. Nicholas Calderon said that the proposed kiosk provides necessary education for the park visitor both to appreciate the tide pools but to educate the visitors in how take care not to damage the plants and animals of this sensitive habitat. Visitors who come directly to the Seal Cove stairs do not get the information available at the ranger station. Michelle said that surveys show that visitors want a natural experience at Fitzgerald and that near Seal Cove there are already too many cars and a kiosk will increase the problem. There are already too many signs at the Seal Cove stairs.

Nicholas' said the walking distance from the stairs to the ranger station is a barrier to receiving information on proper behavior and the kiosk will help reduce the signage and be more effective than signs in delivering the message.

Comments from the Community

Cid expressed concern about the parking issues at Seal Cove and thinks the information from the kiosk would be helpful.

Rob Cavanaugh concerned about traffic and thinks people primarily come to Seal Cove for the beach, not the tide pools. Rob believes a QR code system would be better.

Chris Johnson supports the letter. He sees the issue as similar to electronic signs on SR1 which he similarly be opposes.

Steve feels Fitzgerald is a sacred area and should be kept natura. He lives nearby and is impacted by the parking.

Janet personally experiences the vandalism, graffiti and other bad behaviors in the area and doesn't think the sign will address this problem.

Larry Baker lives nearby, agrees with previous comments, feels visitor often behave inappropriately and is especially concerned about noise.

Diana also lives two blocks from the park, sees that the kiosk could reduce over signage, but thinks there is long term concern about highlighting the location with google map locators.

Patrick Reichenberger lives nearby and does not accept the arguments for the kiosk and feels it interferes with having a natural experience. He asked if there is real evidence for the proposed positive impact of such a kiosk.

Kimberly Williams supports the letter and is against such a sign anywhere in the park and believe the funds could be used for more park rangers.

Final Council Discussion and Vote

Motion to approve (Gregg), Second (Dave)

Dave is strongly opposed and don't think it will meet its goals.

Dan agrees education is important but does not feel a kiosk is the right solution. Keep things simple and kept at the ranger station.

Jill wants to know the size of the screen. Nicholas: Kiosk is 54 inches wide and screen is 48 inches. Jill supports education but os not sure about this approach. She asked about the cost of the kiosk. Nicholas did not have this figure immediately available.

Len is opposed to the kiosk and wants to know the funds could be used to create education for students coming to Fitzgerald. Nicholas says there is already a video and its also available on the website.

Gregg thinks the QR code use would be a good approach.

Michelle asks Nicholas how he will react to an MCC vote for a letter that does not support the kiosk. Nicholas is unsure. He feels some comments are accurate but other are not on point for the TV Kiosk.

Vote – Approve (6-0-1) Jill abstains.

4c. (8:10) MCC Comments on Cypress Point Affordable Housing Application (PLN2022-00220) <[Link](#)>

Claire introduced a new letter that has been drafted referring to the list on this topic developed at the Sep. 14 meeting. This letter has further comments and the authors are open to receiving additional comments. Claire introduced two letters, a [formal draft](#) from the committee and an [early draft](#) developed with support from committee member Gus Mattammal (who joins the MCC next term). Special attention was given to traffic Issues. Dave noted concerns about the Carlos/16th St – SR1 intersection. Claire mentioned speed limit concerns, evacuation, and asking MidPenHousing to fund a Safe Route to School (Farallone View in Montara).

Lena relayed comments from a conversation with Supervisor Horsley. He mentioned that he had heard from MidPen that 75 of the units will be made specifically available for people who are already living and working on the coast and that 49 units will be allocated for Farm Workers. He wants to let the MCC know that he is very committed to traffic mitigations and is asking for the county to financially support mitigations.

Community Comment

Larry Baker of Seal Cove wants Cypress Avenue to have improved access to SR1 and reduced speed limit.

Cid noted the lack of storm drains along Carlos. Dave said there is a specific project for storm drainage. Cid is very concerned about traffic and offsite parking.

Chris Johnson is opposed to the project and feels the letter is good. However, he thinks the county will, as was the case with the Big Wave project, run interference to push the project through. Chris believe traffic issues should be resolved before permitting the project.

Dolores Silva had three points. First the project is too large for the infrastructure. Second in an early conversation, she asked MidPen, "What's the point of talking if you don't fix the project?" They said, "We can't fix the traffic." Third, there are potentially toxic materials on the site. Dolores raised many additional points which Claire acknowledged and she asked Dolores to send them to the letter writing committee.

Len said he is working on a separate letter focusing on "Complete Street Policy and Plans".

Gregg wants to see consideration of a more complete and longer letter which he worked on.

Ann expressed concerns about endangered species, lead in the soil at the airport. Dave said the biological analysis document has not been released.

Claire and Dave described the letter writing process and the existence of other letters. Michelle feels this letter is good and would like to see Gus' letter and is not ready to vote tonight.

Dan is concerned about lowering the speed limit together with push buttons that stop traffic and feels gridlock is a danger.

Dave acknowledged the efforts by Gus Mattammal. He is willing to send the draft out.

Len said he supported the letter and plans to send his own letter to the same distribution.

Dave asked that further comments be sent to him.

4d. Consideration of Minutes

Dave felt the minutes were both too verbose and incomplete and wants the minutes redone.

Michelle agrees.

Len will work to address the issues raised.

5. (10:10) Council Activity – Correspondence and meetings attended

Gregg represented the council at a meeting with Half Moon Bay Council member Joaquin Jiminez present. With the MCC one member short, Joaquin said can work with Gregg to identify a Hispanic candidate. Gregg is working with DPW to set up a community meeting for Montara and its concern about Safe Route to School issues. He has also been working with Mark Wilbanks on a sidewalk focused meeting with DPW and any concerned El Granada residents. There was further discussion on publicity for these meetings.

Gregg is working with SAM on Sewer capacity issues and will share a [Sewer Issue](#) letter with the MCC

Michelle announced that she will be taking a seat on the RCD board.

Dan noticed coastal erosion across from the Skate Ramp that is undercutting the Coastal Trail.

Dave explained it occurs periodically and has been addressed by Caltrans in the past.

6. (10:14) Future Agendas

Possible topics: Cypress Point Letter, MidPenOSD Land Purchase, Road Safety Projects

(10:06) Adjournment

Motion To Adjourn (Gregg), Second (Dave), Approved (7-0)