



SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

*The Board of Directors conducted this meeting in accordance with
California Government Code section 54953.*

DRAFT MINUTES

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA
REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT – CLOSED SESSION**

President Cyr called the special meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to order at 5:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jed Cyr, Craig Gleason, Karen Holman, Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, Yoriko Kishimoto, Margaret MacNiven, and Curt Riffle

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Assistant General Manager Brian Malone, Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services Stefan Jaskulak, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Maria Soria, Executive Assistant/Deputy District Clerk Stephanie Gross, Senior Planner Tina Hugg, Planner III Ashley Mac, and Planning Manager Jane Mark

President Cyr announced that the public has the opportunity to comment on the agenda, and the opportunity to listen to this meeting through the internet or via telephone. This information can be found on the meeting agenda, which was physically posted at the District's Administrative Office, and on the District website.

**1. Overview of the Hawthorns Area Plan Public Access Working Group
Recommendations and Public Feedback with an Additional Consideration
Regarding Trail Segments #16 and 17 (R-25-23)**

Planner III Ashley Mac and Senior Planner Tina Hugg and Traffic Engineer Andrew Lee from Parametrix presented the item. Landscape Architect Paul Stevenson from CSW|ST2 was also present and assisted in answering the Board of Director's questions.

Director MacNiven expressed preference for only having two out of the three benches and suggested removing the bench at site “B”.

Director Kersteen-Tucker suggested adding a traffic light to the Conceptual Design Option 10 to improve entry and exit for people.

Director Holman recalled that at one of last year’s Planning and Natural Resources Committee meeting, there was a discussion about retaining walls and a preference was to avoid them. While the project is still in the conceptual phase and it remains uncertain whether retaining walls will be necessary, she stated that her preference continues to be to avoid them.

Director Riffle asked whether the PAWG considered equestrian parking, and if a phased parking approach was taken, could the unused area be used for equestrian parking and assess how many people would actually use it. Ms. Mac stated that the PAWG did not evaluate this option due to the limited number of parking spaces and the need for overflow parking. However, if the Board has a strong desire, it can be studied.

Public comment opened at 6:39 p.m.

The following members of the public spoke in favor of the item:

- Rachel Oslund
- Charlie Krenz
- John Badger – but opposed Option 10
- Duf Sundheim
- Mike Bushue
- Helen Quinn
- Sandy Sommer
- Dan Quinn

The following members of the public spoke against the item:

- Curtis Eaves
- Charles Maroney
- Lana Norris
- Kristi Corley
- Leslie Kriese
- Diana Fischer

President Cyr called for a recess at 6:59 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 7:03 p.m. with all Board members except Director Riffle.

Director Riffle returned to the dais at 7:07 p.m.

Public comment closed at 7:14 p.m.

Director Gleason commented that he would be interested in seeing a more complete trail system and is supportive of the alternative trail and the Option 10 Parking Area.

Director Kersteen-Tucker, Director Riffle, Director Holman, and Director MacNiven agreed with Director Gleason.

No Board action required.

ADJOURNMENT

President Cyr adjourned the special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at 7:27 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

President Cyr called the regular meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to order at 7:28 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jed Cyr, Craig Gleason, Karen Holman, Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, Yoriko Kishimoto, Margaret MacNiven, and Curt Riffle

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Assistant General Manager Brian Malone, Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services Stefan Jaskulak, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Maria Soria, Executive Assistant/Deputy District Clerk Stephanie Gross, Land and Facilities Manager Brandon Stewart, and Open Space Technician Alex Rodriguez

President Cyr announced that the public has the opportunity to comment on the agenda, and the opportunity to listen to this meeting through the internet or via telephone. This information can be found on the meeting agenda, which was physically posted at the District's Administrative Office, and on the District website.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Public comment opened at 7:28 p.m.

The following people spoke in favor of allowing the extended Girouard family to reside at Rhus Ridge:

- Linda Swan
- Alec Siudzinski
- Tom Rees
- Mary Rees
- Devin Schroeder
- Marianne Schroeder
- Jeremiah Girouard

- Jennifer Rees

Kristi Corley noted that the Portola Valley Town Council meetings coincide with the District's Board of Director's meetings. She requested that the Hawthorns meeting on March 12 be scheduled before 7 PM to accommodate this conflict.

Public comment closed at 7:48 p.m.

General Counsel Hilary Stevenson commented that the District continues to work with Ms. Cretekos's attorney and negotiations are ongoing. In addition, she reported that there are certain exceptions to the open meeting laws providing the ability to hold closed sessions in order to successfully include settlement negotiations.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

Introduction of Staff

- Alex Rodriguez, Open Space Technician

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDA

- Smith Family Trust Property Addition to Redwood Park, Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Director Holman moved, and Director Riffle seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **7-0-0**

CONSENT CALENDAR

Public comment opened at 7:53 p.m.

Ms. Soria reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 7:53 p.m.

Motion: Director Riffle moved, and Director Gleason seconded the motion to approve the Consent Calendar.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **7-0-0**

1. **Approve the February 12, 2025 Board meeting minutes**
2. **Approve Claims Report**
3. **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Program Update (R-25-24)**

Assistant General Manager and ADA Coordinator Susanna Chan presented.

Director Kersteen-Tucker asked whether the District tracks the usage of accessible trails and, if so, whether that number is increasing. Ms. Chan stated it was a great suggestion but there is

currently no tracking system in place. She stated that staff could explore ways to track usage. Director Kersteen-Tucker suggested utilizing Trail Explorer to review the number of hits on accessible trails to assess whether usage is increasing.

Director Gleason suggested exploring partnership opportunities with a nonprofit who can provide mobility devices for visitors who may need them to access either District preserve or other local park and open space lands.

Public comment opened at 8:22 p.m.

Ms. Soria reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 8:22 p.m.

No Board action required.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. Committee Reports Director

None

B. Staff Reports

Assistant General Manager Brian Malone provided an update on Bear Creek Stables.

C. Director Reports

Director Kishimoto reported she attended the following meetings:

- Santa Clara Local Agency Formation Commission meeting on February 5, 2025
- Bay Conservation and Development Commission meeting on February 6, 2025
- A meeting will be held on February 27, 2025, with the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail

Director Kersteen-Tucker reported that she along with Director MacNiven presented at the Kings Mountain Association on February 19, 2025.

Director Gleason reported he has two accessibility resources, a disabled hikers guide and an illustrated ADA and ABA guide detailing accessibility rules for parks, open spaces, and facilities, and is willing to lend them to whomever is interested.

ADJOURNMENT

President Cyr adjourned the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District into a special meeting at 8:30 p.m.

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA
REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT – CLOSED SESSION**

Ms. Stevenson stated that the closed session agenda does not specifically identify the litigation to be discussed, because it would jeopardize the District's ability to conclude existing settlement negotiations, and the District will provide a report out pursuant to Government Code 54957.1 and stated that there will not be any further report out tonight.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jed Cyr, Craig Gleason, Karen Holman, Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, Yoriko Kishimoto, Margaret MacNiven, and Curt Riffle

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: General Manager Ana Ruiz and General Counsel Hilary Stevenson

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

- A. Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4):
(one potential case)
- B. Significant exposure to litigation, Section 54956.9(d)(2): (one potential case)

The Board convened into closed session at 8:34 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President Cyr adjourned the special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at 9:33 p.m.

Maria Soria, MMC
District Clerk