MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Administrative Office
5050 El Camino Real
Los Altos, CA 94022

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Director Holman called the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee to order at 2:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present:	Jed Cyr, Karen Holman, Yoriko Kishimoto
Members absent:	None
Staff present:	General Manager Ana M. Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Assistant General Manager Brian Malone, Chief Financial Officer Stefan Jaskulak, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Maria Soria, Grants Program Manager Carol Schimke, Senior Grants Technician Caitlin Amarillas, Public Affairs Manager Lori Low, Volunteer Program Manager Jennifer Williams, and Governmental Affairs Program Manager Joshua Hugg

Director Holman 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.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Director Cyr moved, and Director Kishimoto seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Public comment period opened.

District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Maria Soria reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment period closed.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Select Committee Chair for 2026 Calendar Year

Director Cyr nominated Director Holman to serve as the Committee Chair for calendar year 2026.

Director Holman accepted the nomination.

Public comment period opened.

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

Public comment period closed.

Motion: Director Cyr moved, and Director Kishimoto seconded the motion to select Director Holman as Committee Chair for Calendar Year 2026.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

2. Approve the November 4, 2025 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

Public comment period opened.

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

Public comment period closed.

Motion: Director Kishimoto moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to approve the November 4, 2025 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs committee meeting minutes.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

3. Grant Awards for the 2025 Grantmaking Program (R-26-46)

Grants Program Manager Carol Schimke and Senior Grants Technician Caitlin Amarillas presented. General Manager Ana Ruiz and Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services Stefan Jaskulak assisted in answering questions.

Chair Holman asked whether staff has a map showing the location of the beneficiary wards. She commented that she had reviewed the grantees and identified the beneficiary wards and noticed that the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) was assigned to Ward 5, but should have been assigned to Ward 6 since the project focuses on agriculture and fencing.

Ms. Amarillas responded it was a mistake and she will update the ward. She also clarified that the project would take place at La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.

Chair Holman asked staff to be more attentive to beneficiary wards since the current sequencing is heavily weighted towards ward 6, which has five projects assigned to it.

Ms. Ruiz asked whether it would be helpful, when presenting to the full Board of Directors (Board), to include in attachment 3 of the staff's report an explanation outlining some of the reasons why certain proposals were not recommended. She noted that perhaps the numerical scores alone make it difficult to fully understand the distinctions, as some proposal received scores that are comparatively high or similar to others that were selected and by including a narrative it could provide clarity on why certain proposals were selected.

Ms. Amarillas responded that attachment 3 can be updated to include that information.

Chair Holman agreed that providing additional information would be helpful. She noted that differences between proposals are not always evident from the scores alone.

Ms. Schimke responded that the strategic review proposed by staff, particularly in terms of beneficiaries or participants, is in line with previous years. Furthermore, she stated that this is the first year staff have shared this data and highlighted where participants and beneficiaries are located. She indicated that it would be helpful to see that information in the context of the last few years to see if there are any trends or patterns. With respect to attachment 3, she explained that among the 30 proposals, often the smallest details were the tiebreaker for which proposal was selected, and staff would need to strike a balance with the amount of information to provide regarding how the review committee reached a determination.

Mr. Jaskulak stated that he would be hesitant to add a narrative that explains why certain proposals were not selected, as this could potentially impact the applicant's opportunities when applying for other grants. He suggested that it be best to provide a more descriptive explanation of why staff recommended the selected proposals.

Chair Holman agreed with Mr. Jaskulak.

Director Kishimoto commented that the evaluation approach is roughly 50% point based and 50% qualitative and suggested that the cutoff threshold could be set higher to either 80, 85, or 88%.

Mr. Jaskulak responded that this would serve as a lesson learned for next year. He further explained that the Request for Proposals process is not based on selecting the lowest bidder or in this case the highest score, but rather on identifying the proposals that best meet District goals.

Ms. Schimke stated that one key lesson learned that could be implemented in future rounds is to use similar scoring criteria as used by some state agencies where specific points are assigned for clearly defined elements. She noted that this approach could reduce subjective interpretation, improve scoring consistency, and minimize extreme outliers.

Chair Holman confirmed that Ms. Amarillas will include a chart that shows past beneficiary wards and noted that the chart would be helpful for both the Board and future applicants in identifying gaps and opportunities across wards. She added that the chart should also include the number of grants that were awarded in each ward.

Public comment period opened.

The following person provided comments:

- Kristi Corley

Public comment period closed.

Director Kishimoto highlighted the Committee recommendation to include a better explanation of the selection.

Chair Holman added staff should include a bit of the history.

Director Cyr also requested that a map be included.

Ms. Amarillas confirmed that she will include a map along with a table.

Motion: Director Kishimoto moved, and Chair Holman seconded the motion to approve and forward the list of recommended grant awards for the 2025 Grantmaking Program, for a total of $313,983, to the full Board of Directors for approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

4. Update to Board Policy 5.01 – Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition (R-26-47)

Public Affairs Manager Lori Low presented. Volunteer Program Manager Jennifer Williams, General Manager Ana Ruiz, and Assistant General Manager Brian Malone assisted in answering questions.

Director Kishimoto commented that she is leaning more towards a 20 years of service threshold rather than 25 years.

Chair Holman commented that she is also leaning towards a 20 year threshold, noting that it is more achievable than 25 years of service while still exhibiting a great deal of commitment and dedication. She also suggested a small increase to the threshold for the number of volunteers hours donated.

Director Kishimoto stated that she is supportive of a 20 year service threshold and keeping it at the 500 hours level, noting that the dedication period is limited to a ten-year term.

Director Cyr also expressed support for the 20 year service threshold. In addition, he requested to know where the current commemorative benches are located and the total number of general benches.

Ms. Ruiz responded that staff will identify the commemorative benches and provide a count.

Public comment period opened.

The following person provided comments:
- Kristi Corley

Public comment period closed.

Director Kishimoto asked how many benches exist overall.

Mr. Malone responded that staff would need to confirm the number.

Director Kishimoto requested that the total number of benches be included in the staff report when it is presented to the full Board.

Motion: Director Kishimoto moved, and Chair Holman seconded the motion to approve an update to Board Policy 5.01 – *Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition* regarding special recognition eligibility for bench dedications with the following modifications:
1. Change the 25 years of service to 20 years; and
2. Staff to re-evaluate potentially increasing the 500-hour requirement to 600 or 650 hours or provide an analysis of why 500 hours is recommended.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

5. Legislative Positions for Consideration by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (R-26-48)

Governmental Affairs Program Manager Joshua Hugg presented.

Director Kishimoto noted that staff slide #3 lists SB 1135 as authored by Becker, but the staff report identifies the author as Senator Speier.

Mr. Hugg responded that it was a mistake and confirmed that SB 1135 was authored by Senator Speier.

Director Kishimoto asked if SB 1268 could be elevated from a priority two to a priority one.

Mr. Hugg stated that the District can serve in a supportive role as there are other groups already supporting the bill, but the District would not be in a position to take a leadership role.

Director Kishimoto recommended moving SB 1268 to a priority one and asked if staff had any issues with moving it.

Mr. Hugg responded that the difficulty in raising the priority is solely due to staff capacity.

Chair Holman asked what could be done to address staff capacity if SB 1268 was elevated to a priority one.

Mr. Hugg stated that staff would conduct targeted outreach to specific delegation members on the relevant committee with whom the District has relationships, making explicit asks and effectively working the phones as it goes through, and noted that the bill analysis does have a long list of supporters.

Chair Holman commented that she would rather prioritize AB 2513 and elevate it to a priority one. She emphasized that she does support SB 1268 but there is already broad support for this bill.

Director Kishimoto noted that she understood the reasoning to elevate AB 2513 to a priority one since SB 1268 does have broad support and supports elevating AB 2513 to a priority one.

Public comment period opened.

The following person provided comments:

- Kristi Corley

Public comment period closed.

Chair Holman confirmed that there were no objections for the Committee elevating AB 2513 to a priority one bill, and the Committee concurred.

No Committee action required.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Holman adjourned the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee at 4:09 p.m.

Maria Soria, MMC
District Clerk