



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

**PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022

June 30, 2015

DRAFT MINUTES

ROLL CALL

Director Cyr called the Special Meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee to order at 3:34 p.m.

Members Present: Jed Cyr and Larry Hassett

Members Absent: Curt Riffle

Staff Present: General Manager Steve Abbors, Assistant General Manager Ana Ruiz, Assistant General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Senior Planner Meredith Manning, and District Clerk Jennifer Woodworth

Motion: The committee selected Director Cyr to act as the Chair Pro-Tem.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

VOTE: 2-0-0

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- 1. Approve the Planning and Natural Resources Committee Minutes:**
 - April 14, 2015**
 - April 21, 2015**
 - April 29, 2015**
 - June 2, 2015**

Director Cyr stated that the minutes for April 21, 2015 are continued to the next Planning and Natural Resources Committee meeting to allow the District Clerk to listen to the audio recordings to clarify comments made at the meeting.

Motion: Director Hassett moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the April 14, 2015, April 29, 2015, and June 2, 2015 Planning and Natural Resources Committee meetings.

VOTE: 2-0-0

2. Draft Schematic Design and Alternatives for the Mount Umunhum Summit Project (R-15-100)

Senior Planner Meredith Manning described the current status of the project and summarized direction received from the Planning and Natural Resources Committee at the previous meeting on the topic.

Bob Birkeland, representing landscape architecture firm Restoration Design Group, provided a brief overview of the project's timeline and described various design challenges at the site, including exposed nature of the summit, limited parking, and ADA access. Mr. Birkeland outlined options for mitigating the challenges presented. Ms. Manning described various alternatives being explored for equestrian parking and access to the trails. Mr. Birkeland showed draft schematic designs for the summit displaying where potential shelters and parking areas would be located. Ms. Manning also described an open air option for the Mt. Umunhum tower to provide for interpretive elements and a gathering area for visitors. Finally, Mr. Birkeland provided project cost estimates and proposed project phasing.

Director Hassett inquired if the cost estimates provided includes the three options for the radar towers.

Ms. Manning explained that the options for the radar tower are not currently included in this project. The provided cost estimates also do not include costs for a potential well on the site. Currently a well is currently the only option for providing potable water at the site because at this time the Regional Water Quality Control Board is not issuing permits for water to be brought to the site.

Director Hassett inquired further regarding the proposed gate allowing access to ADA parking.

Ms. Manning explained the gate would be unmanned and would have signs directing visitors to ADA parking and a drop-off area near the summit.

Extensive discussion ensued regarding the potential need and use for a shuttle to the summit. Ms. Manning reported that the option of a shuttle was discussed in 2012, and at that time it was determined staff would wait to determine visitor usage before exploring shuttle options.

Operations Manager Michael Newburn provided additional information regarding access needs for equestrians on the trail and at the summit, including trail width and shaded areas.

Ms. Manning described two installations currently on the site by partner agencies – Santa Clara Valley Water District and United States Geological Service. Ms. Manning reported the District has received a request from the Santa Clara Valley Water District to temporarily mount an antenna on the radar tower, which would report on climate conditions.

The Committee agreed the Water District could place antenna on the tower.

Assistant General Counsel Hilary Stevenson reported staff can proceed with this direction through execution of a revocable license agreement to be negotiated with the Water District.

Public hearing opened at 5:16 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public hearing closed at 5:16 p.m.

Director Hassett inquired if guidelines would be developed in order to determine when the preserve would be closed for access.

Ms. Manning reported several access gates could be closed to prevent visitors from entering the site when it is closed. Mr. Abbors stated the Operations department would draft guidelines for determining when the site should be closed to ensure visitor safety.

The Committee provided feedback regarding the proposed shade structures, including their preference for a concrete structure for the trailhead area and minimalist structures for the summit area.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Cyr adjourned the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at 5:30 p.m.

Jennifer Woodworth, CMC
District Clerk