



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

September 28, 2016  
Board Meeting 16-24

## **SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING**

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

Administrative Office  
330 Distel Circle  
Los Altos, CA 94022

**September 28, 2016**

#### **DRAFT MINUTES**

#### **SPECIAL MEETING – CLOSED SESSION**

President Kishimoto called the special meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Jed Cyr, Nonette Hanco, Cecily Harris, Larry Hassett, Yoriko Kishimoto, Curt Riffle, and Pete Siemens

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: General Manager Steve Abbors

#### **1. CLOSED SESSION: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION. Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)**

Title of Employees: Controller  
General Counsel  
General Manager

#### **CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code Section 54957.6**

Agency designated representatives: Board of Directors  
Unrepresented Employees: Controller  
General Counsel  
General Manager

Public comments opened at 5:00 p.m.

No speakers.

Public comments closed at 5:00 p.m.

The Board convened into closed session.

President Kishimoto adjourned the special meeting at 6:47 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

President Kishimoto called the regular meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to order at 7:01 p.m.

President Kishimoto reported the Board met in closed session, and no reportable action was taken.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Jed Cyr, Nonette Hanko, Cecily Harris, Larry Hassett, Yoriko Kishimoto, Curt Riffle, and Pete Siemens

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: General Manager Steve Abbors, Assistant General Manager Ana Ruiz, Chief Financial Officer/ Administrative Services Director Stefan Jaskulak, General Counsel Sheryl Schaffner, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Jennifer Woodworth, Planning Manager Jane Mark, Planner III Lisa Bankosh, Planner III Gretchen Laustsen

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

No speakers.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**VOTE: 7-0-0**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Director Harris pulled Item 3 from the Consent Calendar.

Public comment opened at 7:02 p.m.

No speakers.

Public comment closed at 7:02 p.m.

**Motion:** Director Cyr moved, and Director Siemens seconded the motion to approve the Consent Calendar, with the exception of Item 3.

**VOTE: 7-0-0**

**1. Approve September 14, 2016 Minutes**

2. **Approve Claims Report**
3. **Agreement with Grassroots Ecology (formerly Acterra Stewardship) for Native Planting and Interpretive Work at Cooley Landing (R-16-116)**

General Manager's Recommendation: Enter into an agreement with Grassroots Ecology in the amount of \$90,000 to manage volunteer service projects for native plant restoration and interpretive work during a three-year period at Cooley Landing Park, which includes portions of Ravenswood Open Space Preserve. The full scope of work is eligible for Measure AA reimbursement.

Director Harris inquired if the work had already been completed and whether the scope of work includes maintenance. Additionally, Director Harris asked for information regarding the District's ongoing partnership with the City of East Palo Alto for Cooley Landing.

Senior Planner Tina Hugg explained the work has not been completed and is a replacement of the temporary installation. The plantings are new installations rather than maintenance, which is why the project is eligible for Measure AA reimbursement.

Assistant General Manager Ana Ruiz explained the District is continuing to work with East Palo Alto for the next phase of the park plan, which also includes a portion of the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve.

Director Riffle spoke in favor of the item and requested additional information regarding long term plans for the site.

Ms. Ruiz explained a long term plan for continuing a District partnership has not yet been developed and will require Board approval.

**Motion:** Director Riffle moved, and Director Hassett seconded the motion to approve Item 3.

**VOTE: 7-0-0**

#### **BOARD BUSINESS**

4. **Public Hearing to Receive Public Comments on the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (R-16-117)**

Director Riffle reported the District purchased the property from the Peninsula Open Space Trust 19 years ago, and there are no ongoing financial implications between the two organizations related to the agenda item. Director Riffle consulted with General Counsel who did not identify a conflict of interest related to Director Riffle's participation in the Board's deliberation on the item; therefore, he will not be recusing himself from the item.

Planner III Lisa Bankosh provided an overview of the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan, including the planning process to date and each of the proposed three implementation phases. For Alma College, the District plans a fiscally-sustainable clean-up and rehabilitation plan which allows the site's cultural significance to be understood and safely enjoyed by the public. There

are several constraints associated with fault lines beneath the Alma College site prohibiting some reuse options for the site.

Planner III Gretchen Laustsen provided an overview of the elements of the Bear Creek Stables site plan including improvement standards, management guidelines, public access programs and improvements, and maintenance and operations improvements. The Board previously selected Phased Alternative A2 as the preferred alternative for Bear Creek Stables.

Director Hanco suggested including interpretive elements to provide more knowledge regarding the San Andreas Fault.

Ms. Bankosh explained there is the opportunity to include interpretive elements at Alma College to help educate the public about the San Andreas Fault.

Director Siemens thanked staff for their work on their project and spoke in favor of the design work already underway.

Director Riffle spoke in favor of the preserve plan and the phasing of the project.

Director Harris spoke in favor of the preserve plan, the phasing of the projects, and the preservation of the cultural resources. Director Harris requested additional information related to seeking additional historical designation for Alma College.

Ms. Bankosh explained the District will be researching the process, especially related to funding resources related to any additional historical listing.

President Kishimoto commented on the different areas and improvements for the public and private access areas and whether Measure AA funding would be used for those improvements.

Ms. Laustsen explained when the improvements return to the Board for approval, the costs can be listed separately for the private and public improvements.

President Kishimoto commented on possible increased erosion and sedimentation due to new trails.

Ms. Bankosh explained staff has a goal of an overall reduction in sedimentation for the preserve.

President Kishimoto inquired regarding the restoration of the Alma College building if a partner is not found.

Ms. Bankosh explained Santa Clara County only requires stabilization of the buildings, and any additional rehabilitation and potential reuse options require additional grant or partner funding.

Mike Parker of Ascent Environmental provided an overview of the CEQA process to date and described the purpose of an environmental impact report (EIR). The preserve plan was designed to mitigate impacts through avoidance, minimization, compensation, and adaptive management. Mr. Parker described several impacts that were mitigated to less than significant, including biological resources, cultural resources, hazardous materials, and dam safety.

Gary Jakobs of Ascent Environmental described the significant and unavoidable impacts associated with the demolition of historic structures associated with the “Alma College Complex.” Mitigation includes documentation of the 1950 library, utility garage, and 1934 library prior to removal, but the impacts to historic structures would remain significant and unavoidable after mitigation. Mr. Jakobs described the alternatives evaluated in the EIR.

Ms. Bankosh provided an overview of CEQA process and described various methods for the public to provide input.

Director Riffle asked how parking needs would be addressed.

Ms. Bankosh explained additional parking areas are planned for phase three; however, if demand is high, the parking areas could potentially be completed earlier in the project. The size of the parking areas could also be increased.

President Kishimoto opened the public hearing opened at 8:26 p.m.

Nancy Cole spoke in favor of the preserve plan and spoke regarding hiking along the Sanborn trail and suggested trails in the eastern side of the preserve not be multi-use.

Jenny Whitman thanked staff and the District for their work on the preserve plan and thanked staff for working with Bear Creek Stables in developing it. Finally, Ms. Whitman read a letter from Rick Parfitt of the Santa Clara Fire Safe Council regarding wildfire protection.

Jane Krejci from the Mountain School spoke in favor of partnerships and thanked staff for their efforts.

Melany Moore spoke in favor of the process.

Peter Hargreaves thanked staff for their work. Mr. Hargreaves asked if residents who live near the southwest corner of the preserve would have access there to the western portion of the preserve. Additionally, would the eastern portion trails remain open by permit once western portion opens.

Sharon Chalmai Strong asked if western portion of the preserve will be available to hikers and equestrians by permit before it is open to public. Also, will there be connection between east and west sides of the preserve at intersection of summit and Bear Creek Rd, and can the presentation center trail be connected to the trail network at an earlier phase?

Pam Ashford thanked staff for the District’s wildfire protection efforts at Bear Creek Stables.

Frank Bakonyi spoke in favor of water storage at the Bear Creek Stables, separation of the public from the private boarders at Bear Creek Stables, allowing public events on site for possible fundraising, and increased parking areas for visitors.

President Kishimoto closed the public hearing closed at 8:42 p.m.

Director Hassett thanked staff for their work on the preserve plan and EIR. Director Hassett spoke regarding increased traffic along mountain roads.

Ms. Bankosh responded to public comments regarding access in the southwest corner of the preserve stating road safety and terrain conditions prevent access at this time. Permit access to the eastern portion will continue for stable boarders and neighbors. All other permit access for the eastern portion will end after the western side opens because when construction begins on the eastern side, it will be unsafe for the public to be in the construction areas.

Director Cyr thanked staff for their work on the project, especially related to the historic analysis of Alma College.

Director Kishimoto thanked staff for their efforts.

Director Siemens suggested inclusion of a temporary gravel parking lot in the northern area of the preserve if demand is high.

No Board action required.

### **INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDA**

- Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing and Bay Area Ridge Trail Crossing Open House, Summary of Public Comments, and Next Steps

### **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

#### **A. Committee Reports**

Director Kishimoto reported the Diversity Ad Hoc Committee met on September 15<sup>th</sup> and will be meeting again soon.

Director Kishimoto reported the Board Retreat Ad Hoc Committee met on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### **B. Staff Reports**

Assistant General Manager Ana Ruiz reported on several ongoing projects, including the Ravenswood Bay Trail, a potential purchase of San Jose Water Company land to increase public access, removal of material at Mount Umunhum to Mount Thayer, and dog access at El Sereno Open Space Preserve.

Chief Financial Officer/Administrative Services Director Stefan Jaskulak provided an update on the Measure AA Bond Oversight Committee, information technology upgrades and training, and training on the District's enterprise resource system.

Legislative/External Affairs Specialist Josh Hugg reported on a request from the Sempervirens Fund to endorse efforts to get the Cotoni Coast Dairies property added to the California Coast National Monument.

The Board by consensus requested staff return with this item for Board discussion and action.

General Manager Steve Abbors reported his attendance at a meeting of the League of Conservation Voters.

C. Director Reports

The Board members submitted their compensatory reports.

Directors Hassett, Cyr, Siemens, Riffle, and Kishimoto reported their attendance at the District's Volunteer Recognition Event and thanked staff for their effort putting it together.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Kishimoto adjourned the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District back into closed session at 9:22 p.m.

President Kishimoto adjourned the special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at 9:31 p.m.

---

Jennifer Woodworth, MMC  
District Clerk