



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

**MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT  
LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Administrative Office  
330 Distel Circle  
Los Altos, CA 94022

**Tuesday, January 16, 2017**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Director Cyr called the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee to order at 2:37 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Cecily Harris, Jed Cyr

Members absent: Nonette Hanko

Staff present: Acting General Manager Ana Ruiz, Acting General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services Stefan Jaskulak, Grants Specialist Melanie Askay, Public Affairs Assistant Jordan McDaniel, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Jennifer Woodworth,

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

No speakers present.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**VOTE:** 2-0-0 (Director Hanko absent)

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**1. Approve the October 24, 2017 Legislative, Funding, & Public Affairs Committee meeting minutes.**

**Motion:** Director Harris moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to approve the October 24, 2017 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs committee meeting minutes.

Public comment opened at 2:39 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 2:40 p.m.

**VOTE: 2-0-0** (Director Hanko absent)

## **2. Update to Board Policy 3.10 – District Grantmaking Program (R-18-06)**

Grants Specialist Melanie Askay presented an overview of the history of the District's current grantmaking program and its achievements to date. Ms. Askay proposed several broad policy-level proposals to expand and deepen the impact of the current program, including updating the funding categories priorities to reflect the current mission and goals, increasing the dollar investment, and revising the framework for internal processes and controls. Staff presented an overall timeline for the proposed updates to the program.

Director Cyr asked for clarification on how the district funds will be leveraged or used with respect to the Access, Education and Interpretation funding category. Director Cyr also expressed the need to be careful and thoughtful when determining our legislative priorities.

Ms. Askay replied this category could be interpreted as providing information and educating the public about access opportunities and encouraging access.

Director Harris applauded the existing program's emphasis on applied science and supports the proposed funding priority of Access, Education, and Interpretation category, but acknowledged funding opportunities are more available now for environmental education and interpretation than there were two decades ago.

Director Harris expressed concerns regarding the Capacity Support for Networks/Partnerships and Policy/Advocacy via Networks/Partnerships categories. Director Harris inquired about how tax dollars would be spent and what the reporting requirements would be for partner groups.

Ms. Askay explained the District can determine the funding reporting procedures.

Director Harris asked what qualifies as Networks/Partnerships and highlighted that other organizations have different missions than that of Midpen, such as single-species groups, land management groups, and outdoor recreation groups.

Ms. Askay explained all of the above could apply given that they are existing networks or groups with missions that align with Midpen.

Director Harris asked if municipal non-profits would be eligible for a partnership since many do not have a non-profit status.

Ms. Askay reported staff would consider them in the future, as their inclusion adds an extra layer of complexity by adding these kinds of partnerships. Also, many of these groups can easily attain a non-profit status through a fiscal sponsor.

Director Harris stated that biannual reports are more effective than annual reports to track funding and expressed concerns about how partnerships would report their funding.

Ms. Askay explained Midpen will choose the reporting criteria.

Director Harris expressed concern about the Policy/Advocacy funding priority stating the District is not in a place to understand the potential implications of the Policy/Advocacy via Networks/Partnerships category.

Public comment opened at 3:09 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 3:10 p.m.

**Motion:** Director Harris moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to approve the motion to approve of updates to Board Policy on the District's Grantmaking Program.

**VOTE: 2-0-0** (Director Hanco absent)

**3. Consideration of Commemorative Trail and Bench for Stephen E. Abbors in the Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve (R-18-05)**

District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Jennifer Woodworth provided the staff report describing the locations of and specifications for the trail and bench dedication. Ms. Woodworth provided information about the project timeline and the discussions currently being held with Santa Clara County Parks on renaming the portion of the PG&E Trail on county land.

Public comment opened at 3:15 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 3:16 p.m.

**Motion:** Director Cyr moved, and Director Harris seconded the motion to consider the Commemorative Trail and Bench for Stephen E. Abbors in the Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve.

**VOTE: 2-0-0** (Director Hanco absent)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Director Cyr adjourned the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee at 3:17 p.m.

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Jordan McDaniel  
Public Affairs Administrative Assistant