



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

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

Administrative Office
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022

**Tuesday, August 13, 2019
2:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kishimoto called the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee to order at 2:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Karen Holman and Yoriko Kishimoto

Members Absent: Jed Cyr

Staff Present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Brian Malone, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, and District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Jennifer Woodworth

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No speakers present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Cyr absent)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Approve the April 16, 2019 Planning and Natural Resources Committee Minutes

Motion: Director Holman moved, and Chair Kishimoto seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the April 16, 2019 Planning and Natural Resources Committee meeting.

VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Cyr absent)

2. Volunteer Program Partnership with Student Conservation Association (R-19-115)

Volunteer Program Manager Jennifer Williams provided the staff report describing the District's partnership with the Student Conservation Association (SCA), including benefits of the program to the District and participants.

Rangeland Ecologist Lewis Reed described the summer 2019 Community Crew Program fieldwork project completed in partnership with SCA, which supported the District's conservation grazing program. SCA participants used a software application to map and record observations of coyote brush in grazing areas. The data gathered will be utilized to create maps to inform the District's resource management projects.

The SCA crew leaders and members introduced themselves and described the project completed in the District's preserves, including the Tunitas Creek, Bluebrush Canyon, and October Farms properties. The crew members described their personal experiences in open space, including wildlife and wildflowers seen and the terrain hiked. Additionally, they described their sense of accomplishments as they learned the software program, increased their team building and collaborative skills, and supported each other.

Director Holman inquired regarding the number of hours spent by the participants.

Ms. Zarte reported the participants mapped approximately five hours a day, four days a week for four weeks. Approximately ten students participated each day.

The students shared their experiences regarding how they became interested in the program and their increased understanding and appreciation of open space.

Director Holman suggested providing information regarding the value of the program, including monetary and nonmonetary benefits, such as supporting diversity goals.

Director Holman inquired regarding the next steps for the data gathered and asked that the information be included in a future Board report.

Mr. Reed reported the data collected will be used to inform resource management, including working with tenants to maintain native grasslands, including coyote brush, and managing brush encroachment.

Public comment opened at 3:00 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 3:00 p.m.

No committee action required.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kishimoto adjourned the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at 3:00 p.m.

Jennifer Woodworth, MMC
District Clerk