



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

## **MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

### **PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

*The Committee conducted this meeting in accordance with California Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20. All Board members and staff participated via teleconference.*

**Tuesday, September 22, 2020**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Director Kishimoto called the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee to order at 1:00 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Members present: Karen Holman, Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, and Yoriko Kishimoto

Members absent: None

Staff present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Brian Malone, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Chief Financial Officer Stefan Jaskulak, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Jennifer Woodworth, Planning Manager Jane Mark, Senior Planner Tina Hugg, Chief Ranger Matt Anderson

District Clerk Jennifer Woodworth announced this meeting is being held in accordance with Governor Newsom's Executive Order allowing Committee members to participate remotely. The District has done its best to conduct a meeting where everyone has an opportunity to listen to the meeting and to provide comment. 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. Ms. Woodworth described the process and protocols for the meeting.

#### **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

District Clerk Jennifer Woodworth reported no public comments had been submitted.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Director Kersteen-Tucker moved, and Director Holman seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0**

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**1. Preliminary Findings from the Rancho San Antonio Multimodal Access Strategies Report (R-20-102)**

General Manager Ana Ruiz providing introductory comments described the high level of visitor use at Rancho San Antonio, which has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. The preserve has many amenities that draw in visitors and is located near many communities providing easier access as compared to more rural District preserves. Ms. Ruiz described the parking locations and the frequent need for additional parking for the large number of visitors seeking to visit the park and preserve. As a result, the District completed a study to better understand the opportunities and challenges associated with visiting Rancho San Antonio and to develop numerous strategies for addressing these challenges.

Senior Planner Tina Hugg provided the staff presentation describing the project background, including various entrances to the preserve and park, continued increases in visitation, ongoing parking and traffic challenges, and interest by various stakeholders in surrounding communities and relevant agencies. Ms. Hugg described the parking and transportation demand analysis completed since Fall 2019 and introduced Jason Rosenblum with the District's consultant IBI to present the study's findings.

Mr. Rosenblum described existing bicyclist, pedestrian, transit, and vehicular access and the methodology for gathering data for the study through vehicle counts, in-person and online surveys, etc. Mr. Rosenblum reviewed the various questions asked in the surveys and the dates during which visitor and vehicle counts were completed.

Chair Kishimoto suggested studying levels of bike rack usage as well to better understand those accessing Rancho San Antonio by bicycle.

Director Kersteen-Tucker inquired if visitation has declined since peak levels during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief Ranger Matt Anderson reported that visitation continues to be higher as compared to last year.

Mr. Rosenblum described various transportation demand management strategies, which were grouped in five categories: access improvements, transit improvements, traffic operational improvements, visitor demand improvements, and capacity improvements. Access improvement suggestions include additional neighborhood access points for non-vehicles, subsidized ride-sharing services, new and improved pedestrian and bicycle access, and additional bicycle facilities. Transit improvement strategies include on-demand shuttle service, free or low-cost shuttle options, and improved public transit options. Traffic operational improvements include

dynamic or variable signage, carpool restricted parking lot, geometric parking site layout modifications, etc. Visitor demand management strategies include vehicle parking fees, congestion pricing, reservation or carpool app, metered parking, valet parking, etc.

The committee members requested and received clarification regarding the various options for transportation demand management strategies.

Director Holman suggested introducing preferred group days where specific groups, such as carpools, school, or senior groups would receive preferential parking for certain days or hours, which may encourage visitors to change their habits.

Mr. Anderson reported school groups are currently allowed to park in a separate permit lot.

Mr. Rosenblum explained capacity improvements include coordination with local jurisdictions on neighborhood parking, off-site or additional trailhead parking, and adding on-site parking.

Mr. Rosenblum described the proposed scoring factors and weighting methodology for the various management strategies.

Director Holman suggested an additional criterion related to the carrying capacity of Rancho San Antonio should be considered because visitorship could raise so much that it has a negative impact on the preserve and its natural resources and wildlife.

Chair Kishimoto suggested an additional scoring factor related to the impact on the environment, including the quality of the open space, impact on wildlife, etc.

Ms. Ruiz reported the District's Science Advisory Panel is studying the effect and benefits of public access at District preserves. Additional information will be coming forward on this topic next year. The three legs of the District's mission will need to be balanced in managing its lands, which is included in the proposed scoring factor 8.

Director Holman stated scoring factor 8 requires additional clarification for members of the public to fully understand its intent to incorporate the three areas of the District's mission.

Director Kersteen-Tucker suggested that scoring factors 8 and 10 could be in conflict as the District seeks to sustain the District's mission and provide equitable access.

Public comment opened at 2:39 p.m.

District Clerk Jennifer Woodworth read the submitted comments into the record.

Yong Kim expressed concerns regarding offering additional parking near neighborhood access points to Rancho San Antonio.

Greg Blumstein encouraged the District to keep street parking and access open for all visitors to Rancho San Antonio.

Jean Gordon opposed providing parking in the Ravensbury/Mora neighborhoods due to increased traffic that would endanger pedestrians and cyclists and destroy the tranquil nature of the neighborhood.

Julie Oberweis expressed concern regarding the effects on wildlife when evaluating access options for Rancho San Antonio. Ms. Oberweis supported sidewalks and access paths on Mora Drive.

Sandy Madeleine described a meeting between Cupertino Union School District, the City of Los Altos, and the District to discuss route use, existing conditions, and proposed “wayfinding” plans for visitors to Rancho San Antonio. Ms. Madeleine requested the District consider the impacts of additional traffic on safe routes to school when looking at access options.

Hal Feeney suggested the District gather additional access data at all Rancho San Antonio entrance points, which is important in order to evaluate future access options.

Edward Cristal suggested constructing a parking garage at or near the Cristo Rey Drive site to address parking shortages.

Gerda Cristal opposed additional parking or access near Mora Drive, such as through shuttles or ride share programs. Increased parking facilities should be added at the Cristo Rey entrance.

Dinesh Desai stated additional parking should be created on District land, such as inside the Mora Drive entrance.

David Kehlet supported additional access options for Rancho San Antonio, such as a shuttle during peak periods or reduced costs for ride sharing services.

Francisco Palao stated additional parking or sidewalks at the Mora Drive, Ravensbury, and Rhus Ridge gates should not be installed due to low pedestrian and bicycle traffic in these areas and because these are opposed by those living in these semi-rural residential neighborhoods.

N. Soir expressed concern that differently abled or residents or multi-family or multi-generational people are being discouraged from visiting in their single occupancy vehicles.

Byron Lilly suggested Rancho San Antonio may already be at capacity because some visitors do not wear masks and the number of visitors may not allow for social distancing.

Kenneth Nitz suggested various other factors to study regarding visitation, such as distance traveled, purpose of the visit, length of visit, etc.

Jim Waschura suggested adding more parking spaces at the Cristo Rey Drive parking lots.

Jaime Rodriguez supported adding parking sensors and signage at the park entrance and nearby to alert visitors regarding parking availability. Mr. Rodriguez suggested adding bike and pedestrian counting systems at all park entrances.

Public comment closed at 2:54 p.m.

The Committee suggested substituting “Protecting and enhancing environmental qualities of Rancho San Antonio” for factor 8.

Director Holman expressed concern regarding institution of congestion pricing because it would potentially limit the ability of some residents to visit the preserve, especially those from disadvantaged communities.

Director Kersteen-Tucker commented on the need to balance any congestion pricing options with no-cost options, such as a free shuttle.

Director Holman spoke against installation of meters for parking and stated District preserves have always provided free access, which should not change.

Ms. Ruiz suggested since the Committee is not currently making recommendations on the strategies, that all strategies be considered using the rating system, so the full Board of Directors will have the associated data.

Chair Kishimoto suggested requiring the demand management strategies be revenue neutral.

Director Holman suggested adding factors addressing neighborhood safety and impact on the neighborhood experience.

Mr. Rosenblum reported this would be addressed as part of community and stakeholder input.

Director Kersteen-Tucker suggested separating the “Community and Stakeholder Input” into “Community and Neighborhood Input” and “Stakeholder Input.”

The Committee discussed the various potential edits for incorporation and by consensus accepted them as follows:

1. Main Site Parking Peak Hour Demand Reduction
2. Promotion of Modal Shift/ Reduction in GHG Emissions
3. Visitor Access Experience
4. Implementation Term
5. Ease of Implementation
6. Capital Cost
7. Operations/ Maintenance Cost
8. Protecting and Enhancing Preserve Environmental Qualities
9. Promotion of Equitable Opportunities for All
10. Districtwide Community Input
11. Neighborhood Input
12. Stakeholder Input

No Committee action required.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Kishimoto adjourned the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee at 4:00 p.m.

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Jennifer Woodworth, MMC  
District Clerk