



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS 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, November 17, 2020

APPROVED MINUTES*

CALL TO ORDER

Director Kersteen-Tucker called the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee to order at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Jed Cyr, Larry Hassett, and Zoe Kersteen-Tucker

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, Public Affairs Manager Kori Skinner, Public Affairs Specialist II Mike Kahn, Capital Project Manager III Zachary Alexander

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

Ms. Woodworth reported no public comments had been submitted.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Approve the October 20, 2020 Legislative, Funding, & Public Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Director Hassett moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to approve the October 20, 2020 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs committee meeting minutes.

Public comment opened at 2:03 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 2:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

2. Consideration of a Plaque Recognizing Significant Funding Contributions made toward the Mount Umunhum Radar Tower Repairs at Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve (R-20-131)

Assistant General Manager Brian Malone provided the staff presentation describing the history of the project and the Board's previous decisions regarding the Mt. Umunhum Radar Tower. The Umunhum Conservancy raised \$100,000 in funds to donate towards repairing and retaining the Radar Tower. Mr. Stephen Schott also expressed interest in donating \$200,000 towards repairing and retaining the Radar Tower. The District's *Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition* policy states individuals may be recognized for cash donations.

Mr. Malone described the proposed language for the radar tower donor recognition plaque.

Director Hassett requested clarification regarding the timing for the donated funds from the Umunhum Conservancy and stated the funding should be received prior to completing the repairs.

Mr. Malone reported the details will need to be further refined, but the Umunhum Conservancy has asked that the donations be made to fund specific repairs. Mr. Malone stated the funds will likely be received prior to final completion of the project but after the specified repairs are complete.

Capital Project Manager III Zachary Alexander reported the repairs will likely take several months.

General Manager Ana Ruiz suggested the District can discuss this topic with the Umunhum Conservancy to seek an agreement for the funds to be transferred while the repairs are underway to contribute towards the payment of invoices during the repair work.

Public comment opened at 2:32 p.m.

Jerry Hess provided suggestions for wording on the proposed plaque.

Leon Poskie provided comments in support of the project and suggestions for wording on the proposed plaque.

Basim Jaber provided input on the design and wording of the proposed plaque.

Public comment closed at 2:38 p.m.

The Committee discussed potential changes to the language for the proposed plaque including an option with simplified language to recognize donors.

The Committee discussed various options for the material for the plaque, its location, and whether to include the Umunhum Conservancy logo on the plaque.

Ms. Ruiz commented on the Umunhum Conservancy's design to include their logo on the proposed plaque. Signs at the site already contain logos for the District and for the Mt. Umunhum summit, and Ms. Ruiz expressed concern that adding a third logo could cause confusion for visitors.

Mr. Malone suggested reserving discretion for the plaque material at the General Manager's discretion in order to allow staff to select a material to reduce potential for vandalism.

The Committee provided guidance regarding the material for the proposed plaque but left the final discretion to the General Manager in order to minimize potential for and costs related to vandalism. However, the Committee expressed preference for a bronze-like material. Additionally, the Committee directed staff to install the plaque on the Radar Tower.

Motion: Director Cyr moved, and Director Hassett seconded the motion to forward to the full Board of Directors the consideration of a funder recognition plaque and associated language for significant funding contributions toward the Mount Umunhum Radar Tower repairs.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

3. 50th Anniversary Celebration Preparations (R-20-130)

Public Affairs Specialist II Mike Kahn described the timeline for developing the proposed scope of the 50th anniversary celebration plans and the goals and objectives for the celebration, including to commemorate the founding, increase public awareness and positive regard, tell the District's legacy story, and celebrate accomplishments. Proposed plans include developing an anniversary logo and themed products, organizing community and preserve events, hosting a scientific symposium on land management research, and filming a 60-minute documentary focusing on what it takes to make open space happen in the Bay Area.

Director Hassett suggested hosting a bus tour for visitors to be able to visit and experience various District preserves and view District projects to be followed by a dinner, similar to events held as part of the Special Parks District Forum.

Ms. Ruiz said staff will investigate this idea more to determine the best audience for this type of event and the potential size of the audience and how it could possibly be incorporated.

Director Hassett suggested the proposed documentary focus on preserving, protecting, and restoring open space because the District does not “make” open space.

Director Hassett suggested Director Cyr serve on any ad hoc committee if one is created to assist with the planning of the 50th anniversary celebration.

Director Kersteen-Tucker suggested recognizing ongoing taxpayer support for the District’s mission as one of the goals. Another potential goal could be to highlight coastal awareness, such as having coastside activities. Finally, Director Kersteen-Tucker suggested dedicating a trail at Johnston Ranch to Lennie Roberts, and the trail dedication could be incorporated into the 50th anniversary celebration.

Ms. Ruiz stated the trail dedication could be incorporated into the celebration and the work of the District’s founders.

Director Kersteen-Tucker suggested other partners may be interested in hosting celebratory events, such as the Peninsula Open Space Trust, which would also allow them to highlight their own accomplishments.

The Committee discussed whether a Board ad hoc committee should be formed to assist with the project and determined this would be the most efficient method of providing Board input on the project.

Public Affairs Manager Kori Skinner requested feedback on a potential budget for the celebration.

Director Hassett suggested the District could budget \$200,000 to \$400,000 for the project, seek potential funding for the proposed symposium from corporate sponsors, partners, or grants, and also sell tickets to the events.

Public comment opened at 4:02 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 4:02 p.m.

No Committee action required.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Kersteen-Tucker adjourned the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee at 4:02 p.m.

Jennifer Woodworth, MMC
District Clerk