



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, January 26, 2021**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

#### **ROLL CALL**

Members present: Karen Holman and Yoriko Kishimoto

Members absent: Zoe Kersteen-Tucker

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, Natural Resources Manager Kirk Lenington, Senior Resource Management Specialist Aaron Hébert

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.

#### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 2-0-0** (Director Kersteen-Tucker absent)

## **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

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

Merav Vonshak thanked the Board of Directors and members of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee for delaying the work on the Beatty parking lot until completion of the newt study.

## **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **1. Approve the December 15, 2020 2020 Planning and Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes.**

**Motion:** Director Holman moved, and Director Kishimoto seconded the motion to approve the December 15, 2020 Planning and Natural Resources Committee meeting minutes.

Public comment opened at 1:05 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 1:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 2-0-0** (Director Kersteen-Tucker absent)

### **2. Consideration of the scored, prioritized findings and recommendations from the Rancho San Antonio Multimodal Access Strategies Report (R-20-11)**

General Manager Ana Ruiz commented on the purpose of the project to address parking issues at Rancho San Antonio, where visitation increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Ruiz described stakeholder and public meetings held on the topic, which were aimed at receiving input and seeking strategies to address parking and traffic concerns at the preserve.

Senior Planner Tina Hugg provided the staff presentation describing the Santa Clara County park and District preserve site, parking areas, and access points and summarized previous Board and Committee actions. Ms. Hugg reviewed the various scoring factors and their weights previously discussed by the Committee and described feedback received from stakeholders and the public on the scoring factors.

Jason Rosenblum, transportation consultant with the IBI Group which consulted on the project, presented the transportation demand management strategy for the project. Mr. Rosenblum described how each strategy measured in relation to the weighted scoring factors and explained how the strategies were grouped into tiers for consideration by the Committee and Board. Mr. Rosenblum presented the prioritized strategies and recommendations for implementation for the District.

Director Holman inquired regarding potential access opportunities from Lehigh Hanson owned land.

Ms. Ruiz reported future access from the Hammond-Snyder Loop Trail would be the most logical, but other potential access points are limited due to the steep terrain, safety concerns, etc.

Director Holman requested and received clarification regarding bike racks installed at various access points to encourage visitors to avoid traveling by vehicle and instead visit using bicycles.

Ms. Hugg and Assistant General Manager Brian Malone provided updates regarding bike racks installed at access points, in parking lots, and where bicycle access ends at various points. Ms. Hugg reported improving bike facilities and infrastructure is one of the proposed strategies being considered.

Chair Kishimoto inquired regarding implementation timelines and budget for the strategies.

Ms. Hugg reported that detail is not yet available, and the scope of each strategy require additional analysis to determine the implementation schedule and costs.

Public comment opened at 2:04 p.m.

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

Ed Noskowski supports e-bikes being allowed in all District open space because they are safe and allow access for more people.

Curt McDowell supports electric scooters being treated the same as bicycles as is done by other agencies. Electric scooters should be allowed on all paved roads, parking lots, and bicycle paths, which will allow access for more people without bringing additional vehicles to the preserve.

Darwin Chang commented the walkways adjoining Rancho San Antonio, such as the main entrance on Cristo Rey Drive, need to be maintained because nearby traffic, construction, etc. make it dangerous to walk on the street. Additionally, dogs should be allowed on the bike path.

Greg Blumstein supported keeping parking along public streets near alternate entrances available. Restricting parking in these areas will further increase traffic and parking issues at the main entrance.

Charles Boynton supported allowing specific trails to be dedicated to mountain biking because some users would be able to use this as a commuter route and reduce traffic and parking issues.

Public comment closed at 2:08 p.m.

Mr. Malone stated electric scooters are not allowed at the preserve or county park beyond the parking lot and reported sidewalks outside of the preserve are maintained by the City of Cupertino. Mr. Malone stated staff would follow up with the appropriate agency regarding the sidewalks.

Director Holman requested additional information regarding the suggestion to allow bicycles on additional trails at the preserve.

Ms. Ruiz stated opening more trails to bicycles could potentially increase crowding at the preserve due to additional visitors driving to the preserve to access the bicycle trails.

Director Holman suggested additional research may be needed regarding the feasibility of a shuttle service in non-peak visitor hours.

Director Holman suggested volunteers could be used to help monitor parking lot capacity.

Ms. Hugg stated this could be considered as the strategies are scoped further for project implementation and budget.

Director Holman inquired regarding the weighting of neighborhood and stakeholder input and level of participation from neighbors.

Ms. Hugg explained how responses were weighted and Mr. Rosenblum described how neighbor and stakeholder comments were incorporated in the scoring matrix.

Chair Kishimoto inquired regarding the implementation timeline stating the District should move forward expeditiously.

Ms. Hugg reported based on the feedback from the Committee and Board, staff would incorporate scoping of some high priority projects into an upcoming Budget and Action Plan.

Chair Kishimoto stated more bike trails connecting access points to the central portion of the preserve could potentially be included in the bike facilities strategy.

Director Holman suggested keeping the internal bike trails separate because these trails have additional implications, and bicycle racks and other infrastructure may be a higher priority.

Director Holman suggested the wording for “improved morning access” may need to be modified due to the potential impact on wildlife.

**Motion:** Director Holman moved, and Director Kishimoto seconded the motion to forward to the Board of Directors the prioritized transportation demand management strategies for consideration of approval with the following modifications:

- Modify “more bike trails” to clarify the additional trails would be to improve bike access from visitor access points to the central portion of the preserve
- Additional information related to “Improve morning access” would be provided regarding concerns due to the impact on wildlife from human/wildlife interactions
- Move “Dynamic and variable signage” to the first priority tier

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 2-0-0** (Director Kersteen-Tucker absent)

### **3. Programmatic Environmental Permitting for the Open Space Maintenance and Restoration Program R-21-12)**

Senior Resource Management Specialist Aaron Hébert provided the staff presentation describing the Programmatic Environmental Permitting for the Open Space Maintenance and Restoration Program. Mr. Hébert described the permitting process including the federal and state agencies to be consulted and explained the difference between programmatic and individual permits and examples of how these apply to District projects. Mr. Hébert summarized activities and projects included in the proposal for Districtwide programmatic permitting. Finally, Mr. Hébert outlined changes from past practices to support a more systematic approach to mitigation.

Committee members requested and received clarification regarding small scale facilities and improvements, such as new trails and ranching infrastructure.

Director Holman requested clarification regarding programmatic permitting related to historic resources.

Mr. Hébert described the data maintained in historic resources databases of other agencies and the District's historic resource database. These databases help staff make an assessment of how to best protect historic, prehistoric, and cultural resources and to guide the approach to the project in order to protect these resources.

Director Kishimoto requested clarification regarding the programmatic permits covering neighboring lands.

Mr. Hébert explained the permits would be extended to partner-owned land on a limited and project-specific basis where the District would provide project oversight.

Public comment opened at 3:38 p.m.

No public comments had been submitted.

Public comment closed at 3:38 p.m.

No committee action required.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Kishimoto adjourned the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee at 3:38 p.m.

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Jennifer Woodworth, MMC  
District Clerk