



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, May 18, 2021

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kishimoto called the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee to order at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Yoriko Kishimoto and Zoe Kersteen-Tucker

Members absent: Karen Holman

Staff present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Jennifer Woodworth, Planning Manager Jane Mark, Senior Planner Meredith Manning, Planner III Alex Casbara, Planner III Xucan Zhou

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 Kersteen-Tucker moved, and Director Kishimoto seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Holman absent)

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

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

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Select Planning and Natural Resources Committee Chair for Calendar Year 2021

Director Kishimoto nominated Director Kersteen-Tucker to serve as the Planning and Natural Resources Committee Chair for calendar year 2021.

Director Kersteen-Tucker accepted the nomination.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Holman absent)

Director Holman joined the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

2. Approve the January 26, 2021 Planning and Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Director Kishimoto moved, and Director Kersteen-Tucker seconded the motion to approve the January 26, 2021 Planning and Natural Resources Committee meeting minutes.

Public comment opened at 2:06 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 2:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

2. Hawthorns Area Plan – Overview of the Proposed Planning Process (R-21-65)

Planner III Meredith Manning provided the staff presentation describing the purpose and need for the Hawthorns Area project, including identifying vision and goals for the area, development of a public access plan, and updating the use and management plan for the property. Ms. Manning outlined the proposed multi-year planning process and provided a timeline of previous Board and District actions. Ms. Manning described the property location, zoning designation, and conservation easement for the property.

Planner III Alex Casbara described the Hawthorns Historic District, which includes the entire Hawthorns property and includes the buildings and some landscape features. Mr. Casbara provided an overview of the property and surrounding resources.

Director Holman inquired regarding the ability of wildlife to cross the fence line along Alpine Rd.

Ms. Manning reported smaller animals can get through or under the fence, and large wildlife, such as deer, cross through gaps in the fence.

Mr. Casbara described the phases of the project including potential formation of a working group to ensure the Hawthorns Area Plan reflects community values, engage residents and regional stakeholders, and evaluate specific opportunities and constraints of the property. Mr. Casbara outlined the next steps for the project and provided further details for the project timeline.

Director Holman inquired if a member of the Palo Alto Parks and Recreation Commission would be included in the potential working group.

Ms. Manning reported staff reached out to the Commission to invite them to attend the Committee meeting and be a part of this process. Further development of the working group membership will be determined later in coordination with the Committee.

Public comment opened at 2:53 p.m.

Jeremy Dennis, Town of Portola Valley Town Manager, thanked the District for their work on the project and spoke in support of the project and opportunities for outreach. Mr. Dennis suggested the District reach out to the ranching community to seek input from that community on the project. Finally, Mr. Dennis spoke in favor of moving the trail further from the roadway if possible.

David Smernoff provided comments regarding various communities neighboring the property that will be important for outreach because they easily access the property through trails. Mr. Smernoff also spoke in support of providing safer trail access further from Alpine Rd. and in support of regional trail connections for the area.

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

Jerry Wittenauer, member of the Equestrian Trail Riders Action Committee, expressed support for including equestrian input for the proposed working group and in support of a trail further from Alpine Rd.

Josh Berke expressed concern regarding the proposed project timeline and shared comments in support of opening the area to public access sooner.

Public comment closed at 3:01 p.m.

Director Kishimoto provided comments regarding the regional nature of the property and its strategic location for regional trails. Director Kishimoto spoke in favor of ensuring safe multimodal access to the area, such as access across Alpine Road. Director Kishimoto suggested outreaching to Native American communities early in the process to get their input. Finally, Director Kishimoto stated trail user groups will need to be consulted early to understand the desired trail use for the area.

Director Holman spoke in support of the working group process and the need to outreach to stakeholders early and throughout the process.

Director Kishimoto spoke in support of having easy access trails and ample parking for the area

Chair Kersteen-Tucker spoke regarding the importance of input from the neighbors, regional stakeholders, and other communities as part of the working group and public engagement process. Chair Kersteen-Tucker also spoke in support the Hawthorns Area being key to regional trail connections.

No committee action required.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kersteen-Tucker adjourned the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee at 3:13 p.m.

Jennifer Woodworth, MMC
District Clerk