



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors conducted this meeting in accordance with California Government Code section 54953(e) and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Resolution 21-33. All Board members and staff participated via teleconference.

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cyr called the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee to order at 2:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Jed Cyr, Larry Hassett, and Karen Holman

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, Grants Program Manager Deborah Hirst, Senior Grants & Procurement Technician Jordan McDaniel, Public Affairs Manager Kori Skinner, Governmental Affairs Specialist Josh Hugg

General Counsel Hilary Stevenson announced this meeting is being held in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Resolution 21-33, allowing Board 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. Stevenson described the process and protocols for the meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Woodworth reported no public comments had been submitted.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Approve the September 7, 2021 Legislative, Funding, & Public Affairs Committee meeting minutes.

Motion: Director Hassett moved, and Director Holman seconded the motion to approve the September 7, 2021 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs committee meeting minutes.

Public comment opened at 2:05 p.m.

Ms. Woodworth reported no public comments had been submitted.

Public comment closed at 2:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

2. Grant Awards for the 2021 Grantmaking Program (R-21-172)

Senior Grants & Procurement Technician Jordan McDaniel reviewed the purpose and funding priorities of the District's grantmaking program and the grant application process. Ms. McDaniel described the various evaluation criteria used by the review committee when evaluating the grant applications, including alignment with District mission and funding priorities, project scope, project impact, etc., and summarized the applicants' organizations, proposed projects, and recommended grant award for each.

Director Hassett expressed concern regarding the proposed award to Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) due to the District's relationship with the organization.

Grants Program Manager Deborah Hirst stated the proposed grant award seeks to show the District's support for POST's efforts to engage with regional trail partners and stakeholders, whose priorities the District supports.

Director Holman requested additional information regarding the proposed grant to POST.

Ms. Hirst stated POST is also adding a program for trails and access, which will help support the District's regional trail goals.

Director Holman inquired regarding the proposed increase to the grantmaking program and its associated impact on staff resources to oversee the grant program.

Ms. Hirst stated the grants program expanded its staff capacity to allow for additional grant awards and accompanying oversight role.

Director Holman requested staff report back to the Board or the Committee on the outcomes of the grantee projects, such as how the specific grantee projects support District projects.

Ms. Hirst stated grants program staff would be happy to present to the Board on the outcomes of previous grantee awards and provided examples of projects previously funded by the District which have supported District projects such as resource management and fire resiliency.

Public comment opened at 2:49 p.m.

Ms. Woodworth reported no public comments had been submitted.

Public comment closed at 2:49 p.m.

Director Hassett spoke in support of the grantmaking program and its role in helping the District reach out to diverse communities and younger generations.

Director Holman spoke in support of the several grantee projects involving youth.

Chair Cyr thanked staff for their time in efforts to engage with the potential grantees, solicit grant proposals, and evaluate the proposals.

Motion: Director Hassett moved, and Director Holman seconded the motion to:

1. Forward the recommended \$91,977 increase to the original \$250,000 grant program funding allocation, which would bring the total 2021 Grantmaking Program funding availability to \$341,977, to the Board of Directors for approval.
2. Forward the list of recommended grant awards for the 2021 Grantmaking Program to the Board of Directors for approval.

3. Draft 2022 Legislative Program (R-21-171)

Governmental Affairs Specialist Joshua Hugg described the District's legislative program, its purpose, and reviewed the District's proposed legislative priorities for the upcoming 2022-23 legislative session, including seeking additional funding and streamlining the permit process for wildlife corridors, promoting effective guidelines and funding for wildfire reduction efforts, expanding equitable access for under-resourced communities to green spaces, and making permanent the District's ability to utilize design-build authority on construction projects to help lower costs, reduce implementation time, and hire qualified contractors. Additionally, the District is promoting the following regional priorities: expand funding for bicycle/pedestrian paths, new bike racks, and natural surface recreation trails; ensure regional housing allocations and locations do not impact sensitive habitats, wildlife corridors, and areas at high risk for wildfire; and support additional funding for public transit options to access public open space and parks.

Director Holman suggested including reference to funding for a future newt crossing near Lexington Reservoir.

Mr. Hugg stated currently this is being explored by the grants program, and funding can also be pursued as part of the priority to pursue funding for wildlife corridors.

Director Holman expressed concern regarding the language related to Plan Bay Area 2050 and suggested it be clear the District is not supporting the housing goals, which are likely outside of its purview.

Mr. Hugg clarified that the District's legislative goals related to Plan Bay Area 2050 are specifically associated with its environmental goals and not the housing goals.

Public comment opened at 3:16 p.m.

Ms. Woodworth reported no public comments had been submitted.

Public comment closed at 3:16 p.m.

Motion: Director Hassett moved, and Director Holman seconded the motion to approve the motion to forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors for approval of the Legislative Program.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cyr adjourned the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee at 3:18 p.m.

Jennifer Woodworth, MMC
District Clerk