



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Director Riffle called the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee to order at 2:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Yoriko Kishimoto, Curt Riffle, and Pete Siemens

Members absent: None

Staff present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Assistant General Brian Malone, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Jennifer Woodworth, Planning Manager Jane Mark, Senior Planner Tina Hugg, Planner II Tyler Smith

Director Riffle announced this meeting is being held in accordance with California Government Code section 54953(e) and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Resolution 21-33 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. Director Riffle described the process and protocols for the meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

District Clerk Jennifer Woodworth reported no comments were submitted.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Approve the March 15, 2022 Planning and Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Director Kishimoto moved, and Director Siemens seconded the motion to approve the March 15, 2022 Planning and Natural Resources Committee meeting minutes.

Public comment opened at 2:04 p.m.

No public comments were submitted for this item.

Public comment closed at 2:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

2. Proposed Transportation Demand Management Strategies and Preliminary Recommendations from the Purisima Creek Preserve Multimodal Access Project (R-22-87)

Senior Planner Tina Hugg provided the staff presentation describing the project timeline and project's objectives and goals, including identifying ways to improve multimodal access, evaluate existing parking resources and access, improve internal visitor circulation, etc.

Joakim Osthus, with Parisi Transportation Consulting, reviewed the various transportation demand management (TDM) strategies related to bicycling, transit options, visitor demand management, education/outreach, and traveler information/wayfinding. Mr. Osthus described the various types of data collection completed by the project team, including virtual surveys, speaking with preserve visitors, and public engagement at various locations and provided highlights from the comments received from the public regarding the various TDM strategies. Mr. Osthus summarized key takeaways and recurring themes, such as general support for a shuttle system, additional parking, carpooling, and parking reservation system; consideration of equity when implementing the TDM strategies, and support for increased wayfinding in English and Spanish.

Director Kishimoto supported potentially closing the lower Purisima Creek parking lot, which would have the benefit of reducing traffic for the community.

Director Riffle spoke in support of the shuttle option and commented on the need to determine when the District's preserves should be considered as full.

General Manager Ana Ruiz stated the current carrying capacity of the preserves is largely tied to the parking capacity of the preserves, which limits the number of preserve visitors. The number of people who should be in a preserve at one time will need to be studied separately from the number of people who are able visit a preserve due to limited parking.

Mr. Osthus reviewed the criteria used to score the various TDM strategies, the results of the TDM strategy scoring, and recommendations for TDM strategies.

Director Siemens commented the lower Purisima Creek Road lot should be reconfigured and limited to shuttle parking, ADA accessible parking, and some equestrian parking. Limiting standard parking will encourage visitors to use shuttles to visit the preserve. Additionally, a safe route to the Verde Road parking lot is needed for those who do not take a shuttle.

Director Kishimoto suggested incorporating parking areas at the Johnston House as part of the TDM strategies for Purisima.

Director Siemens requested and received information regarding the proposed parking lot sizes for the proposed Purisima-to-the-Sea trail.

Assistant General Manager Brian Malone expressed concern that equestrian parking would likely not be able to accommodate equestrian parking due to its size.

Ms. Hugg stated the parking areas, including on-street parking, would likely need to be closed for the weekend to increase the use of a shuttle and increase safety for pedestrian and cyclists walking in the area.

Director Kishimoto inquired regarding parking options for those who are staying multiple days in order to hike a regional trail, such as the proposed Bay-to-Sea trail.

Mr. Malone stated currently the District will issue permits for multi-day parking when needed.

Planning Manager Jane Mark stated the District and its partners will look more comprehensively for regional staging areas to accommodate multi-day hikes as part of the regional Bay-to-Sea Trail planning, but it is not currently being addressed as part of this project.

Ms. Hugg reviewed the next steps for the project and proposed timeline.

Director Riffle requested and received additional information regarding the suggestion to reconfigure existing parking lots.

Public comment opened at 3:34 p.m.

No public comments submitted.

Public comment closed at 3:34 p.m.

Motion: Director Siemens moved, and Director Kishimoto seconded the motion to confirm the preliminary scoring, prioritization and recommendations for the transportation demand management strategies for inclusion into a draft report.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

Director Riffle adjourned the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee at 3:36 p.m.

Jennifer Woodworth, MMC
District Clerk