



SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

Wednesday, November 09, 2022

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.

DRAFT MINUTES

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA
REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

President Kersteen-Tucker called the special meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jed Cyr, Larry Hassett, Karen Holman, Curt Riffle and Pete Siemens, Zoe Kersteen-Tucker

Members Absent: Yoriko Kishimoto

Staff Present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Assistant General Manager Brian Malone, Acting District Clerk Maria Soria, Acting Deputy District Clerk Irma Mora Senior Planner Tina Hugg, and Planner II Tyler Smith, Senior Planner Gretchen Laustsen, and Planning Manager Jane Mark

President Kersteen-Tucker 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. President Kersteen-Tucker described the process and protocols for the meeting.

**1. Affirmation of the Findings and Recommendations of the Purisima Multimodal
Access and Transportation Demand Management Study Report (R-22-123)**

Senior Planner Tina Hugg provided the staff presentation describing the findings and recommendations of the Purisima Multimodal Access and Transportation Demand Management Study Report. The presentation included information on the project background, Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies, data collection, engagement processes, TDM scoring, prioritization and recommendation process, and the framework for high priority TDM strategies to address parking and traffic issues and better manage visitation at a preserve wide level. The four study areas include the North Ridge parking lot on Highway 35, the Redwood Trailhead on Highway 35, Grabtown Gulch on Tunitas Creek Road, and the Higgins Canyon Road parking lot at the west side of Purisima Creek Preserve.

Senior Engineer Joakim Osthus from Mead & Hunt continued the presentation and explained the survey results for numerous strategies, including parking capacity enhancements, parking management, visitor demand management, and education and outreach. Mr. Osthus summarized the key takeaways of public input, including the desire for better access at the Purisima Creek Road preserve entrance, concerns for parking and traffic impacts due to overflowing parking, and interest in bike/pedestrian enhancements. Mr. Osthus stated there was general support for a shuttle service, additional parking in conjunction with new multimodal elements, real-time parking availability information, and increased wayfinding available in both English and Spanish. Mixed support was received for the use of carpool lots/paid parking through a reservation system with some concerns raised regarding equity and enforcement.

President Kersteen-Tucker inquired if there were any lessons learned from prior unsuccessful coastal shuttle services.

Mr. Osthus replied that the District conducted very extensive outreach, consulting with other agencies who have implemented shuttle services or other TDMs to gain insights on what they have learned. Mr. Osthus explained that later in the presentation he would discuss ways that the shuttle could be successful.

Director Holman inquired if the District posted the high peak use times for visitation at the preserves, noting this would help the public determine what time to visit a preserve.

Ms. Hugg responded that most people use Google search for real time data to see the lower and higher peak times of use. Ms. Hugg stated the District does not provide real time data on the website but will add the high peak visitation use times, where available.

Director Holman inquired whether the shuttle service would be free, or fee based.

Mr. Osthus stated the decision would be up to the District, and that currently, the thought would be to have the shuttle system be free. In the public outreach conducted, there was support in paying a nominal fee for parking and reservations.

President Kersteen-Tucker commented she is not in favor of charging a fee. If the District is looking to address equity issues, it is important to keep the shuttle service free to ensure good transit connections.

Mr. Osthus provided the report data for Traffic Demand Management as it applies to the scoring process, prioritization, and recommendations. The categories evaluated included peak hour parking demand reduction, promotion of modal shift, traffic safety impacts, visitor access

reliability, implementation timeframe, the level of difficulty for strategy approval, the capital cost of implementation, maintenance costs, protection of environmental qualities, public access, and stakeholder and community outreach.

Director Holman inquired about the thought process behind an additional parking facility and if the North Ridge area would encroach into an area that is currently undisturbed.

Planning Manager Jane Mark stated the area that is being considered is already a disturbed site, it is currently used as an emergency landing zone and also serves as over-flow parking for large events. Ms. Mark commented the Board will be receiving more information on this site as part of future presentations on the Highway 35 Multi-Use Trail and the North Ridge Parking Study.

President Kersteen-Tucker inquired about the enhanced bike facilities and if additional bike lockers or locations will be added for the public to safely lock their bikes.

Ms. Hugg commented there are two types of bicycle facilities, there are the facilities that bring people to and from the preserve itself that are located along the road and the other are the bicycle parking facilities, including bike racks and lockers, that are being contemplated as part of the high priority TDM strategy list.

Director Holman commented on her concerns for negative impacts of tour buses in nature preserve areas and expressed opposition for the idea of allowing tour buses.

Ms. Hugg stated the term tour bus may not be the proper terminology since it could include a school bus or a hotel shuttle bus that would drop off visitors and then park and wait for the passengers. The specifics have not yet been identified. There could be the consideration that visitors are dropped off and then the bus returns to the site for pickup at a specific time.

Director Holman commented school buses are acceptable but firmly opposed tour buses. Director Holman suggested setting a list of criteria for what types of tour buses would be allowed, such as weight limit, limiting the number of axels, and other conditions.

Director Riffle confirmed his recollection that the Purisima Creek parking lot would remain open for ADA access.

Director Riffle suggested the potential need to factor in overnight/multiple day parking as multi-use trails evolve and inquired how this would be accommodated.

Mr. Osthus stated that the study did not take this into consideration, but if a parking reservation system were created, there could be an option to reserve parking for one or multiple days.

Director Riffle commented he did not need a solution at the meeting but requested to note this consideration for future discussions.

President Kersteen-Tucker mentioned if a parking reservation system is to be created, it would be beneficial to have access to the reservation system available through the library for those who may not have internet access.

Mr. Osthus stated other agencies have also implemented reservation pass programs where people can check out parking passes through their library.

Public comment opened at 6:32 p.m.

Craig Gleason commented about how the shuttle service rotation cycle should be thought through in a thorough way with considerations given to the length of time for the shuttle ride as related to the time waiting for the ride and a complete behavior analysis should be completed to ensure success of the shuttle service. Starting small is a good way to start, allowing room to grow. Mr. Gleason stated there is a challenge and an opportunity with providing a shuttle service, the challenge is to avoid potentially degrading the preserve experience and causing a reduced public opinion on the value of open space or the stewardship capabilities of the District; the opportunity lies in enhancing the District's public communication and education about the preserve and open space.

Public comment closed at 6:35 p.m.

Director Riffle commented that the Planning and Natural Resource Committee (PNR) held discussions regarding this topic on March 15, 2022, and August 2, 2022, and felt staff and the consultants had done an excellent job with the information gathered and their efforts of outreach and community involvement. The Committee unanimously agreed they could move directly to bringing the information to the full Board without returning to PNR for suggested modifications. Director Riffle stated he is pleased with the more systematic thinking of the District's public access challenges and the expansion of partner and public engagement throughout the process, and supportive of the benchmarking process.

Director Holman requested clarification on the staff resource requirements for online parking reservations per year and suggested modifying the language for better clarity.

President Kersteen-Tucker commented she is excited about the breadth of strategies being considered to include all members of the public and is very much in support of the General Manager's recommendations. She noticed a segment in the report about carrying capacity - as the District improves accessibility to the preserves, consideration need to be given to what the long-term carrying capacity might be for various preserves. President Kersteen-Tucker would like to include in the report that there is a commitment to study carrying capacity going forward.

General Manager Ana Ruiz responded that it would require a heavy lift in resources, she will talk to staff to see if it could be included in the 3-Year CIAP Plan.

Director Siemens agreed that a study for carrying capacity with a permit system needs to be a focus.

Director Holman inquired if her two items she had requested would be incorporated into the motion or if staff would notate the additions, which are adding the high peak use times for visitation at the preserves on the website and the second to eliminate parking for tour buses at the preserves.

Ms. Hugg stated she would incorporate adding the peak use times for visitation to the website since it is not related to the report.

General Manager Ruiz commented tour bus parking is specific to a location and parking design and would be presented to the Board at a future date for review and approval. Ms. Ruiz suggested this would be the best place for discussion regarding tour bus parking at Purisima Creek Preserve as there may be circumstances the Board may want to consider that are site specific.

Motion: Director Siemens moved, and Director Riffle seconded the motion to move the General Manager's recommendations for modifications of the Purisima Multimodal Access and Transportation Demand Management Study report with authorization to begin implementing the high priority strategies and recommendations.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **6-0-0** (Director Kishimoto absent)

ADJOURNMENT

President Kersteen-Tucker adjourned the special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at 6:58 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

President Kersteen-Tucker called the regular meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to order at 7:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jed Cyr, Larry Hassett, Karen Holman, Curt Riffle, Pete Siemens, and Zoe Kersteen-Tucker

Members Absent: Yoriko Kishimoto

Staff Present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Assistant General Manager Brian Malone, Acting District Clerk Maria Soria, Acting Deputy District Clerk Irma Mora, Real Property Manager Mike Williams, Planning Manager Jane Mark, Senior Planner Jared Hart, Planner II Melissa Borgesi, and Kori Skinner

President Kersteen-Tucker 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. Vice-President Kishimoto described the process and protocols for the meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Public comment opened at 7:10 p.m.

Alexander Hapke, President of the Midpeninsula Rangers Peace Officers Association, commented on the daylight-savings time change being disruptive to the rangers as they switch back and forth between early and late shifts with different starting times. The impact on rangers sleep schedules is a concern and stated the rangers are the only job classification with this type of shift change. It is because of difference like these the rangers are seeking for public safety benefits as first responders.

Sophia Wick questioned why the District hid how they evaluated and awarded the concession contract for Bear Creek Stables from the public and commented on the challenges of receiving information from a public request she submitted.

Madi Abreams and Riley Schenone expressed concerns of the RFP process being properly followed for the Bear Creek Stables as Chaparral's initial response to the RFP stated they would build new structures and does not follow the permitting restrictions of adding new structures.

Skyler provided comments opposing the change in operations at Bear Creek Stables to a larger corporation and believes Chaparral should not be allowed to overthrow small business.

Shaelynn commented he is home schooled, and Bear Creek Stables is a great place for a field trip. He is able to ride, brush and feed the horses and is looking forward to being able to lease a horse through the co-op horse program. He opposes any changes to the stables.

Marta Wick commented about Chaparral not following the RFP guideline of continuing to provide the same level of training services as previously provided. Ms. Wick stated the Board should reconsider giving the lease to Chaparral.

Lisa Feller commented on how District staff mishandled the selection process by including labor cost information in their presentation to the Board that was not included in Chaparral's response and visited Folger's Stables in Woodside as an example of a Chaparral facility, when it is not currently maintained by Chaparral; and asked the Board to consider the passion of the local community who uses the Bear Creek stables and acknowledge the discrepancies.

Vilmos Palko commented on how Chaparral will negatively affect seniors, retirees, and young parents by taking away the affordability to pay for boarding at Bear Creek Stables.

Maike Schenone commented that Chaparral has acquired a second location in Marina City and disagreed with the cost estimates for the upkeep of one horse. Ms. Schenone stated concerns with the stable housing size, decrease of the exercising areas, and the adequacy of the financial plans.

Katja Wick provided comments opposing the matrix and scores used in the selection process used for awarding Chaparral to run the Bear Creek Stables.

Pamela Warren commented on the lack of time provided for public speakers regarding the Bear Creek Stables boarding concessionaire considering the amount of time everyone took to research their information. Ms. Warren requested to work together to keep current programs intact along with the boarding concessions.

Caitlin Morais commented in regard to the District not fairly and equitably evaluating Chaparral's proposal in compliance with California State law.

Brooke Gaeta commented regarding the inadequacy of the proposal documents and the lack of ethics of the due process at Bear Creek Stables.

Shelly Cannon commented about the inconsistencies of the information brought to the Board by staff in regard to Chaparral and hopes that the next meeting agenda will include a motion to reconsider the item.

General Manager Ana Ruiz responded there are copies of frequently asked questions available that have been prepared by staff that includes a great sum of information regarding the process and answers to questions previously asked through oral communications and written correspondence. In addition, the District has received a great number of Public Records Act and staff have been very transparent in providing the requested information to everyone who has reached out to the District.

Public comment closed at 7:30 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: **6-0-0** (Director Kishimoto absent)

CONSENT CALENDAR

Public comment opened at 7:31 p.m.

No public comments were submitted.

Public comment closed at 7:31 p.m.

Motion: Director Cyr moved, and Director Riffle seconded the motion to approve the Consent Calendar.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **6-0-0** (Director Kishimoto absent)

1. **Approve the October 26, 2022 Board meeting minutes**
2. **Teleconferenced Board Meetings Pursuant to the Brown Act and Assembly Bill 361 (R-22-124)**

General Manager's Recommendation: Adopt a resolution affirming findings to continue remote teleconferenced public meetings, including as part of hybrid (remote/in-person) meetings, pursuant to AB 361.

3. Amendments to the Conflict-of-Interest Code (R-22-125)

General Manager's Recommendation: Adopt a resolution amending the Conflict-of-Interest Code to make minor updates to the list of positions required to file Form 700 (Statement of Economic Interests).

4. Approval of Changes to Board Policy 2.02 - Board Appointee Performance Evaluation Process (R-22-126)

Board Appointee Evaluation Committee's Recommendation: Approve the proposed changes to Board Policy 2.02, Board Appointee Performance Evaluation Process, the clarify the timing for reviewing and editing classification specifications and job descriptions for Board Appointees.

5. Proposed Parking Area Names (R-22-127)

General Manager's Recommendation: As recommended by the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee, approve the proposed parking area names and direct the General Manager to install parking area address signs at the entrance of each parking area.

6. Proposed Purchase of a 102.3-acre San Jose Water Company Property, located in unincorporated Santa Clara County (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 562-08-001 and 562-04-011), as an addition to Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve (R-22-128)

General Manager's Recommendation:

1. Determine that the recommended actions are categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as set out in the staff report.
2. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the purchase of the San Jose Water Company Property for \$720,000 with a corresponding authorization for a Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget adjustment of the same amount.
3. Adopt a Preliminary Use and Management Plan for the Property, as set out in the staff report.
4. Withhold dedication of the San Jose Water Company Property as public open space at this time.

7. Award of Contract to Ecast Engineering Inc., to install, and connect a well pump, storage tank, and waterline from a well site to the residence at Toto Ranch Property in Tunitas Creek Open Space Preserve (R-22-129)

General Manager's Recommendation:

1. Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Ecast Engineering Inc., to complete water infrastructure work for a base contract amount of \$94,743.
2. Authorize a 10% contingency of \$9,474 to be reserved for unanticipated issues, bringing the total not-to-exceed contract amount to \$104,217.

BOARD BUSINESS**8. Public Hearing: Certification of a Final Environmental Impact Report for the Redwood Cabin Removal Project and Approval of the Redwood Cabin Removal Project. (R-22-130)**

Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan provided opening remarks about the presentation of the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Redwood Cabin Removal Project. Ms. Chan commented that in 2019, the board was provided with a list of structures on District lands that included the Redwood Cabin as they considered options for long-term management. The property is located approximately one-quarter mile from Skyline Boulevard, in a remote area that is distant to a patrol route, away from hiking trails, and poses a significant public safety concern with ongoing maintenance challenges. In April 2020, the Board directed the General Manager to evaluate the environmental effects of removing the Redwood Cabin and restoring the natural resource values of the former building footprint. Ms. Chan stated this was an extensive process with multiple opportunities for public input and now reaching the final step of the process to provide details of the findings.

Senior Planner Jared Hart introduced Planner II Melissa Borgesi and Alta Cunningham with Accent Environmental Consultants, who gave the presentation on the Redwood Cabin Removal Project, the Environment Impact Report (EIR) findings and General Manager recommendations.

Planner II Melissa Borgesi provided a background of the project, including location, access information, cabin history, and project objectives.

Project Manager Alta Cunningham with Accent Environmental Consultants presented information on the requirements of CEQA and environmental impact reports (EIRs), the environmental and public review process, the EIR findings, and project alternatives.

Senior Planner Jared Hart covered the next steps pending Board certification of the final EIR.

Director Hassett inquired how many comments were received on the DEIR and if any were from other agencies.

Mr. Hart stated five comments were received from individuals, none from other agencies.

President Kersteen-Tucker opened the Public Hearing.

Public comment opened at 7:49 p.m.

Laura Jones commented about her appreciation for detailed response to her comment letter and provided examples of how those responses were unsubstantiated and included questionable claims. Ms. Jones stated the District is on the wrong track and encouraged the Board to get more thorough analysis prior to making a decision.

Public comment closed at 7:51 p.m.

President Kersteen-Tucker closed the Public Hearing for Board deliberation and comments.

Director Holman expressed displeasure with the handling of the Redwood Cabin project and more specifically the DEIR. Director Holman stated she reviewed the La Honda Master Plan that was adopted by the Board in 2012 and mentioned that the master plan includes language such as “La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve is rich with unique ecological, historical, and cultural resources. Focus will be placed on protecting and enhancing the preserve’s diverse plant, wildlife and native habitats, protecting and interpreting the historical and cultural features that are reminiscent of past uses. The preserve’s unique, natural, and cultural resources provide ample material to support interpretation and outdoor education. The preserve is planned to include approximately twenty-six miles of roads and trails.” In addition, the plan speaks in multiple places of the importance and intention to protect significant historical and archaeological resources within the preserve. The Vision Plan also speaks of educating the public about and interpreting the diverse plant, wildlife and native habitats, and of expanding educational opportunities. Director Holman explained she was unable to find previous efforts in identifying a partnership to preserve the Redwood Cabin despite the District’s policy to do so. Director Holman stated she is not able to support the project for a number of reasons, which include inadequate responses to the DEIR particularly to her comments and Laura Jones, conflicting scenic vista goals, the landfill methane proximity was not analyzed, the lack of archeologist analysis findings, and conflicts of removing a fire hazard falling under social and recreational benefits when preserving the cabin would provide social, recreational, and educational benefits. Director Holman stated she cannot make the findings and cannot support the statement of overriding considerations.

Motion: Director Riffle moved, and Director Siemens seconded the motion to adopt a resolution of the Board of Directors of District certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Redwood Cabin Removal Project; and adopt the Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations; and approve a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, all in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, as amended; and approve the Redwood Cabin Removal Project.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5-1-0 (Director Holman Opposed, Director Kishimoto absent)

9. Approval of a Pay Range Adjustment for the Seasonal Open Space Technician and Seasonal Ranger Aide Classifications (R-22-131)

General Manager Ruiz presented the information for the Board to consider pay range adjustments for the Seasonal Open Space Technician and Seasonal Ranger Aide positions and provided the challenges of filling the positions and the value of seeing those positions filled.

Director Cyr provided comments on how he understands the urgency of filling these positions as quickly as possible.

Public comment opened at 8:00 p.m.

No public comments were submitted.

Public comment closed at 8:00 p.m.

Director Riffle commented he is in support of this and thanked the General Manager and staff for bringing this matter to the Board's attention. This is very consistent with the Board's discussions in the past about the classification and compensation plan regarding when the Board should consider taking action when a certain job is no longer competitive in the labor market, and this a great example of that.

President Kersteen-Tucker concurred with Director Riffle's comments and believes it is important to stay as competitive as possible.

Motion: Director Siemens moved, and Director Riffle seconded the motion for approval of a Pay Range Adjustment for the Seasonal Open Space Technician and Seasonal Ranger Aide Classifications.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0-0 (Director Kishimoto absent)

10. Approval of a Base Wage Adjustment for Employees Represented by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Field Employees Association, for Employees Represented by the Midpeninsula Rangers Peace Officers Association, and for the Unrepresented Office, Supervisory, and Management Employees (R-22-132)

General Manager Ana Ruiz provided information regarding implementing a base wage adjustment for employees represented by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Field Employees Association, for employees represented by the Midpeninsula Rangers Peace Officers Association, and for the unrepresented office, supervisory, and management employees. Ms. Ruiz confirmed that this base wage adjustment would not apply to the Board appointee positions of General Manager, General Counsel and Controller. The consideration comes from the high inflation rates experienced across the nation and here in the Bay Area where cost of living continues to be quite high. Ms. Ruiz commented on the struggles in retaining and recruiting talented staff to help further the mission of the organization and ensure that the District continues to provide exceptional public service.

Public comment opened at 8:05 p.m.

No public comments were submitted.

Public comment closed at 8:05 p.m.

Director Cyr commented on how incredible staff is and how attracting and retaining staff of high caliber is important.

Director Riffle thanked the General Manager and her team for coming up with this approach and that being responsive to this need is important.

President Kersteen-Tucker commented that recruitment is important, however taking care of current staff is equally important and believes this is both appropriate and well deserved.

Motion: Director Siemens moved, and Director Riffle seconded the motion to approve a Base Wage Adjustment for Employees Represented by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space

District Field Employees Association, for Employees Represented by the Midpeninsula Rangers Peace Officers Association, and for the Unrepresented Office, Supervisory, and Management Employees.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0-0 (Director Kishimoto absent)

11. Approval of Salary Adjustments and Amended Classification and Compensation Plan for Board Appointee Controller (R-22-133)

Human Resources Manager Candice Basnight provided information on the salary adjustments for Board appointees and explained the Board Appointee Evaluation (BAE) process with supporting resolutions to amend the classification and compensation for Board appointees.

Director Riffle thanked Ms. Basnight and Human Resources Supervisor Rebecca Wolfe for their assistance to the BAE Committee and commented on the results of each of the appointees and how they all achieved and exceeded the Board's expectations in their responsibilities, accomplishments, and communication efforts with the Board.

President Kersteen-Tucker commented on the thoroughness of the BAE's process and how their responsibilities are taken seriously and is in support of all three items.

Director Siemens commented on how impressed he has been with the responsiveness of the appointees and staff to the Board and their requests.

Public comment opened at 8:16 p.m.

No public comments were submitted.

Public comment closed at 8:16 p.m.

Motion: Director Riffle moved, and Director Kersteen-Tucker seconded the motion for approval of Salary Adjustments and Amended Classification and Compensation Plan for Board Appointee Controller

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0-0 (Director Kishimoto absent)

12. Approval of Salary Adjustments and Classification and Compensation Plan for Board Appointee General Counsel (R-22-134)

Public comment opened at 8:16 p.m.

No public comments were submitted.

Public comment closed at 8:16 p.m.

Motion: Director Kersteen-Tucker moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion for approval of Salary Adjustments and Classification and Compensation Plan for Board Appointee General Counsel.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0-0 (Director Kishimoto absent)

13. Approval of Salary Adjustments and Amended Classification and Compensation Plan for Board Appointee General Manager (R-22-135)

Public comment opened at 8:17 p.m.

No public comments were submitted.

Public comment closed at 8:17 p.m.

Motion: Director Siemens moved, and Director Kersteen-Tucker seconded the motion for approval of Salary Adjustments and Amended Classification and Compensation Plan for Board Appointee General Manager.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0-0 (Director Kishimoto absent)

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

Director Cyr reported the Real Property Committee met on November 8, 2022 at Mr. Eberhard's property to discuss the proposed purchase of said property. It was a productive meeting in the rain and requested Real Property Manager Mike Williams to provide more information about the property.

Real Property Manager Mike Williams gave a brief history of the property and discussed the changes in zoning and uses by Mr. Eberhard in order to preserve the site, along with restoration efforts.

Director Hassett commented on how beautiful the property is and what an amazing job Mr. Eberhard has done with the restoration work.

Director Holman commented on what a privilege it was to visit the Eberhard property and that the property contains an albino/ghost redwood, which was photographed for the Committee, and how phenomenal Mr. Williams is at foraging relationships.

Director Riffle inquired if Mr. Eberhard could be invited to the January meeting since he had done some incredible work on the property.

Mr. Williams stated he would invite Mr. Eberhard to the meeting.

President Kersteen-Tucker suggested a tour be scheduled for the Board so see the property.

Mr. Williams stated that a tour will be arranged.

B. Staff Reports

Public Affairs Manager Kori Skinner provided an update on the Partner Event scheduled for December 1, 2022 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and requested the Board to forward the invite to partners to remind them of the event. She also stated that the District documentary will be aired on December 24th and 25th.

President Kersteen-Tucker requested the invitations be resent to the Board members for forwarding.

C. Director Reports

Director Cyr commented he saw field staff using the new equipment purchased over the last year at the Canyon Trail area along the road. He was proud to see staff out there using the equipment and staff mentioned they could get a lot more accomplished using the right tools.

President Kersteen-Tucker reported she had an excellent tour of the Bay City Nursery property in Half Moon Bay, and it is a property with a tremendous amount of old greenhouse structures and is being considered as a potential location for affordable housing and as a workforce training site associated with Rancho San Benito. It also has some possibility of providing an opportunity for a coastal field office for the District. In addition, President Kersteen-Tucker met with Sarah Newkirk who is the Executive Director of the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County to discuss mutual interests with that land trust and is looking forward to building that relationship. She spoke about her ride-along with Ranger Ken Miller and that she had met with Ranger Alex Hapke.

Director Riffle reported he attended the Together Bay Area webinar on November 1, which discussed the 30x30 Policy and Initiative. Director Riffle commented since this is the only meeting in November, he thanked staff and volunteers and fellow Board Directors for all their work and efforts, for the passion and effectiveness that everyone brings to protecting and restoring and connecting all of the preserves, which turn provide our communities with clean air and clean water, and locally grown food as well as safe habitat for wildlife, and opportunities for wellness and community togetherness.

ADJOURNMENT

President Zoe Kersteen-Tucker adjourned the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District into a special Closed Session at 8:35 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT – CLOSED SESSION**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Jed Cyr, Larry Hassett, Karen Holman, Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, Curt Riffle, and Pete Siemens

Members Absent: Yoriko Kishimoto

Staff Present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Real Property Manager Mike Williams, Senior Real Property Agent Allen Ishibashi

1. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54956.8)

Property: Santa Clara County APN(s): 562-08-001 and 562-04-001

Agency Negotiator: Allen Ishibashi, Senior Real Property Agent

Negotiating Party: Scott Hoffman, SJWC

Under Negotiation: Purchase Terms

Public comment opened at 8:35 p.m.

No public comments were submitted.

Public comment closed at 8:35 p.m.

The Board convened into closed session at 8:35 p.m.

Maria Soria, Acting District Clerk