



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-23-103
Meeting 23-26
September 13, 2023

AGENDA ITEM 8

AGENDA ITEM

Formation of the Hawthorns Historic Complex Ad Hoc Committee

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS *den*

Form a Hawthorns Historic Complex Ad Hoc Committee of the Board of Directors pursuant to Board Policy 1.04, *Board Committees*. Consistent with other recent Ad Hoc Committees of the Board, these meetings would be compensable.

SUMMARY

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) staff have completed a structural assessment and high-level conceptual cost estimates of the Hawthorns Historic Complex buildings within the Hawthorns Area that is part of Windy Hill Open Space Preserve. Staff have also developed preliminary ideas for the future reuse and management of the Historic Complex and are seeking guidance from a Board of Directors (Board) Ad Hoc Committee to refine development of preliminary ideas that will be presented to the full Board. The Ad Hoc Committee would consist of three Board members appointed by the Board President with consent of the Board. Ad Hoc Committees are appointed to address a specific need and typically convene for up to one year.

DISCUSSION

The 79-acre Hawthorns Area is located in the Town of Portola Valley. This property was gifted to the District in 2011 and is currently closed to the public in accordance with the Preliminary Use and Management Plan (R-06-53). In 2021, the District initiated a multi-year process to develop the property in alignment with Board policy 4.01, *Open Space Use and Management Planning Process*. Engaging community members, District staff, and the Board, this multistep planning process will result in the Hawthorns Area Plan, a comprehensive use and management plan guiding resource and land management actions at the site. Development of the Area Plan is currently in the Programming/Conceptual Planning phase.

While the Hawthorns Area Plan will provide overarching guidance on resource and land management actions at the Hawthorns Area, planning for the specific future use and management of the Hawthorns Historic Complex (Historic Complex) is not included in the Area Plan planning process and is a separate and parallel planning project. District staff have completed a structural assessment that evaluated the buildings for structural integrity with high-level conceptual cost estimates for various disposition options. Staff have also conducted a series of internal planning exercises to brainstorm ideas for the future of the Historic Complex and have shared these

preliminary ideas with the Peninsula Open Space Trust, who holds a conservation easement, and with staff from the Town of Portola Valley, in order to receive initial feedback on feasibility.

This Ad Hoc Committee would serve the purpose of reviewing and guiding the District's development of preliminary ideas and refinements for the full Board to review and evaluate in early 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT

Formation of a new compensable Ad Hoc Committee is not expected to result in a new fiscal impact. Per Board policy on *Compensation of Directors and Payment of Expenses*, the maximum allowable total compensation per Board member shall be one hundred and fifteen dollars and fifty cents (\$115.50) per day and six hundred and ninety-three hundred dollars (\$693.00) per calendar month, irrespective of the number of meetings attended each day or each month (Chapter 6, Policy 6.03). The Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget does not include a specific allocation for the proposed new Ad Hoc Committee. However, the budget may be sufficient depending on the total number of compensable meetings that are scheduled during the fiscal year.

PRIOR BOARD AND COMMITTEE REVIEW

This item was not previously reviewed by a Board Committee.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

This item is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval by the Board, the Board President will select Committee members in accordance with Board policy. The General Manager or designee will schedule a meeting as soon as practicable.

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