



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

Meeting 11-12

**REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

MAY 11, 2011

MINUTES

CLOSED SESSION

I. ROLL CALL

Vice President Riffle called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Curt Riffle, Nonette Hanko, Cecily Harris, Jed Cyr, Pete Siemens, and Yoriko Kishimoto

Members Absent: Larry Hassett

Staff Present: Real Property Manager Mike Williams, Senior Real Property Planner Sandy Sommer, and General Counsel Sue Schectman

Vice President Riffle stated that the Board would adjourn to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Closed Session Agenda Items #1 through #5.

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

Vice President Riffle called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Curt Riffle, Nonette Hanko, Cecily Harris, Jed Cyr, Pete Siemens, and Yoriko Kishimoto

Members Absent: Larry Hassett

Staff Present: General Manager Steve Abbors, General Counsel Sue Schectman, Real Property Manager Mike Williams, Planning Manager Ana Ruiz, Administrative Services Manager Kate Drayson, Public Affairs Manager Rudy Jurgensen, Operations Manager David Sanguinetti, Senior Resource Management Specialist Cindy Roessler, Resource Specialist I Joel Silverman, Assistant General Counsel James Atencio, and District Clerk Michelle Radcliffe

Vice President Riffle stated there were no reportable actions for Closed Session Agenda Items #1 through #5.

II. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mike Cherbach shared his views on the radar tower at Mount Umunhum and asked questions about the project. General Manager Steve Abbors referred Mr. Cherbach to Planning Manager Ana Ruiz.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Upon motion by Director Cyr, seconded by Director Harris, and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the agenda. (Vote: 6-0-0; Absent: Hassett)

IV. ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice President Riffle suggested that the Written Communications be deferred until President Hassett returns and can review it. Director Cyr stated that the Board could conditionally approve the Written Communication and have President Hassett sign it if he approves of the language.

Motion: Upon motion by Director Cyr, seconded by Director Kishimoto, and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the Consent Calendar and conditionally approved the Written Communications. (Vote: 6-0-0; Absent: Hassett)

V. BOARD BUSINESS

Agenda Item 4 – Approval to Enter into a Three-Year Agreement with San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory to Conduct Bird Surveys and Continue Monitoring the Post-Fire Effects of Prescribed Burns on Birds within District Grassland (R-11-50)

Resource Specialist I Joel Silverman provided an overview of the bird surveys being conducted on District lands. He explained that the District currently uses the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO) to do survey work on District grasslands and that the contract will build on previous work done. Mr. Silverman stated that the agreement will not exceed \$30,009.00 and will end on March 31, 2014, unless terminated earlier by the District. Discussion ensued.

Motion: Upon motion by Director Siemens, seconded by Director Cyr, and unanimously passed, the Board approved to enter into a three-year agreement with San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. (Vote: 6-0-0; Absent: Hassett)

Agenda Item 5 – Approve the Purchase of the Peninsula Open Space Trust (Silva) Property as an Addition to Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve (located at 5755 Alpine Road, La Honda, California, San Mateo County Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN) 080-380-030); Approve Grant Agreement with the California State Coastal Conservancy for Funding Assistance with the Proposed Purchase; Adopt the Amended Preliminary Use and Management Plan; Authorize the General Manager to File for Williamson Act Nonrenewal for APNs 080-380-030 and 080-380-040; and Approve a Categorical Exemption in Accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (R-11-14)

Real Property Planner Sandy Sommer provided a summary of the purchase of Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) (Silva) property and explained that POST proposed to fund a recognition site on the property to honor POST President Audrey Rust. The recognition site will include a parking lot, staging area and a connecting trail. Ms. Sommer reported that the recognition site requires an amendment to the Use and Management Plan and a non-renewal of the Williamson Act on the property. Finally, Ms. Sommer stated that the District will purchase the property from POST for \$3,095,000 and that the District will receive a \$500,000 grant from the California State Coastal Conservancy to help fund the purchase. Brief discussion ensued.

Director Hanko expressed concern that the recognition site plans will not be discussed in the Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs Committee. General Manager Steve Abbors assured her that any recognition plans will be brought to the Committee for consideration. Discussion ensued.

Motion: Upon motion by Director Cyr, seconded by Director Siemens, and unanimously passed, the Board approved the purchase of the POST (Silva) property as an addition to the Russian Ridge Open Space Preserved, approved the grant agreement with the California State Coastal Conservancy, adopted the Preliminary Use and Management Plan, authorized the General to file for Williamson Act nonrenewal, and approved a Categorical Exemption in accordance with CEQA. (Vote: 6-0-0; Absent: Hassett)

Agenda Item 6 – Addition of Accountant Job Classification to District’s Classification and Compensation Plan (R-11-61)

Administrative Services Manager Kate Drayson reported that due to the retirement of the Senior Accounting Specialist Bunny Congdon, the District will need to begin recruitment for the vacancy. She explained that the District conducted a Classification and Compensation Study in Calendar Year 2010 with Koff and Associates and that the consultant recommended that the Senior Accounting Specialist classification be reclassified as an Accountant. Ms. Drayson further explained that the District’s Classification and Compensation Study will go to the Board for consideration on June 22nd but since Ms. Congdon’s last day with the District is June 30th, the General Manager recommends that the reclassification of the Senior Accounting Specialist to Accountant

be added to the District's Classification and Compensation Plan now in order to streamline the recruitment process. Discussion ensued.

Motion: Upon motion by Director Kishimoto, seconded by Director Hanko, and unanimously passed, the Board approved the addition of the Accountant job classification to the District's Classification and Compensation Plan. (Vote: 6-0-0; Absent: Hassett)

VI INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

Director Kishimoto reported that the Use and Management Committee met to discuss the Lobitos Ridge Agriculture Plan and that the Committee's recommendation will be brought to the Board in the near future.

Director Riffle reported that the Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee met and held discussion on the April 15th Board workshop.

B. Staff Reports

Public Affairs Manager Rudy Jurgensen reported that the Assembly Bill 612 regarding the extension of repaying the District's 20-year notes to 30 years passed the State Assembly. He also reported that the District will hold a geocaching event on July 9th and reminded the Board to contact the District Clerk if they would like to attend a geocaching clinic.

Administrative Services Manager Kate Drayson provided an update on the Integrated Accounting and Financial Software and reported that one vendor withdrew itself from consideration.

Operations Manager David Sanguinetti reported that a mountain lion was reported to be roaming near Page Mill Road and Hidden Villa and that there have been four incidents reported of animals being taken at Hidden Villa. Mr. Sanguinetti also reported that there is an irate user at Saint Joseph's Hill Open Space Preserve and that he has harassed and taunted District rangers. He explained that the District is working with the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office to seek action against him.

Planning Manager Ana Ruiz reported that the District did not receive grant funding for the Cooley Landing and Alpine Pond projects. She also reported that the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council has expressed interest in El Corte de Madero Open Space Preserve and the improvements on Mount Umunhum.

Real Property Manager Michael Williams reported that Real Property Specialist Michael Reeves had accepted a position with the East Bay Regional Parks District and that the District will begin recruitment for the vacancy shortly.

General Counsel Sue Schectman provided a brief update on the landfill removal on Mindego Hill and the agreement with Santa Clara County regarding the simulcast radio system. She also reported that the District received a subpoena for records regarding Ronald Murazzo.

General Manager Steve Abbors reported that he, Director Cyr, Director Hassett, and Director Riffle met with several members of the State Assembly to discuss Assembly Bill 612. He also reported on the status of the District revenue bond sale.

C. Director Reports

The Board submitted their compensable forms to the District Clerk.

Director Harris reported that she attended the San Mateo County Special Districts Annual meeting and shared her experience with the Board. She also stated that she hiked Purisima Creek Open Space Preserve and was very encouraged to see diverse demographics using the District preserves.

Director Kishimoto reported that she attended a “Save the Bay” event and shared her experience with the Board.

Director Hanko reported that she will not be attending the Bay Area Open Space Council event on May 12th.

Director Cyr requested that staff present a video summary to the Board of land acquired by the District on an annual basis.

Director Siemens shared with the Board his visitor experience at the District’s Nature Center.

Vice President Riffle stated he visited the Tejon Ranch in southern California and reported that the two major issues the Ranch is working with is wildlife linkages and creating a master plan for 270,000 acres.

VII ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Riffle adjourned the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at 8:27 p.m.

Michelle Radcliffe, CMC
District Clerk