



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

Meeting 11-26

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

**September 28, 2011**

**AMENDED MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**I. ROLL CALL**

President Hassett called the Regular Meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Curt Riffle, Yoriko Kishimoto, Pete Siemens and Larry Hassett

Members Absent: Jed Cyr, Nonette Hanko, and Cecily Harris

Staff Present: General Manager Steve Abbors, General Counsel Sue Schectman, Assistant General Counsel James Atencio, Planning Manager Ana Ruiz, Public Affairs Manager Rudy Jurgensen, Operations Manager David Sanguinetti, Administrative Services Manager Kate Drayson, Senior Real Property Planner Sandy Sommer, Open Space Planner II Lisa Bankosh, Planning Technician Galli Basson, Skyline Area Superintendent Brian Malone and District Clerk Michelle Radcliffe.

**II. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Linda Houston of Saratoga spoke regarding Fremont Older Preserve and stated that a meeting was set-up held between District staff and herself on Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> and she reported that ~~stated that~~ she is looking forward to continue discussions ~~with staff regarding~~ the issues she<sup>2</sup> has presented to the Board.

**III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Upon motion by Director Kishimoto, seconded by Director Riffle, and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the agenda as amended. (Vote: 4-0-0; Absent: Cyr, Hanko, and Harris)

**IV. ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Motion:** Upon motion by Director Kishimoto, seconded by Director Siemens, and unanimously passed, the Board approved adoption of the Consent Calendar to approve the **Minutes of August 24, 2011, as amended, and Revised Claims No. 11-26.** (Vote: 4-0-0; Absent: Cyr, Hanko, and Harris)

**V. BOARD BUSINESS**

**Agenda #4** – Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Executive Search Firm Peckham and McKenney for Recruitment of a District General Counsel (R-11-99)

Director Riffle stated that the Board tasked the Board Appointee Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee to start the recruitment process for the General Counsel and to provide status updates when key milestones were met. He explained that the Ad Hoc Committee has met to discuss the recruitment and has sent out Requests for Proposals (RFP) to seven executive search firms. Next, he explained that the RFPs included interview questions that the Ad Hoc Committee would have asked the firms in person.

Director Riffle reported that three firms returned their proposal and after review of the proposals, the Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the Board use the firm of Peckham and McKenney for the General Counsel recruitment. He explained that due to the impacted recruitment timeline, the Ad Hoc Committee felt that Peckham and McKenney was the best firm to use as a relationship has already been established with them. He stated that the District retained Peckham and McKenney during the General Manager recruitment and that the firm is familiar with the District's culture and needs. Lastly, Director Riffle stated the contract amount has been amended to \$16,500 with a \$1,000 contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$17,500.

Director Riffle summarized the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations as authorizing the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement not to exceed \$16,500 and expenses not to exceed \$7,000 with Peckham and McKenney for the recruitment of a General Counsel, approve a contingency in the amount of \$1,000, and assigning the Ad Hoc Committee to work with Peckham and McKenney and return to the Board with a proposed recruitment process, timeline, and draft candidate profile for Board review and approval. Brief discussion ensued.

**Motion:** Upon motion by Director Siemens, seconded by Director Kishimoto, and unanimously passed, the Board authorized the execution of a professional services agreement with executive search firm Peckham and McKenney and assigned the Board Appointee Evaluation Committee to work with Peckham and McKenney and return to the Board with a proposed recruitment process, timeline, and draft candidate profile for Board review and approval. (Vote: 4-0-0; Absent: Cyr, Hanko, and Harris)

**Agenda Item #5** – Authorization to Apply for a Habitat Conservation Fund Program (HCF) Grant for the Alpine Pond Habitat Restoration and Interpretive Boardwalk Project (R-11-98)

General Manager Steve Abbors explained that Board President Mary Davey had previously raised \$25,000 to improve access to Alpine pond. Open Space Planner II Lisa Bankosh provided background and history of the pond and summarized its resource management needs. She explained that the pond is the center of the District's educational program with the David C. Daniels Nature Center located next to the pond. Ms. Bankosh stated that there are a number of impairments at the pond that affect its usage. She explained that non-native fish currently live in the pond and that those fish eat the eggs and tadpoles of the California red-legged frogs. This in turns impacts the San Francisco garter snakes, who survive by eating the California red-legged frogs. Ms. Bankosh then continued to provide an overview of the conceptual plan for the boardwalk project at Alpine and explained the timeline and costs for the project. She further noted how resource projects are prioritized within the District. Brief discussion ensued.

**Motion:** Upon motion by Director Siemens, seconded by Director Riffle, and unanimously passed, the Board authorized the General Manager to apply for a HCF Grant for the Alpine Pond Habitat Restoration and Interpretive Boardwalk Project (Vote: 4-0-0; Absent: Cyr, Hanko, and Harris)

**Agenda Item #6** – Authorization to Reject All Bids Received on September 14, 2011, for Remodel of the Folger Ranch House located at La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (R-11-97)

Planning Technician Galli Basson explained that the purpose of the Folger Ranch House Remodel and Water System Improvement Project is to create the District's first coastside employee residence and to provide ongoing District presence at the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. She explained that the project was divided into two phases: the development of a potable water system and the remodel of the ranch house. Ms. Basson explained that after completing the Request for Bids process for the remodel phase, staff is recommending that the Board reject the bids received and solicit new bids to complete the project. She stated that staff would like to explore potential cost reductions by re-evaluating the project's scope.

The Board held extensive discussion on the public bidding process and Mr. Abbors suggested that the Board have a study session to understand it.

**Public Comment:** Mark Bohrer of Saratoga commented that a back-up generator at the ranch house is not needed.

Sherry Niswander spoke on the differences between public agency construction work versus private residency construction work.

**Motion:** Upon motion by Director Riffle, seconded by Director Siemens, and unanimously passed, the Board authorized rejection of bids received on September 14, 2011, for the remodel of the Folger Ranch House (Vote: 4-0-0; Absent: Cyr, Hanko, and Harris)

**VI. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Director Riffle reported that the Board Appointee Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee met and that the Board heard its report in Agenda Item #4.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Public Affairs Manager Rudy Jurgensen provided an update on the geocaching program and stated that over 40 families have completed their geocaching booklet. He also stated that the State of Georgia has contacted him and expressed interest in the District's geocaching program. Lastly, he reported that Director Cyr and Director Harris are in Washington, DC to meet with Congress members Zoe Lofgren and Mike Honda to provide an update on Mount Umunhum and to discuss the needs of the project.

Operations Manager David Sanguinetti provided an update on the mountain lion seen at Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve.

Senior Real Property Planner Sandy Sommer reported on the closing memorandum for the License and Management Agreement on the Peninsula Open Space Trust/Carilli property. She then reported that the Real Property Specialist position has been filled and that the new employee will start in mid-October. Lastly, she stated that the transfer of the Hawthorns Property has a date expected for October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Abbors provided a summary of the meeting of the Watershed Summit Planning Group. He also reported that he met with the General Manager of the Santa Clara Valley Water District in order to better understand how each organization could work together to partner in the future. He also reported on the tour of Mount Umunhum with the veterans and stated that the stakeholders are positive about how the project is progressing. Lastly, Mr. Abbors reported that Bay Area Open Space Council will be converting to a non-profit organization, likely resulting in its board becoming a private board.

**DIRECTOR REPORTS**

The Directors submitted their compensable forms to the District Clerk.

Director Kishimoto reported on the meeting with the Watershed Summit Planning Group and stated that there was a lot of energy and excitement from the participants. She stated she would like to continue having conversations with staff and the Board on what they would like to see come out of the summit.

President Hassett briefly reported on the veterans' tour of Mount Umunhum. Lastly, President Hassett stated that the Board will need to elect a Secretary Pro Tempore for the tonight's meeting because Director Harris was not present.

**Motion:** Upon motion by Director Riffle, seconded by Director Siemens, and unanimously passed, the Board elected Director Kishimoto to be the Secretary Pro Tempore for tonight's meeting. (Vote: 4-0-0; Absent: Cyr, Hanko, and Harris).

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

President Hassett adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at 8:51p.m.

Michelle Radcliffe, CMC  
District Clerk