



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

February 25, 2015
Board Meeting 15-05

SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETINGS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Administrative Office
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

REVISED DRAFT MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Siemens called the Special Meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: General Manager Steve Abbors, Assistant General Manager Ana Ruiz, Assistant General Manager Kevin Woodhouse, General Counsel Sheryl Schaffner, Public Affairs Manager Shelly Lewis, Real Property Manager Mike Williams, Planning Manager Jane Mark, Senior Planner Meredith Manning, Planner III Lisa Bankosh, Planner II Gretchen Laustsen, Supervising Ranger Mike Perez, Ranger Steve Gibbons, Natural Resources Manager Kirk Lenington, and Interim District Clerk Kim Marie Smith

1. Discussion Regarding Potential Donor Recognition for Mt. Umunhum Radar Tower

Director Yoriko Kishimoto said that the Mt. Umunhum Conservancy had gone to staff to request a policy to allow some acknowledgement of donors, and asked for a general outline of the suggested framework. It is beneficial for the Conservancy to tell donors how they will be recognized. She reminded the Board members that the District has already agreed that they would wait for the Conservancy to raise half the amount before proceeding with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Director Kishimoto said she had asked staff to provide examples of what had done with other major donors, which was handed out

recently, and to include the existing donor recognition policy in the packet. She suggested a motion which would convey the board's willingness to include major donor recognition as a part of the MOU.

Director Hanko said it was the charge of the Legislative, Financial and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) to the question of a policy change, and suggested that the matter be referred to that committee.

Director Harris said that the current donor policy addresses significant supporters and founders, and it may not be appropriate to add another category for financial supporters.

Director Siemens referred to the donor policy which was in the packet, and sections of that may be applicable.

At 6:45 p.m. the public discussion was opened.

Mr. Brandon Lewke said he was a volunteer for the District and at Mt. Umunhum. He said that there is already signage in open space areas, and donor recognition is given at a certain threshold. If the Conservancy fails to reach its 50% share, the question is moot, but he did not see why there would be opposition to the Conservancy having a policy for major donors once that was reached. He talked about his personal experience with a family donation to the Computer History Museum.

Mr. Sam Drake, President of the Umunhum Conservancy, said it was important to tell major donors how they would be recognized, so he requested that the District agree that signage is appropriate, and give an approximation how many square inches would be allowed for signage. He said the Conservancy had also been asked about the opportunity for donors to purchase personalized bricks. Mr. Drake said they have been fundraising for several months already, and he hoped to have an answer from the District in the next six weeks, if possible.

The Board members discussed whether the matter should be referred to the LFPAC for further study.

General Manager Steve Abbors explained that this request had originally been brought to staff, but he stopped their work on it and asked Mr. Drake to make the request directly to the Board under Public Comment. He noted that if the issue is sent to the LFPAC, the discussion should be whether a major donor policy is the appropriate thing to do or not, and if it is, what should that policy be.

Motion: Director Kishimoto offered a motion to refer to LFPAC (1) the request to consider a donor plaque and/or personalized bricks. Director Riffle seconded.

Director Cyr was opposed because he felt it would address details before a general policy had been developed.

Director Hassett said he would like to see the MOU in place first.

The motion failed

VOTE: 2-5-0 (Directors Kishimoto and Hanco voted aye, Directors Hassett, Cyr, Riffle, Siemens, and Harris voted no).

Motion: Director Kishimoto moved to refer to LFPAC the possible revision of district-wide policy 5.01, Site Naming, Gift and Special Recognition regarding donor recognition. Director Hanco seconded.

Directors Harris and Cyr commented on the amount of time this would take at committee and the impact on staff.

General Counsel Sheryl Schaffner said that, absent any amendment to the current policy, the section of the policy which appears to apply to this request says “LFPAC shall be the committee designated to discuss all requests that meet the criteria in the policy for special recognition...and after deliberation shall decide which requests shall be referred to the full board for a vote.” She said that just referring the matter to the committee will let LFPAC do its normal job. She wanted the board to be aware that the current motion goes a little beyond that policy, because right now it’s at the discretion of LFPAC whether to send a referral to the full board.

After further discussion, Director Siemens called for the vote.

The motion failed.

VOTE: 2-5-0 (Directors Kishimoto and Hanco voted aye, Directors Hassett, Cyr, Riffle, Siemens, and Harris voted no).

Director Siemens reviewed the outcome of this discussion and staff is not directed to do any work, and it appears the Board would be willing to consider more details when the MOU is developed. In the meantime, the existing policy would be followed.

General Counsel Schaffner clarified that this particular site is not an historic site, so the pertinent section of Policy 5.01 would be Section III, Special Recognition.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Director Siemens adjourned the Special Meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors at 7:20 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Siemens called the Regular Meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors to order at 7:20 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: General Manager Steve Abbors, Assistant General Manager Ana Ruiz, Assistant General Manager Kevin Woodhouse, General Counsel Sheryl Schaffner, Controller Michael Foster, Administrative Services Manager Kate Drayson, Public Affairs Manager Shelly Lewis, Real Property Manager Mike Williams, Planning Manager Jane Mark, Planner II Gretchen Laustsen, Planner III Lisa Bankosh, and Interim District Clerk Kim Marie Smith

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No speakers were present.

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

VOTE: 7-0-0

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve Minutes of the February 11, 2015 Board Meeting

Motion: Interim District Clerk Kim Marie Smith noted a grammatical correction to page 7 of the minutes.

2. Approve Claims Report

3. Contract Award for a Deck Safety Replacement of a Tenant Residence at 20000 Skyline Boulevard Located at Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve (R-15-27)

Staff Contact: Elaina Cuzick, Senior Real Property Agent

General Manager's Recommendation:

Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with TKO Construction of Woodside, CA, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$30,458, which includes the base bid amount of \$27,689 and a 10% contingency amount of \$2,769, to complete a Deck Safety Replacement Project at Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve.

4. Approval of Santa Clara County Funding Agreement to support the Purchase of the former Sargent Lysons Family Trust property as an Addition to Monte Bello Open Space Preserve located at 17251 Stevens Canyon Road in unincorporated Santa Clara County (Assessor's Parcel Number 351-16-020). (R-15-35)

Staff Contact: Allen Ishibashi, Senior Real Property Agent

General Manager's Recommendation:

1. Determine that the recommended actions are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as set out in this report.
2. Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the General Manager to negotiate and execute a Funding Agreement with Santa Clara County for their contribution of half the purchase price of the former Sargent Lysons Family Trust property, or \$740,000, in exchange for the conveyance of a Conservation Easement.

5. Revisions to Management Partners' Professional Services Contract for a Financial and Operational Sustainability Model Study and Master Agreement Authorization for On-going Implementation Assistance. (R-15-34)

Staff Contact: Kevin Woodhouse, Assistant General Manager

General Manager's Recommendation:

1. Authorize the General Manager to increase Management Partners' Professional Services Contract for a Financial and Operational Sustainability Model Study by \$9,985 to a not-to-exceed amount of \$128,675.
2. Authorize the General Manager to enter into a separate master professional services agreement with Management Partners, of San Jose, CA, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$125,000 to provide on-going implementation assistance through June 2016 related to organizational changes identified in the Financial and Operational Sustainability Model Study.

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

Director Kishimoto moved, and Director Riffle seconded the motion to approve the Consent Calendar, including the amendment to the minutes of October 21, 2014.

VOTE: 7-0-0

VI. BOARD BUSINESS

6. Appointment of Jessica Lucas as Peace Officer (R-15-20)

Operations Manager Michael Newburn introduced Ms. Jessica Lewis, the District's newest ranger. He reviewed her qualifications, which included park ranger positions for other agencies. She attended the Santa Rosa Park Ranger Academy, and has met all the Penal Code requirements for a Peace Officer.

Motion: Director Riffle moved, and Director Hanko seconded the motion to adopt the Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District appointing Jessica Lucas as a Peace Officer.

VOTE: 7-0-0

Operations Manager Newburn administered the oath of office to Ms. Lucas, and Supervising Park Ranger Mike Perez pinned on her badge.

7. Consideration of the Controller's Report on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget (R-15-36)

Controller Michael L. Foster presented his report on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget. He said that the District was entering the year in very sound financial condition, with a total cash balance of about \$35 million. He highlighted the General Fund, the Measure AA Capital Fund, and the Hawthorn Fund.

He said that the General Fund is about what the District used to have, with an overall forecasted growth of 6.5% for FY2015-16.

The General Fund operating budget is \$21.2 million, and even if this district spent 95% of this budget, operational spending would be at 55% of tax revenue, which is consistent with the post-Measure AA long-term financial model.

He said the budget includes 9 new employees next year and could accommodate an additional 25 employees in the following 2 years. This is affordable and sustainable even at lower tax growths.

He reviewed a series of charts including the FY2015-16 Cash Budget, the MROSD 30-year Cash Flow Projection using a variety of tax growth percentages, and the MROSD Projected Measure AA Tax Rate.

Mr. Foster said that Measure AA Capital budget includes \$18.03 million of spending on projects, partially funded by grants, for net MAA-funded spending of \$17.57 million. That includes \$1.3 million for staff labor for project management and construction

He said that the Hawthorn Endowment fund will end the year with a cash balance of \$1.1 million even after spending \$543,800 from this budget.

Director Harris asked for an explanation of the Measure AA Grants and Gifts category, which sounded like funds from Measure AA were being used toward grants and gifts. Mr. Foster said that on land projects sometimes they record the full value of what they buy, even though a lesser amount was paid. The title means grants and gifts for Measure AA projects, and he **estimated noted** that **his Financial Model assumes that those would be** about 8% of the Measure AA capital expenditure budget **would be derived from gifts and grants over the long term.**

Director Riffle asked why there was such a large jump in the non-Measure AA capital expenditures in FY2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19. Mr. Foster said it has \$20 million of additional staff facilities. Director Riffle said that the board was considering hiring a lot more people in the coming years, and this will create space for them.

Director Kishimoto asked if there is anything in the financial forecast that was worrying him, such as a period of inflation. Mr. Foster said that if cost inflation was not reflected in assessed valuation growth, which is not very likely in real estate, that would be a problem because the \$300 million would not be worth as much, but hopefully inflation and assessed value growth are related.

Director Siemens asked if operating expenses included compensation increases. Controller Foster said he did make some assumptions based his long history with the District and on what he had heard board members and staff members say, and those are included in the budget.

General Manager Steve Abbors said, with respect to the Controller's financial model, decisions that the board makes today must pencil out 30 years from now, and that those decisions will be affected by assessed valuations.

The Directors thanked Mr. Foster for an excellent report. The report was accepted by consensus and no action was taken.

8. Initial Review of the Proposed Action Plan and Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16 (R-15-33)

General Manager Steve Abbors said the controller's report was an important prelude to this budget discussion, and it is a good reminder that there is not a huge acceleration in what the District is proposing to do. Rather, there is a supplement of \$10 million from Measure AA, and the District is building the organization in order to spend that over a long period of time at the rate the controller has indicated. He noted that some of the department heads capacities had changed so they could focus more on their core functions, and that the budget includes a 20% to 30% contingency rate to address uncertainties at this particular time. He thanked the staff for the tremendous amount of work it took to produce this budget under very difficult circumstances.

Administrative Services Manager Kate Drayson distributed copies of the slide presentation and highlighted a few items, including an explanation of how the projects were prioritized. She then highlighted the projects by program and funding source, and said that of the 156 projects, 46 of them were in public access and education. About 26% of the total projects are funded by Measure AA.

Ms. Drayson highlighted the Administration and General Counsel budgets shown on pages 3-6 of Attachment I to the staff report, including project to replace IT and communications equipment,

an upgrade to the Microsoft Office software, completing the document management system, and hiring a consultant to develop an IT strategic plan.

Director Harris asked about the number of items in the budget column that carry a zero cost. Ms. Drayson explained that those items represent staff time. The only staff expenses identified here are those for Measure AA projects because of the reimbursement.

Director Harris asked for an explanation of the phrase “building and testing an image” in the IT section, and the replacement of Fund Ware. Ms. Drayson said it is a technical term which references how each person’s computer profile is built. She said that Fund Ware replacement started two years ago, but the payroll section was delayed until now because of staff turnover.

Natural Resources Manager Kirk Lenington highlighted the key projects in the action plan, including La Honda Creek grazing plan and the Highway 17 wildlife passage, including retaining an engineer to work on the conceptual design and feasibility study.

Director Hassett asked about cost-sharing on the wildlife passage. Mr. Lenington said that Caltrans will assist with permitting and construction oversight, and possibly funding in a larger manner but that would delay the project. He said that Santa Cruz only received a minor portion of the Caltrans grant they requested to their project has been delayed.

Director Hanko asked if there has been community feedback on the wildlife passage. Mr. Lenington said that outreach will come later. He explained it would be an underpass for the animals, and people would go over. They originally looked at land bridges as done in Canada, but this area is not suited for a land bridge because of landslides, so instead they are looking for culverts as a solution.

Director Harris said a lot of projects on page 7 of the attachment have to do with fencing and water systems, but is water going to be available for the tenants? Mr. Lenington said no, last year the properties ran out of water, and this year the tenants are being asked to stock the properties at a very low rate, anticipating that there may be water problems again.

Mr. Lenington also highlighted the Prescribed Fire program development.

Director Kishimoto asked why some of these items, including sudden oak death and prescribed fires, are priority 2. Mr. Lenington said these projects did not meet the priority 1 criteria set forth by the Administrative Services Manager. They will still get done, but may be delayed if the priority 1 projects fall behind.

Director Hanko remarked about the salamander undercrossing, and said that Palo Alto had a similar problem with salamanders coming onto the road in the rain, and perhaps that city could offer some suggestions. Mr. Lenington said in this section of Alpine Road there are hundreds that are killed every year.

Director Harris asked if they had talked to the Committee for Green Foothills and some other partner conservation groups about the Restoration Forestry Demonstration, because they were strongly opposed to the County doing something similar. Mr. Lenington said they had worked closely with the Committee for Green Foothills when developing the Forest Management policy, and the desire is to do a demonstration project to show what the District means when it talks

about forest management and restoration.

Director Siemens asked if the data was still available from the time when there was logging at Bear Creek, and he asked that Ms. Lennie Roberts be kept up to date on this project, since she had voiced a concern that the District would start to depend upon the money from logging, and she was active with many of the conservation groups. Mr. Lenington said he had the data from Bear Creek.

Mr. Lenington highlighted the Watershed Protection programs at Corte Madera and La Honda Creek.

Director Kishimoto noted that the wording in the scope of project for La Honda Creek Watershed protection should be changed from “design” of the road upgrade to “construction.”

Operations Manager Michael Newburn highlighted the Stevens Canyon Trail Bridges project and the Seasonal Ranger Program. He explained that the ranger program will probably have two stages. The first ranger position would not be badged, and would help with public outreach, assisting with events, etc. The second ranger position would be badged, and would be recruited from the Santa Rosa Ranger Academy.

Director Hanko asked that the board be notified when new events are happening, particularly in public access and education projects, so that the board members could attend.

Mr. Newburn also highlighted the Preserve Entrance Signage Upgrades project, the AEDs for District Emergency Response Vehicles, District-wide Bridge Inventory, and District-wide Structures and Demolitions Inventory.

Director Hassett asked if the Skyline Filed Office Safety and Maintenance budget will bring the road up to Cal Fire/County standards. Mr. Newburn explained that these are maintenance projects only, to repair potholes or crumbling roads, and will not be up to County standards. If the building were changed, the road improvement costs would be up to \$1 million.

Planning Manager Jane Mark gave an overview of her action plan, and said that of the 32 total projects, 15 are a continuation from the current action plan and budget, and the upcoming action project would have 11 new projects, and in total the department will be working on 22 public access and education projects. She that in order to expedite the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve plan and environmental review, they will be contracting for some planning assistance.

She said the key projects in this action plan are the Radar Tower Interim Repair, Mt. Umunhum Trail Construction, the Summit Restoration Parking and Landing Zone Project, the Guadalupe Creek Overlook and Bridges Project, and the Mt. Umunhum Road Design, Permitting and Implementation.

She also highlighted the Mindego Public Access, Mindego Hill Trail, Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve, La Honda Red Barn Parking Area and Trail Connections as well as the Sears Ranch Interim Parking and Trail Connections.

Ms. Mark also provided some responses to questions asked of staff by Director Kishimoto. Regarding the La Honda Sears Ranch, the proposed scope includes the planning work for the

future trail connections as well as minor grading and improvements such as wheel stops, gates, fencing and signage. Also the scope of work for the Mt. Umunhum road will include design, engineering, and permitting for approximately 5.5 miles of paved road improvements, including consulting services for geotech, civil engineering, biologists, hazardous materials, and traffic, as well as permitting fees and contingencies.

Director Harris asked about costs for the Cooley Landing Interpretive Design and Implementation. Ms. Mark said the City of East Palo Alto is still the lead on the Cooley Landing project, and they are finishing the interpretive center at the site, but the District will work only on its own lands.

Director Harris asked for more information about Bear Creek Alma College Site Rehabilitation Plan. Ms. Mark said that an inventory and assessment of the structures on the college site has been done, but at some point the Board redirected the planning staff to refocus on Mr. Umunhum, which put the combined master plan for Sierra Azul and Bear Creek Redwoods on hold. The Board has not made a decision on the master plan alternative which was developed, but the plan is to bring the preserve plan to committee and to the Board.

Ms. Mark clarified language on the Mt. Umunhum Overlook and Bridges to indicate that "helicopter" means delivery of construction materials by helicopter.

Director Siemens referred to the Mindego Hill Trail and True Ranch demolishing project, and said that public documents should no longer include the True Ranch name, and should just be referred to the Mindego Ranch House. He also suggested that staff consider establishing design standards for wheel stops and square curbs so that cars can roll up against them without scraping.

Director Kishimoto referred to page 25, the Trail Database for the District's website, and suggested that the advanced volunteers be recruited for this project.

Director Hassett asked about page 24, District-wide Longterm Facilities Plan. Ms. Mark said that at this time, the team is composed only of internal staff and no consultants have been hired.

Director Siemens asked if there were any plans to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the San Mateo County. Ms. Mark said that was considered as part of their core function, and it was also part of the Financial and Operational Stability Model (FOSM) recommendations for process delivery improvements. Discussions have been initiated with the San Mateo County Planning Director. Director Siemens said that perhaps it would be good to have a board member present at a future meeting to indicate their level of interest.

Public Affairs Manager Shelly Lewis highlighted key projects in the Public Affairs category, including Measure AA ribbon cuttings and project tours, updating Measure AA information materials and signage in the preserves, an educational campaign about Restoration Forestry, a new annual report at the end of each fiscal year, and a more robust legislative program.

Director Hanko asked about the possibility of a state parks commission bond measure. Ms. Lewis said that a bare bones measure was introduced yesterday, but so far no dollar amount has been specified.

General Manager Steve Abbors said that the District needs to plan for a Park Bond in 2016, but also in 2018, which might be more likely, so it must be closely monitored.

Director Harris asked for more information about the project tours. Ms. Lewis said that not all the details have been decided, but she expected that invitations would go out to elected officials and other interested parties, and the open house tours are for the public as well as invited guests.

Real Property Manager Mike Williams highlighted the Lot Line Adjustment/Property Transfer of Purisima Uplands, the Event Center and Apple Orchard Purchase, Bear Creek Redwoods – Moody Woods Gulch, improving existing rights to the road on Mt. Umunhum, and Ravenswood Bay Trail, CEQA, Permits and Implementation.

Director Hanko noted that this is the missing link to the entire Bay trail, and she asked if Menlo Park has agreed to be the lead agency. Mr. Williams said that Menlo Park is not interested, although they will share management responsibility of portions of the trail. East Palo Alto has grant funds, but not the staff to manage it. He said that there is a grant proposal for construction, and there is a Santa Clara County/Stanford grant for \$400,000 to get permits, and there are a lot of other opportunities and partnerships. This work is all happening at the staff level and has not yet gone to Menlo Park city council.

Director Kishimoto asked for more information about the Alpine Road Regional Trail Connection. Mr. Williams said that they were in preliminary talks with San Mateo County Parks and Public Works staff and hoped to set up a tour to look at culvert failure areas and other sedimentation problem areas, and then discuss how much of that cost the County would bear and how much of the trail would go on District land. Ultimately the County would have to abandon or quitclaim the land for public trail purposes.

Administrative Services Manager Kate Drayson reviewed the funding sources for the budget of \$55.76 million, which is comprised of 2/3 from the General Fund, 32% from Measure AA, and 1% from grants. Operating expenses are about \$21.2 million, which is 38% of the District budget. She said in prior years that was higher, so this reflects a shift of the resources to the Capital and Land programs. She noted that salaries and benefits increased by 15%, but when Measure AA reimbursable staff costs are removed it drops the increase to only 6%. She said the total Capital budget increased by 113% reflecting the influx of Measure AA funding and projects, and Land increased by 32% largely due to the Apple Orchard purchase. She said the total District budget increased by 27%.

Ms. Drayson also highlighted the salary and benefits increase, staffing increases, retirement costs and the decrease in the CalPERS rate, increased costs for workers compensation, and she reviewed the costs for supplies, and additional staff positions.

Assistant General Manager Ana Ruiz highlighted new positions shown on the organizational chart in Section II, page 7 of the staff report. The four high-priority staff positions are the Chief Financial Officer and Director of Administrative Services, the Engineering and Construction Manager, the Information Systems Manager, and the Special Projects Manager. She also discussed the Legislative and External Affairs Specialist, an additional GIS specialist and IT specialist position, and new Ranger and Supervising Ranger positions needed because of the opening of Mt. Umunhum and Bear Creek Redwoods.

Director Kishimoto said she did not agree with adding another position for legislative activities, because there are already 6 people in the General Manager's Office and 10 people in Public

Affairs, and felt the public would be watching closely to make sure the District is watching its spending.

Director Hanko said she felt it was time for the District to be paying close attention to all the bills that could affect the district or which could bring in grants.

Director Cyr said that, given the extensive public affairs and outreach planned for next year, it would be easy to miss this important legislative connection. He felt this was a critical position. Ms. Ruiz added that without this new position the responsibility will fall to existing staff, and their review may not be as robust, or it would impact other projects.

General Manager Abbors said that up to 2000 bills move through the legislature each year, and it is important to understand which ones may impact the District in order to address opportunities and threats. Sometimes action is required in a day or two, and current staff cannot respond that quickly. He said that there is a move to bring redevelopment back, which the cities want, and it's important for the District to monitor that subject as well. Ms. Ruiz said that the position will also look for grant opportunities.

Administrative Services Manager Kate Drayson reviewed the summary of the FY2015-16 Five-year Capital Improvement Program, and said that years four and 5 are very rough estimates, and there are often permitting delays, so the General Manager is recommending that the District go back to a 3-year CIP Program.

Motion: Director Kishimoto moved to delete the Legislative and External Affairs Specialist from the budget. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion: Director Cyr moved, and Director Hanko seconded the motion to direct staff to replace the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program with a Three-Year Capital Improvement Program.

VOTE: 7-0-0

This was the first hearing on the budget, and the Final Action Plan and Budget will be presented for Board adoption at the March 25 meeting.

VII. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

Director Riffle reported that the Planning and Natural Resources (PNR) Committee met on February 24 to review the Guadalupe Creek Overlook design guidelines and preliminary conceptual design, as well of the proposed closure of two trail segments

Director Hanko reported that the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) met on February 19, and had an informational report from Mr. Ralph Heim of Public Policy Advocates. The members also discussed the future role and emphasis of the committee, and that discussion will continue at the March meeting, along with review of a short list of bills to watch.

B. Staff Reports

Controller Michael L. Foster reported that the decision was made to hire Sohail Bengali as the

Comment [MS1]: Change the font color to black.

District Financial Advisor for the initial sale of government obligation bonds.

General Manager Steve Abbors said that he had been invited to the Palo Alto Fellowship Forum and spoke about Measure AA, and as a result he has two recruits for the bond oversight committee. He said today he also spoke about the measure to the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, about Measure AA and the Open Space Authority spoke on Measure Q. Mr. Abbors said he had also been working with the Bay Area Open Space Council which is recruiting an executive director.

Mr. Abbors presented a monogrammed gavel to former President Cecily Harris, as a acknowledgement of her service.

C. Director Reports

Director Hassett reported that he attended the Midpeninsula and Cooley Landing event at which Director Hanco did a great job with remarks, as well as the 75th Anniversary for the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District, at which Director Harris did an excellent job representing the District. He and Director Harris noted they had both been asked to speak on a panel before the Coastside Democrats.

Director Cyr said he attended both of those events. He said that he and Director Riffle planned to attend the Special Parks District Forum in Michigan in June. He said he would forward sign-up information on this event to all of the Board members.

Director Kishimoto said she went on a Sempervirens walk to the Lagomarsino Redwoods.

Director Hanco said she enjoyed the Cooley Landing event, which was very well attended, and she talked about the history of the Buffalo Soldiers.

Director Riffle congratulated staff on their efforts for that event.

Director Harris said she and some staff went to one of the Public Open Space Trust (POST) lectures and heard an interesting presentation about how livestock can stop desertification.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Director Siemens adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors at 10:18 p.m.

Kim Marie Smith, MMC
Interim District Clerk