



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Administrative Office
5050 El Camino Real
Los Altos, CA 94022

Thursday, May 16, 2024

*The Board of Directors conducted this meeting in accordance with
California Government Code section 54953*

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gleason called the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee to order at 2:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Craig Gleason and Zoe Kersteen-Tucker

Members absent: Jed Cyr

Staff present: General Manager Ana M. Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Assistant General Manager Brian Malone, Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services Stefan Jaskulak, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Maria Soria, Executive Assistant/Deputy District Clerk Shaylynn Nelson, Area Superintendent Brad Pennington, Planner II Mattea Ottoboni, Planner III Tyler Smith

Chair Gleason announced that 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.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Director Kersteen-Tucker moved, and Chair Gleason seconded the motion to adopt the agenda with item three being addressed first.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Cyr – absent)

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Public comment opened at 2:04 p.m.

Deputy District Clerk Shaylynn Nelson reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 2:04 p.m.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Approve the March 12, 2024 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes.

Public comment opened at 2:05 p.m.

Ms. Nelson reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 2:05 p.m.

Motion: Director Kersteen-Tucker moved, and Chair Gleason seconded the motion to approve the March 12, 2024 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee meeting minutes.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Cyr absent)

2. Proposed Amendments to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Ordinance (R-24-59)

Area Superintendent Brad Pennington presented the proposed amendments to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Ordinance. He provided a brief history of the Ordinance and explained it consists of both the Ordinance and the bail schedule. He reviewed the major changes and new additions to the Ordinance, including improving the accuracy of tracking e-bike violations in section 502.8, amending section 409.6 to include only non-electric transportation devices, amending section 409.9 to include electric transportation devices other than e-bikes, and deleting section 502.5 due to redundancy of Walk Only Zones. He also reviewed minor changes to sections 700.4, 703.1, 803.3 and changes to the bail schedule. He further explained that additional fees are added by the court, which adds to the total fine.

Director Kersteen-Tucker inquired if a definition of e-bikes is needed since there are different types.

Mr. Pennington explained e-bikes are defined in the penal code. There are bikes which are marketed as e-bikes but are electric dirt bikes, which is a misdemeanor.

Director Kersteen-Tucker inquired if section 805.4 of the bail schedule for bicycle operation after-hours included e-bikes.

Mr. Pennington confirmed that e-bikes would likely fall under bicycle operation after-hours. 805.4 was added back when the District wanted to track bicycles present after-hours. He explained the citation for having an e-bike would be given first and there would be a second citation for being present after-hours.

Chair Gleason asked if it makes sense to have separate sections for after-hours citations and bicycle after-hours citations.

Mr. Pennington stated he considered the option of not distinguishing between afterhours violations and noted there is not a separate citation for equestrian-related after-hours violations. It will require further research to determine if differentiating between the type of use that keep patrons past hours is valuable. However, he noted distinguishing violations by use during the day is valuable.

Director Gleason inquired if the reason for differentiating between after-hours use is for tracking purposes and not to differentiate between users.

Mr. Pennington confirmed it is not to single out one type of user and adding a separate equestrian after-hours section is a possibility.

Director Kersteen-Tucker asked if the District had a single citation category for after-hours use if equestrians could be added.

Mr. Pennington said the citation is really to reflect that a person was present after-hours and the use which kept them in the preserve is less important.

Director Kersteen-Tucker said it would simplify matters if there was only a single after-hours designation.

Chair Gleason responded that it depends on if the data is helpful for tracking purposes.

Mr. Pennington replied that it depends on the historical data and how much the data has been used. He will review prior public safety reports to see if type of usage after-hours is specifically called out.

Public comment opened at 2:43 p.m.

Ms. Nelson reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 2:43 p.m.

Motion: Director Kersteen-Tucker moved, and Director Gleason seconded the motion to:

1. Forward the proposed Ordinance amendments to the full Board of Directors for a first reading.
2. Forward the proposed additions to the Bail Schedule to the full Board of Directors for consideration and approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Cyr absent)

3. Selection of trail names for Phase II Trail Segments at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve, renaming of the Alma Trail, and naming of the existing ADA-accessible path through the Alma Cultural Landscape Area (R-24-60)

This item was heard prior to Agenda Item #2

Planner II Mattea Ottoboni and Planner III Tyler Smith provided the staff presentation for the Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve Phase II Trail Naming. Ms. Ottoboni explained staff approached the project by ensuring potential names were in alignment with the site naming directives outlined in Board Policy 5.01. Staff consulted with late Director Pete Siemens' family to select a suitable trail. Staff familiar with the site were also engaged to provide suggestions and vote for names for trail segments 1-9 and the ADA-accessible pathway. Ms. Ottoboni reviewed the project timeline and stated this agenda item will be presented to the Board of Directors (Board) at the July 10, 2024 meeting. If approved, staff will work to design, fabricate and install the new trail name signs in the summer of 2024 to be ready for the anticipated public trail openings in the fall of 2024. She explained there are many trail segments for the purpose of enhancing ease of patrol and safety.

Mr. Smith continued the presentation by reviewing the proposed trail names for segments 1, 3-7, and 9-10. He explained the reasoning for each proposed name and the approximate length of each segment. The existing Alma Trail and segment 1 are proposed to be Upper Pete Siemens Trail and Lower Pete Siemens Trail, respectively. The other proposed segment names are as follows: Segment 3) Toad Hollow Trail, Segment 4) Oak Knoll Trail, Segment 5) Myotis Trail, Segment 6) Beaver Trail, Segment 7) Salamander Springs Trail, Segment 9) Radio Hill Trail, Segment 10) Almadale Trail.

Ms. Ottoboni then reviewed trail segments 2 and 8, which are currently unnamed. Segment 2 is the equestrian bypass and is still in the process of being constructed. The first proposed name is Webb Mill Trail, reminiscent of the mill operated by the man with the last name of Webb on the ridge where Upper Lake is now. The second proposed name is Thimbleberry Trail named for the native species, which can be found in Bear Creek Redwoods. The two proposed names for segment 8 are Aqueduct Trail or Big Eared Bat Trail. Segment 8 connects between the proposed Lower Pete Siemens Trail and the proposed Salamander Springs Trail. Aqueduct Trail refers to the aqueduct that can be seen from the trail connector and was installed during the Tevis era while Big Eared Bat Trail was suggested due to the Townsend's big-eared bats that roost in the garage near Alma Cultural Landscape. Ms. Ottoboni explained staff had also identified Brigg's Creek Trail and Eagle's Flight Trail as potential alternative names.

Director Kersteen-Tucker requested staff to address the public comment regarding the cost for changing trail names.

Mr. Smith stated for all the trail signs it would be approximately \$3,000 - \$4,000.

Chair Gleason inquired why some trail segments have two proposed names while others have only one proposed name.

Ms. Ottoboni said there was not a strong consensus from either staff during the voting process or from Management Team for the segments with two proposed names. Staff closely voted for three to four options, which were narrowed to two by the Management Team.

Public comment opened at 2:22 p.m.

Ms. Nelson reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 2:22 p.m.

Director Kersteen-Tucker expressed a preference for Thimbleberry Trail for segment 2.

Chair Gleason stated his preference was for nature-based naming. He appreciates the interpretive programs and the nature-based naming is a good opportunity to lead hikes and speak about nature. The trail naming according to plants and animals would be particularly well coordinated with docent led tours. He thanked Mr. Siemens family for being present at the meeting and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to name a trail after Mr. Siemens who contributed so much to the District and Los Gatos in general.

Director Kersteen-Tucker concurred it is a fitting tribute to Mr. Siemens and his legacy with the District and thanked Mr. Siemens' family for attending the meeting.

Motion: Director Kersteen-Tucker moved, and Director Gleason seconded the motion to:

1. Affirm renaming the existing Alma Trail in western Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve as Upper Pete Siemens Trail
2. Affirm the following recommended trail names for Phase II Trail segments:
 - a. Segment 1 – Lower Pete Siemens Trail
 - b. Segment 3 – Toad Hollow Trail
 - c. Segment 4 – Oak Knoll Trail
 - d. Segment 5 – Myotis Trail
 - e. Segment 6 – Beaver Trail
 - f. Segment 7 – Salamander Springs Trail
 - g. Segment 9 – Radio Hill Trail
 - h. Existing ADA-accessible path – Almadale Trail
3. Select the trail name for the following Phase II Trail segments:
 - a. Segment 2 – Thimbleberry Trail
 - b. Segment 8 – Big Eared Bat Trail
4. Forward a recommendation to consider approval of all the proposed new trail names to the full Board of Directors.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 2-0-0 (Cyr absent)

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gleason adjourned the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee at 2:44 p.m.

Shaylynn Nelson
Deputy District Clerk