



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

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

Administrative Office  
330 Distel Circle  
Los Altos, CA 94022

**Tuesday, March 17, 2015**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Director Hanko called the regular meeting of the Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs Committee to order at 1:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Members absent: None

Staff present: General Manager Steve Abbors, Assistant General Manager Ana Ruiz, Assistant General Manager Kevin Woodhouse, General Counsel Sheryl Schaffner, Operations Manager Michael Newburn, Planning Manager Jane Mark, Public Affairs Manager Shelly Lewis, Community Outreach Specialist Julie Amato, and Interim District Clerk Kim Marie Smith

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

No speakers present.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Director Cyr moved and Director Harris seconded to adopt the agenda.

**VOTE:** 3-0-0

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**1. Approve February 19, 2015 Minutes**

**Motion:** Director Cyr moved and Director Harris seconded to adopt the minutes as amended, to correct page 3, item 4, paragraph 4 to reflect the name of Director Harris instead of Director Hassett.

**VOTE:** 3-0-0

**2. Proposed Legislation and Issues, including Approval of Appreciation Letter for AB 495 (R-15-53)**

Public Affairs Manager Shelly Lewis presented the staff report which highlighted proposed items of interest to the District, including SB 422 (Monning D), regarding the Santa Clara Valley Open-Space District; SB 608 (Liu D) regarding the right for homeless persons to take up residence in open spaces and park districts; AB 327 (Gordon D), regarding removing the sunset clause in the section about Public Works volunteers; AB 495 (Gordon D) regarding the purchasing authority of the general manager for regional and open space districts; ACR 18 (Gordon D – Menlo Park), regarding Parks Make Life Better! Month; and SB 317 (DeLeon D), regarding the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Rivers and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2016.

She also distributed and reviewed a memorandum containing late information and a fact sheet for SB 217 and SB 422.

Ms. Lewis said that the District was a co-author on AB 495, the General Manager's purchasing authority, and if it goes to the committee meeting next month General Manager Steve Abbors will be present to support it. Mr. Abbors suggested that one or two board members might wish to attend that hearing as well.

General Manager Abbors remarked how the demographics in the state have changed and SB 317 is really designed to capture both city parks and open space on a statewide basis. He said the District may not benefit as much from this bill since the emphasis is on areas that have fewer resources, but it is still good to support it.

Director Harris said that if the general manager were going to comment upon SB 317, a flat amount should be requested instead of a per capital share, because in Propositions 12 and 40, the District had to go to the counties to get its share. Secondly, she said it is tedious to record a Memorandum of Unrecorded Grant Agreement for all State grants, and it would be nice to have it removed from this program.

General Manager Steve Abbors discussed the apparent changes happening in the processes used by the Coastal Conservancy, which are tending toward more regulation.

**Motion:** Director Hanko moved and Director Cyr seconded to adopt the General Manager's Recommendation to:

Receive updates on proposed legislation and issue;  
Recommend the Letter of Appreciation to Assemblyman Gordon regarding AB 495 to the full Board of Directors for approval.

**VOTE:** 3-0-0

Planning Manager Jane Mark provided an update on Proposition 1, Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. She said that this proposition will provide \$100.5 million to the California Coastal Conservancy to fund multi-benefit water quality, water supply, watershed protection and restoration projects over 10 years. She said that she, Assistant General Manager Ana Ruiz, and Senior Planner Tina Hugg will be attending the March 19<sup>th</sup> public meeting to submit comments and receive additional information on the grant program.

Ms. Mark said that Proposition 1 directs the Conservancy to prioritize projects that benefit disadvantaged communities, achieve multiple benefits, and result in quantifiable outcomes. In addition, the Conservancy has identified four priorities for Proposition 1 expenditures, which include water sustainability, anadromous fish, wetland restoration, and urban greening. She also reviewed the grant evaluation criteria.

The Committee members asked to have her speaking points forwarded to them for additional review, as well as the comment letter when it is available.

The Committee received the updates on the proposed legislation and issue.

### **3. Public Outreach Overview (R-15-52)**

Community Outreach Specialist Julie Amato reviewed a PowerPoint presentation titled Latino Community Outreach, which addressed the number of Latinos as a percentage of the total population, and how the outreach program is building new partnerships and piloting new approaches in the community and on the preserves. She discussed specifically targeted communications and introductory activities, as well as partnerships with non-profits, schools and government organizations. She gave some examples of activities with Nuestra Casa, the bi-lingual Walk with the Doc event, College Track, Latino Outdoors Partnership.

Director Hanko suggested that perhaps the participants could be asked to put together some poetry or remarks about their experience with open space, so it can be determined what they are learning.

Ms. Amato said that at a recent hike done in conjunction with the Menlo Park Library each participant was asked to write a word or phrase, and had their picture taken with it as a fun way to commemorate the event.

Director Harris said she was pleased that the board voted to have diversity included in the outreach program, but that there may need to be some effort to reach out generationally as well, particularly toward younger population.

Ms. Amato said they are targeting them through social media, Yelp pages, outreach to youth commissions, and having an eco-friendly fair at Hunter Park. She said that staff is also developing new programs to encourage younger volunteers.

The report was received and no action was taken.

#### **4. Chambers of Commerce Membership (R-15-50)**

Public Affairs Manager Shelly Lewis presented the report that reviewed staff's proposed strategy in selecting which chambers of commerce to join. She said the five selected were Half Moon Bay, Redwood City, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, and Saratoga.

Director Harris said that in addition to the traditional activities of the chambers, such as mixers and community events, many also have powerful committees, and she asked how the District could participate in those.

Ms. Lewis said that one example would be if the District gets behind the State Park Bond, it will be very important for the Board members to advocate for that. Ms. Lewis said she would look for additional ways the District can be involved.

The report was received and no action was taken.

#### **5. Commemoration of Living Individuals Who Have Made Outstanding Contributions to the District (R-15-51)**

Public Affairs Manager Shelly Lewis presented the report.

Director Hanko said that it was time to recognize Mr. Herb Grench, the first General Manager of the District, while he was still living. She proposed to meet with him to see what sort of recognition he might like.

Discussion followed about how best to outreach to Mr. Grench, and it was agreed that Director Hanko and General Manager Steve Abbors would meet with Mr. Grench and report back to the Committee at the June meeting.

Director Cyr asked that the staff report summary be amended to correct a grammatical error by deleting the phrase "in its history."

#### **6. Role and Emphasis of the Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs Committee (R-15-54)**

Public Affairs Manager Shelly Lewis presented the staff report.

Director Harris said she did not think another committee would be necessary, but the LFPAC committee is becoming a catch-all, and board policies in particular are often an odd fit, and there is a lot of overlap with other committees.

Director Cyr said this committee makes sense for the preliminary discussion of site naming, etc., and especially the increasingly active legislative program and the public affairs outreach component associated with that. He said that he understood the committee's original role was to set fundamental policies, but now they can be reviewed, as changes arise, with the committees that are more focused in that area, such as the topic of pesticides or prescribed fire being reviewed by the Planning and Natural Resources Committee. He said there was an effort underway to make sure all policies are up to date.

General Manager Steve Abbors said that District Clerk Jennifer Woodworth had been making progress in the updates, and would be bringing those to LFPAC when she returned to the office.

The report was received and no action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Director Hanko adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs Committee at 2:45 p.m.

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Kim Marie Smith, MMC  
Interim District Clerk