



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

**PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

Los Gatos Community Center – Adult Recreation Building  
208 E. Main Street  
Los Gatos, CA 95030

June 2, 2015

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**ROLL CALL**

Director Cyr called the Special Meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee to order at 5:02 p.m.

**Members Present:** Jed Cyr, Larry Hassett, and Curt Riffle

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Assistant General Manager Ana Ruiz, Assistant General Manager Kevin Woodhouse, General Counsel Sheryl Schaffner, Planner III Lisa Bankosh, Planner III Gretchen Laustsen, and District Clerk Jennifer Woodworth

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

There were none.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**VOTE: 3-0-0**

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**1. Development of the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan and Status Update of the Alma College Site Rehabilitation Plan and Bear Creek Stables Site Plan (R-15-85)**

Planner III Lisa Bankosh explained that the purpose of this Committee meeting is to provide to the public and members of the committee the complete breadth and scope of the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan, including public access, the Bear Creek Stables Site Plan, and the Alma College Historic Site Plan.

Ms. Alma Du Solier, representing landscape architecture firm Populous, gave an overview of the goals and objectives of each of four preserve plan elements – public use and facilities, natural

resources, cultural resources, and maintenance and operations. Ms. Du Solier provided a brief summary of the public input gathered from the Planning and Natural Resource Committee meeting on April 29, 2015 and since the workshop, through questionnaires completed, comments provided, and written comments submitted. Ms. Du Solier then described the focused planning projects within the Public Access Plan, including a proposed multi-use trail, planned pedestrian crossing, and proposed staging areas.

Director Riffle inquired regarding the timing of planned openings Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the preserve.

Ms. Bankosh explained that Phase 1 is planned for opening in 2017, and Phase 2 would not be able to be opened until the pedestrian crossing was completed. A definite opening target for Phase 2 cannot yet be determined because it is dependent on the completion of pedestrian crossing.

Ms. Kathy Garrett, representing landscape architect firm PGA Design, described the Alma College Site Rehabilitation Project first describing the history of the site including former and current structures on the site and fault lines that span the site. Ms. Garrett displayed renderings of the two scheme alternatives for the site, which both provide for safety and security and reflect on the cultural landscape of the site. Scheme A is a more intensive undertaking requiring rehabilitation of the chapel and 1934 library, stabilization of the 1950 library, and removal of other buildings. Scheme B entails stabilization of the 1934 chapel and library and removal of the 1950 library. Both schemes include rehabilitation of the Roman Plunge and Lily Pond. Finally, Ms. Garrett described potential interpretive elements which could be added to the site to describe its historical nature.

Ms. Du Solier provided an update on Bear Creek Stables Site Plan, including continuing refinement the design alternatives, development of site improvement standards, site management guidelines, development of public access programs and improvements, and maintenance and repair projects.

Ms. Bankosh described the next steps of the project and the proposed project schedule.

Public hearing opened at 6:40 p.m.

Melany Moore spoke in favor of preserving as many of the buildings at the Alma College site as possible.

Carol Paral stated her concerns regarding bicyclists on trails near inexperienced equestrians.

Robert LaRosa spoke in favor of not encroaching on the natural landscape and inviting nature in.

Sean McKenna, President of Silicon Valley Mountain Bikers, spoke in favor of maximizing public benefit.

Charlie Krenz spoke in favor of the proposed side trail for use by mountain bikers and an increase number of loop trails for cyclists.

Lilo Campeau spoke regarding the grinding rocks located at proposed parking lots and the historical significance of the George Kellan barn from the Tervis Era located at the stables.

Lyndall Erb spoke regarding the information requested in development of the management guidelines.

Erfert Fenton Assistant Manager at Bear Creek Stables reiterated the comments of Kathy Garrett regarding water storage at the Alma College site and its potential use at the Bear Creek Stables site.

Ed Dee provided comments regarding the limited availability of trail use for mountain bikers as a part of Phase 1 of the Public Access Plan.

Joseph Ols representing USA Track and Field expressed his surprise that the preliminary Public Access Plan only has one cycling trail and encouraged the various user groups to work together.

Nancy Cole spoke in favor of the various user groups working together and expressed her support for the parking lots being easily accessible and monitored by field staff.

Catherine Schulbach expressed her concern that Phase 1 of the Public Access Plan would not be opened until the planned parking areas are opened.

Mark Rosenberg expressed his concern regarding the necessity of the Summit Road parking lot being opened before the proposed multi-use trail can be opened.

Ms. Bankosh explained that the Summit Road parking lot would not need to be opened before the proposed multi-use trail can be opened but its opening is contingent on completion of the crossing at Alma College.

Public hearing closed at 7:02 p.m.

Director Hassett spoke in favor of stabilizing the 1950 library and rehabilitating the 1934 library and chapel and construction of a bypass trail for cyclists that avoids the stable area.

Director Riffle provided comments regarding the proposed timeline for the project and staff's efforts to move this project forward.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Director Riffle adjourned the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at 7:14 p.m.

---

Jennifer Woodworth, CMC  
District Clerk