



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, February 5, 2019
2:00PM**

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Director Hassett called the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee to order at 2:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Larry Hassett, Karen Holman, Zoe Kersteen-Tucker

Members absent: None

Staff present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services Stefan Jaskulak, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Public Affairs Manager Kori Skinner, Planning Manager Jane Mark, Planner I Melissa Borgesi, Planner III Gretchen Laustsen, Visitor Services Manager Matthew Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist II Cydney Bieber, Public Affairs Assistant Jordan McDaniel, Public Affairs Specialist I Carmen Lau

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mark Weiss, Palo Alto resident and previous Los Altos Hills resident, expressed a desire to stay educated and engaged with the District. Mr. Weiss recollected the late Victor Zenoff and David C. Daniels and their memorial benches within the District.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Director Holman moved, and Director Kersteen-Tucker seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

VOTE: 3-0-0

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Select Committee Chair for Calendar Year 2019

Public comment opened at 2:08 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 2:09 p.m.

Motion: Director Kersteen-Tucker moved, and Director Holman seconded the motion to select Director Hassett as Committee Chair for Calendar Year 2019.

VOTE: 3-0-0

2. Approve the December 4, 2018 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee meeting minutes

Public comment opened at 2:10 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 2:11 p.m.

Motion: Director Hassett moved, and Director Kersteen-Tucker seconded the motion to approve the December 4, 2018 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee meeting minutes.

VOTE: 3-0-0

3. Recognition of Significant Partners at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve (R-19-14)

Planner I Melissa Borgesi presented the staff report proposing a recommended list of partners to be recognized on a new partner recognition signboard at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve. Ms. Borgesi also discussed the design of a preservation story interpretive sign and an online web application to provide additional details of the Preserve's acquisition history.

Director Holman expressed concern about signage pollution in the preserves and asked if two signboards are preferred over three. Director Holman asked how Byron Sher would be recognized.

Ms. Borgesi reported Section IV of Board Policy 5.01 – *Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition* includes the installation of a third partner recognition signboard when there are significant partners to be recognized. Ms. Borgesi explained Byron Sher would be recognized by name on the Midpen panel, which is proposed to include the project name and the Midpen logo.

Ms. Ruiz stated the District's concern regarding signage pollution spurred the proposal of Section IV to Board Policy 5.01 – *Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition*, which provides a

centralized, consistent and cohesive approach for recognizing significant partner contributions at preserve trailhead locations.

Director Holman expressed appreciation for efforts to consolidate signage within preserves and recommended listing Santa Clara Valley Water District and Committee for Green Foothills individually on separate panels until there are additional partners to recognize.

Director Holman expressed interest in and admiration for the District's youth organization partnerships and recommended we seek opportunities to recognize these groups.

Ms. Ruiz stated the recognition of youth organization partnerships would be considered in the conservation story sign and supplemental printed materials. Ms. Ruiz recommended further discussion in the next agenda item.

Director Hassett agreed with Director Holman's suggestion to list Santa Clara Valley Water District and Committee for Green Foothills individually on separate panels.

Public comment opened at 2:24 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 2:25 p.m.

Motion: Director Kersteen-Tucker moved, and Director Holman seconded the motion to forward to the full Board of Directors the following recommended list of partners to be recognized for their significant contributions towards the preservation, stewardship, and public opening of Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve:

- Peninsula Open Space Trust;
- California State Coastal Conservancy;
- California Wildlife Conservation Board;
- Santa Clara Valley Water District;
- Former State Senator Byron Sher; and
- Committee for Green Foothills.

VOTE: 3-0-0

4. Briefing on Midpeninsula Region Open Space District's Youth Engagement Opportunities (R-19-15)

Public Affairs Specialist I Carmen Lau presented an overview of the District's external and internal youth organization partnerships and upcoming programs.

Director Holman expressed appreciation for the District's current partnerships and recommended two additional partnerships with *Canopy* and *Fresh Lifetimes for Youth* (FLY); suggested increasing staff presentations to city councils and recognition efforts of youth organization members and groups; and stated environmental education, such as docent training, could be provided for youth to promote confidence, public speaking skills and advocacy.

Directors Holman and Hassett recommended tracking and quantifying staff contributions to the District's partnerships and programs.

Director Kersteen-Tucker expressed appreciation for the District's efforts to connect underserved youth to our open spaces through transportation assistance and recommended two additional partnerships with *Youth Leadership Initiative* (YLI) and *Transform*. Additionally, Director Kersteen-Tucker recommended increasing outreach to local school districts and partnering with existing environmental education programs to promote the District's programs.

Director Hassett questioned whether the District's efforts are widespread enough to include coastside residents and recommended seeking opportunities to provide agricultural education programming for youth on the coast.

Director Hassett inquired if the District's current budget for transportation subsidies is adequate given the committee's recommendations for future outreach.

Ms. Ruiz stated transportation is a notable barrier to open space for preserve users, and efforts to expand this to include a wider diversity of groups may arise as a future budget request.

Directors Kersteen-Tucker and Holman emphasized the need for mapping District outreach efforts, as well as providing environmental education programming.

Public comment opened at 3:07 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 3:08 p.m.

No committee action required.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Hassett adjourned the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee at 3:08 p.m.

Jordan McDaniel
Public Affairs Administrative Assistant