



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, June 11, 2019  
2:00 PM**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Director Hassett called the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee to order at 2:05 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, Assistant General Manager Brian Malone, Natural Resources Manager Kirk Lenington, Public Affairs Manager Korrine Skinner, Planning Manager Jane Mark, Visitor Services Manager Matthew Anderson, Grants Program Manager Melanie Askay, Interpretation and Education Program Manager Renée Fitzsimons, Governmental Affairs Specialist Joshua Hugg, Public Affairs Specialist Carmen Lau, Public Affairs Assistant Jordan McDaniel

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

No speakers present.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**VOTE: 3-0-0**

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**1. Grant Awards for the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Grantmaking Program (R-19-71)**

Grants Program Manager Melanie Askay provided an overview of the purpose, goals and priorities of the District's grantmaking program; explained the scoring criteria and process for each of the proposals; and provided an analysis of the proposed finalists for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Grantmaking Program.

Director Kersteen-Tucker inquired if smaller organizations, such as Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network or Bay Area Older Adults, are more negatively impacted by partial funding.

Ms. Askay reported all grantees were consulted about their proposals because partial funding generally does not benefit grantees.

Directors Holman and Kersteen-Tucker inquired whether partial funding would deter grantees from accepting funds or affect the likelihood of whether grantees would apply for future funding.

Ms. Askay consulted with grantees on the proposed funding amounts to ensure they would accept the funds and confirmed that this year's grant awards will not dictate how much the District funds grantees in the future should they choose to reapply in another grant cycle.

Director Kersteen-Tucker asked whether the scoring criteria used by District staff was shared with applicants to ensure all applicants and projects were eligible under the solicitation guidelines and asked staff to share the full scoring sheet with the Committee.

Ms. Askay confirmed the scoring sheets were shared with the applicants and a consultation was offered to those who were not selected in order to improve their proposals for the next solicitation period.

Director Holman expressed the need to be transparent about the total costs of the grantmaking program, including staff time.

Director Kersteen-Tucker inquired whether organizations such as Bay Area Older Adults, Thrive Alliance and San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory will be geographically spread throughout the District.

Ms. Askay reported Bay Area Older Adults has not yet outlined their program location specifics, while San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory and Thrive both have a wide geographical spread.

Director Holman inquired how other grantees would be impacted if the proposed funding allocations were shifted to increase funding to Bay Area Older Adults.

Ms. Askay stated consultations with each of the grantees would be required to determine the impacts, which would require significant staff time.

General Manager Ana Ruiz inquired whether the Committee would consider an additional, separate partnership agreement through the Public Affairs department with Bay Area Older Adults in order for this organization to host additional hikes to assist the District in meeting its goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion by promoting hikes that support our senior population. General Manager Ana Ruiz reported that an otherwise reconfiguring of the proposed funding allocations may cause significant complications and delay the grantmaking program.

Director Holman expressed an appreciation of the General Manager's proposal and requested it be brought to the board concurrently.

Director Hassett recommended the Committee's feedback for the next fiscal year's program proposals.

Director Kersteen-Tucker inquired whether the entire budgeted amount for Bay Area Older Adults could be transferred to Public Affairs in the form of a contract.

Ms. Askay reported that this is feasible, and staff can work on entering into a contract for this funding option separate from the grants program.

Public comment opened at 2:54 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 2:55 p.m.

**Motion:** Director Kersteen-Tucker moved, and Director Holman seconded the motion to forward the recommended list of grant applicants and amounts for award under the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Grantmaking Program and concurrently take into consideration the Committee's feedback to the Board of Directors for approval.

**VOTE: 3-0-0**

## **2. Potential Mitigation Funding from the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission for the Ravenswood Bay Trail Project and potentially other District Projects (19-72)**

Grants Program Manager Melanie Askay provided an overview of the General Manager's discussions with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission about the potential to receive mitigation funding for the Ravenswood Bay Trail project and potentially other District projects.

The Committee members recommended establishing a board policy on mitigation funding before making a commitment. Additionally, more information from the San Francisco Bay Conservation Development Commission on the specifics for potential mitigation funding agreements should be gathered.

Public comment opened at 3:10 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 3:11p.m.

No committee action required.

**3. 2019 State of California Legislative Session – Briefing on Matters of Interest to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (R-19-73)**

District legislative consultants Russ Noack and Julie Malinowski-Ball with Public Policy Advocates LLC, and Reed Addis and Danielle Lynch from Environmental Engineering and Consulting presented updates on the three bills currently of interest to the District in the 2019 State of California Legislative Session

Director Kersteen-Tucker recommended we take a firm position to constrain the scope of AB 1486 to the urban area and maintain a clear definition of urbanized lands such that parks and open space lands are exempted from the bill.

Public comment opened at 4:04 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 4:05 p.m.

No committee action required.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Director Hassett adjourned the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee at 4:06 p.m.

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Jordan McDaniel  
Public Affairs Administrative Assistant