



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-20-04
Meeting 20-01
January 8, 2020

AGENDA ITEM 3

AGENDA ITEM

Consideration of a Special Recognition honoring docent Chris MacIntosh for her long-standing 40 years of volunteer service with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve one of the following special recognitions to honor docent Chris MacIntosh for her 40 years of volunteer service:
 - Option 1. Name an existing 0.5-mile, narrow unnamed trail that starts at the North Ridge Parking Lot at Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve the "Chris MacIntosh Trail".
 - Option 2. Name the Harkins Ridge Trail Bridge at Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve as the "Chris MacIntosh Bridge".
2. Approve the issuance of a proclamation acknowledging Chris MacIntosh's remarkable docent service achievement.
3. Hold a small, informal dedication onsite in 2020.

SUMMARY

In October 2019, the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) considered and approved forwarding a recommendation to the full Board of Directors (Board) for a special recognition honoring the long-standing contributions of Chris MacIntosh, who in 2019 completed 40-year of volunteer services with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District). The General Manager received a letter (Attachment 1) in June 2019 from 20-year docent Paul Billig requesting a special recognition for Ms. MacIntosh's significant contributions to the District's mission. Ms. MacIntosh is the District's longest serving docent who started her service in 1979, two years after the Docent Program began in 1977. The General Manager and LFPAC recommend either a trail or bridge dedication in honor of Ms. MacIntosh. LFPAC also recommends issuing a proclamation and holding a small recognition event at the preserve in 2020.

DISCUSSION

Chris MacIntosh is the District's longest serving docent, with 40 years of service engaging and enriching the public about the wonder of nature and the value of open space. In June 2019, the District received the attached letter from 20-year docent Mr. Paul Billig, requesting consideration of a special recognition for Ms. MacIntosh's contributions to the District.

Chris MacIntosh is an accomplished naturalist with significant bird and wildflower identification skills, and is the District's "resident expert" on fungi. Each winter Ms. MacIntosh leads

interpretive hikes she calls “Fungal Fun”. The hikes are most often through Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve along the North Ridge, Whittemore Gulch, and Harkins Ridge Trails. In addition to her long-standing docent role, Ms. MacIntosh has also been an active Trail Patrol volunteer since 2014, and occasionally assists with community outreach, Preserve Partner projects, and special events such as Founders’ Day, the Mount Umunhum opening, and Wingding Family Fest. Ms. MacIntosh also serves as a resource for staff and new docent naturalists during their training and onboarding.

Board Policy 5.01, *Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition Policy*, provides guidance for site naming requests. The sections pertaining to this request are provided below.

I. Site Naming...

...B. Preserve Areas, Trails, Site Improvements, Historic Sites and Unnamed Natural Features...

...1. Preserve areas, trails, site improvements including benches and bridges, historic sites and previously unnamed natural features shall ordinarily be named after: ...

...b) Historical persons, uses, or events associated with the site, or persons and organizations listed in Section III: “Special Recognition”.

2. Preserve areas, trails, site improvements, historic sites and unnamed natural features may in rare instances be named after a living individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the District, subject to approval by the Board of Directors...

...III SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) shall be the committee designated to discuss all requests that meet the criteria of the policy for special recognition made by members of the Board of Directors, and after deliberation shall forward a recommendation to the full Board for a vote...

...D. Founders, Significant Supporters, and Volunteers

“Founders”, “Significant Supporters”, and “Volunteers” are eligible for special recognition, including memorials...

... “Volunteers” shall be defined as individuals or groups of individuals who donated a minimum of 250 volunteer hours and 5 years of service to the District by working for the District’s docent or volunteer program...

The request from District docent Paul Billig is consistent with the Site Naming Policy. As the longest-serving docent in District history, Ms. MacIntosh exceeds the requirements for recognizing a significant volunteer. Ms. MacIntosh is also very active with environmental organizations in her community doing advocacy, leading outings, and serving on committees and boards, such as for the Friends of Bedwell Bay Front Park and Sequoia Audubon.

Mr. Billig suggested naming a trail segment after Ms. MacIntosh that she loves to frequent when leading her annual interpretive fungi hikes. This 0.5-mile unnamed trail starts at the North Ridge parking lot off Skyline Boulevard and connects to North Ridge Trail at the top and bottom of the trail. Since the trail is unnamed, it is not currently referenced on trail directional signs elsewhere in the preserve. Therefore, if the Board selects to name this trail on behalf of Ms. MacIntosh, existing trail signage in the rest of the preserve would remain unchanged. Two new signs would be installed at either end of the trail to name it the “Chris MacIntosh Trail.” There are thirteen District trails named in special recognition of an individual or a group of individuals who (1)

have made significant contributions to the District as founders, significant supporters or volunteers, or (2) were included as part of an agreement with another agency or landowner. Attachment 2 summarizes all the District trails that are named as special recognition for an individual or group.

Another option for Board consideration, to recognize Ms. MacIntosh's contributions, is to name the Harkins Ridge Trail bridge over Purisima Creek the "Chris MacIntosh Bridge." The bridge is also located along the route of Ms. MacIntosh's favorite fungi hike. This option would entail the installation of a dedication plaque on the bridge. The trail segment, and bridge location are shown on Attachment 3. Although there are currently no bridges that bear honorary or memorial plaques, Board Policy 5.01, *Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition Policy*, specifically lists bridges as a feature that is appropriate to use for recognition.

FISCAL IMPACT

There are sufficient funds in the adopted FY2019-20 Budget to cover the cost of the recommendation. The cost of implementing either request would be under \$2,500, including staff time for the purchase and installation of either two new trail signs or a dedication plaque on the bridge. If a trail dedication is preferred, trailhead maps would be updated and replaced during the next round of preserve brochure printings. The proclamation and small dedication event would incur only nominal costs, largely in staff time.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

On October 8, 2019 the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) considered and approved forwarding a recommendation to the full Board for a special recognition of Ms. Chris MacIntosh's 40 years of volunteer service to the District. Minutes of the LFPAC meeting are included with this report (Attachment 4). LFPAC also recommended issuing a proclamation for the years of service and hosting a small dedication event.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act

CEQA COMPLIANCE

Section 15304 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) categorically exempts projects resulting in minor alterations in the condition of land. Therefore, the minor installation of a plaque or two new trail signs on an existing trail are categorically exempt under CEQA. The proclamation and small event are not subject to CEQA review.

NEXT STEPS

If approved, staff would move forward to implement the selected recognition actions, including installation of dedication signage, preparation of a Board proclamation, and hosting of a small dedication event. A suggested date to hold a dedication event is January 26, 2020 – which is the date for the next scheduled public hike to be led by Ms. MacIntosh at Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve.

Attachments:

1. Letter/Naming Request – Paul Billig; 6/13/2019
2. Summary: Special Recognition Trails
3. Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve Map – Trail and Bridge Location
4. Minutes – LFPAC Meeting; 10/08/19

Responsible Department Head:

Matthew Anderson, Visitor Services Manager/Chief Ranger

Prepared by:

Renée Fitzsimons, Interpretation & Education Program Manager

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ana Ruiz](#)
Subject: Docent 40th Anniversary of Service
Date: Thursday, June 13, 2019 3:07:33 PM

Ana,

It was nice meeting you earlier this year at the Bay Nature Local Heroes banquet. The reason I am writing to you is to talk to you about another Outdoor Activity Docent, Chris MacIntosh.

If you recall, when I first met you at the new docents lunch last year, she was also there as an “experienced docent” for the new docents to meet. This year is Chris’s 40th year as a docent with Midpen. That is longer than anyone else in district history, docent or volunteer, with volunteering at the district. I’m sure that the district will commemorate this milestone at the Volunteer Recognition Event in September. I would like to make a recommendation to that.

For many years now, Chris has been our resident expert on mushrooms and other fungi. Each winter she leads a few hikes that she now calls “Fungal Fun” on district properties. Her favorites are hikes at Purisima Creek Redwoods where she hikes down along the North Ridge and Whittemore Gulch Trails and back up along the Harkins Ridge Trail. At the start of the hike, there is a half mile hiking-only trail that I don’t believe has a name where a lot of mushrooms and other fungi are found.

For Chris’s service, I think it would be nice and appropriate to call that trail the Chris MacIntosh Trail.

Recently, the district has renamed or given names to trails of significant district people, such as the Bo Gimbal Trail in Russian Ridge. I think that Chris’s unmatched years of service is truly worthy of such an honor and it would be good for that little trail to have a name of its own of its most historical user.

I don’t know the details of how the district goes about naming its trails, but I imagine it goes through some kind of staff submittal and board approval. I would be happy to talk with you or anyone else in the district if that would help make this happen.

I hope that you are doing well and I’m sorry we didn’t get a chance to meet last week at Bear Creek Redwoods. Our paths must have almost crossed as I was getting training for the opening weekend hikes there.

Paul

Paul Billig
[REDACTED]
San Jose, CA 95123
[REDACTED]

ATTACHMENT 2 – Summary of Special Recognition Trails

Board Member Recognition:

Nonette Hanko San Andreas Fault Trail: Los Trancos Preserve – December 12, 2018

Nonette Hanko, is a founding member of the Board of Directors. Director Hanko retired January 2019 after serving for 46 consecutive years. The Board of Directors renamed a trail in recognition of Director Hanko's extensive contributions to the District.

Mary Davey Loop Trail & Bench: Rancho San Antonio Preserve - June 13, 2012

For nearly 40 years, Mary Davey dedicated her time and energy to spearhead, support, and oversee the many successes of the District, including having an active role in its formation in 1972 and serving as the Director for Ward 2 from 1994 through 2010. As a memorial, the District constructed and installed a custom rustic bench and an engraved boulder, improved and dedicated a short, informal trail leading to the new memorial bench site, and renamed a segment of the Chamise Trail the Mary Davey Loop Trail.

Dick Bishop Trail: Pulgas Ridge Preserve – March 28, 2007

Dick Bishop and his family lived in San Carlos for 55 years where he was an active member of the community. He led hikes as a member of the Sierra Club for over 20 years, served on the San Carlos Planning Commission, City Council and was Mayor of San Carlos in 1961. He was appointed to the Board of Directors of the District in 1976 and served three full terms before retiring from the Board in 1992.

Betsy Crowder Trail, Bench, and Plaque: Windy Hill Preserve – December 12, 2001

A memorial bench and trail was dedicated to former Board of Director Betsy Crowder (served from 1989 until her death in 2000). Director Crowder was an ardent and dedicated open space activist. She co-authored the local hiking guide Peninsula Trails.

Former General Manager Recognition:

Herb Grench Trail & Overlook: Windy Hill Preserve – August 25, 2015

The District provided special recognition for Herb Grench, first general manager, via a named overlook area, trail segment, bench, and honorary plaque atop one of the preserve knolls.

Craig Britton Trail, Bench & Plaque: Purisima Creek Redwoods – March 11, 2009

Craig Britton joined the District in 1977 as Land Acquisition Manager. In 1979, he assumed the duties of Assistant General Manager and was subsequently appointed the District's second General Manager in March of 1994; he retired in 2008. The Craig Britton Trail, bench, and plaque were dedicated at Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve in 2009.

Stephen E. Abbors Trail: Rancho San Antonio Preserve – January 16, 2018

Steve Abbors joined the District in 2008 as its third General Manager and subsequently led the District through the development of the Strategic Plan and Vision Plan, which informed Measure AA, a successful voter-approved \$300 million general obligation bond measure in 2014. With Measure AA funding, Steve accomplished numerous keystone projects, including the opening of Mount Umunhum and lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve for public access.

Miscellaneous Recognition:

Bo Gimbal Trail: Russian Ridge Preserve – March 18, 2014

The District received requests from the South Skyline Association and Bo Gimbal's family seeking consideration of a memorial in his honor. Mr. Gimbal was a long-time volunteer with the District who worked on many trail projects for the District and throughout the skyline area.

Anniversary Trail: Windy Hill Preserve –1987

Commemorates the District's 15th anniversary and the 10th anniversary of Peninsula Open Space Trust.

Molder Trail: El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve - October 10, 2012

The Board approved a request from the California Water Service Company (Cal Water) to name the trail that connects El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve to the Skyline Trail in honor of a long-time employee, Paul Molder, who supported the trail and was instrumental in securing Cal Water approval to allow the transfer of a critical trail easement to the District. Molder was much beloved by Cal Water, and by the local Bear Gulch/Skyline community for his care of and connection to the land.

Tony Look Trail: Fremont Older Preserve – March 28, 2001

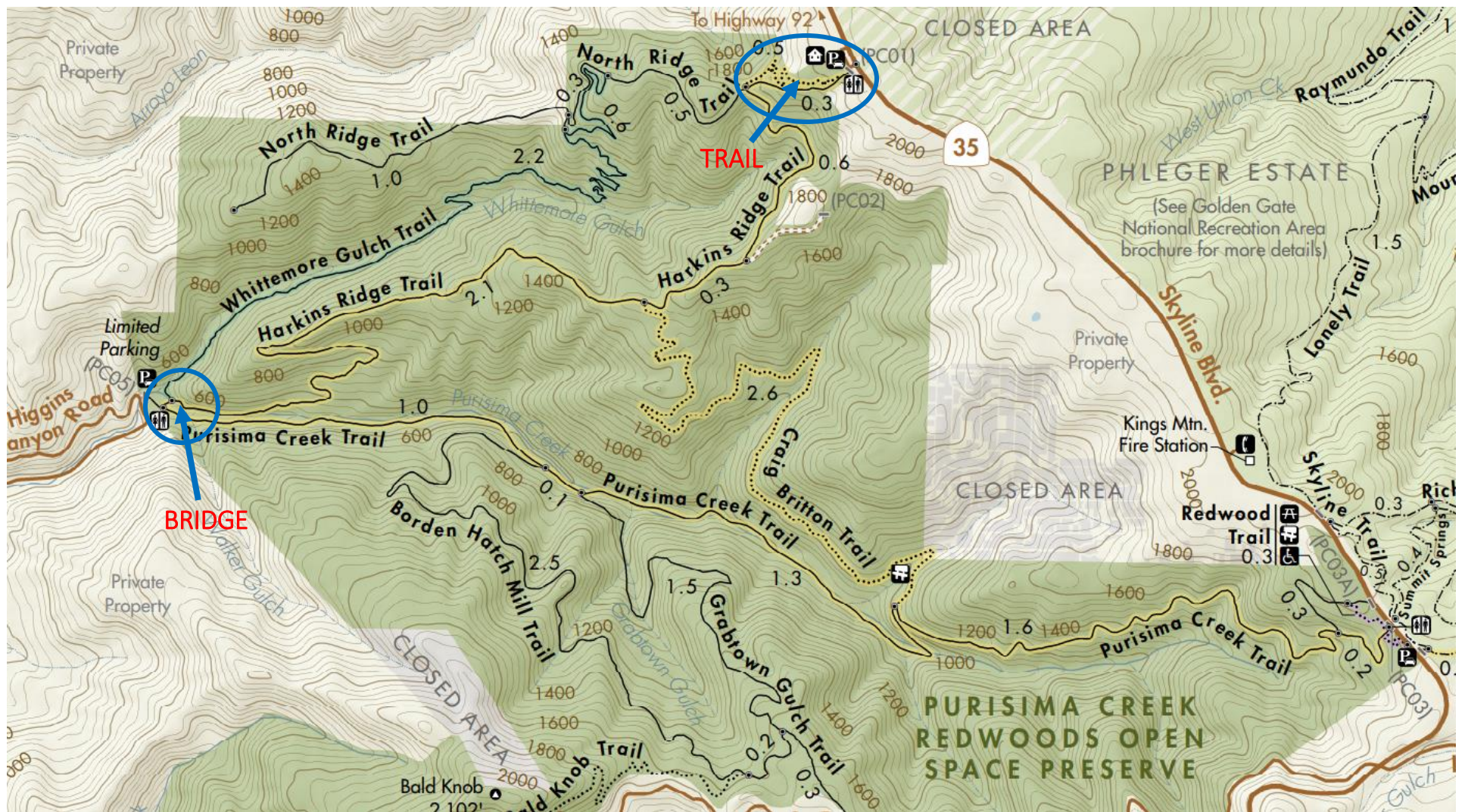
The Tony Look Trail is named after a former Executive Director of Sempervirens Fund, founder of Trail Days, member of Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Commission. This trail is primarily in Stevens Creek County park, but portions of it cross over into Fremont Older Preserve.

Audrey's Way: Russian Ridge Preserve – July 13, 2011

The Board of Directors approved the purchase of the former Silva Property from Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) in May 2011, and on June 28, 2011, the District took title to the property. In the purchase agreement, POST reserved the right to recognize its outgoing President, Audrey Rust, at a recognition site to be located on the property, at its own cost. Rust led POST during the acquisition of many iconic properties that were transferred to the District and permanently preserved, including Mindego Ranch.

Polly Geraci Trail: Pulgas Ridge Preserve – October 19, 1989

Polly Geraci was an active environmentalist and well-known resident of San Carlos. She was active in the Sierra Club, instituting a local hike program. Following her death in 1988, the trail construction was funded by the Polly Geraci Memorial Fund.



Attachment 3 – Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve

Locations of proposed options (trail segment and bridge) for Chris MacIntosh – 40 years of service Docent Recognition



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, October 8, 2019

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Director Hassett called the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee to order at 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present Larry Hassett and Karen Holman

Members absent: Zoe Kersteen-Tucker

Staff present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Brian Malone, Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services Stefan Jaskulak, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Jennifer Woodworth, Visitor Services Manager Matthew Anderson, Interpretation and Education Program Manager Renée Fitzsimons, Human Resources Manager Candice Basnight, Human Resources Supervisor Rebecca Wolfe, Assistant General Counsel Mazarin Fakharia

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No speakers present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Director Holman moved and Director Hassett seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Kersteen-Tucker absent)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Approve the March 12, 2019 and June 11, 2019 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee meeting minutes

Motion: Director Holman moved, and Director Hassett seconded the motion to approve the March 12, 2019 and June 11, 2019 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs committee meeting minutes.

Public comment opened at 1:01 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 1:01 p.m.

VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Kersteen-Tucker absent)

2. Consideration of a Special Recognition to Honor Chris MacIntosh (R-19-129)

Interpretation & Education Program Manager Renée Fitzsimons provided the staff report.

District docent Paul Billig spoke regarding his request to name a trail after the District's longest-serving docent, Chris MacIntosh. Mr. Billig commented that the reason he proposed the specific trail for naming after Ms. MacIntosh explaining that her regular docent hikes travel along this trail in Purisima Creek Open Space Preserve.

Director Hassett spoke regarding the District's history in naming District landmarks and installation of benches in the District's preserves for individuals that made significant contributions to the District.

Director Holman spoke in favor of naming the trail segment for Chris MacIntosh because she leads her interpretive hikes along this trail.

Director Hassett spoke regarding the remarkable achievement of serving as a docent for 40 years.

Director Holman spoke in favor of issuing a District proclamation or resolution to accompany the trail naming.

Public comment opened at 1:24 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 1:24 p.m.

Motion: Director Holman moved, and Director Hassett seconded the motion to:

1. Approve the motion to recommend to the full Board of Directors approval to either name a trail in Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve the "Chris MacIntosh Trail" or name the Harkins Ridge Trail bridge in the preserve as the "Chris MacIntosh Bridge" in

LFPAC
October 8, 2019

- recognition of Chris MacIntosh's long-standing volunteer contributions to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.
2. Forward the minutes of the October 8, 2019 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs meeting with the staff report to the Board of Directors.
 3. Recommend to the full Board of Directors issuance of a proclamation acknowledging the event.
 4. Recommend to the full Board of Directors to consider holding a trail or bridge naming dedication event.

VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Kersteen-Tucker absent)

3. Proposed Amendments to the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual (R-19-128)

Human Resources Manager Candice Basnight provided the staff presentation describing the process used to revise and propose revisions to the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual (PPPM), including adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Field Employees Association, review by internal and external legal counsel, and a comment period for staff. Ms. Basnight reviewed the proposed changes listed in the summary document which outlines the various proposed changes to the PPPM and the reasons for the proposed changes, including to clarify policy or procedure, to comport with current law, to incorporate staff feedback and MOU-related edits, and to complete general clean-up.

Committee members requested and received clarification regarding various sections of the draft PPPM.

Director Holman suggested altering section 3.2 to be more inclusive related to sexual orientation

Director Holman stated that section 3.2 seems unclear related to protected classes.

Staff reported that they will work on the language for these sections before the item goes to the full Board of Directors.

Public comment opened at 2:13 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 2:13 p.m.

Motion: Director Holman moved, and Director Hassett seconded the motion to forward the proposed amendments to the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual to the full Board of Directors for consideration and approval, including questions and clarifications requested by the Committee members.

VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Kersteen-Tucker absent)

LFPAC
October 8, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Director Hassett adjourned the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee at 2:20 p.m.

Jennifer Woodworth, MMC
District Clerk