



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

Meeting 12-05

**SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

January 25, 2012

AMENDED MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

President ~~Hassett-Riffle~~ called the Special Meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors to order at 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Curt Riffle, Yoriko Kishimoto, Pete Siemens, Cecily Harris, ~~Nonette Hanko~~, Jed Cyr, and Larry Hassett

Members Absent: Nonette Hanko

Staff Present: General Manager Steve Abbors, General Counsel Sue Schectman, Administrative Services Manager Kate Drayson, Human Resources Supervisor Annetta Spiegel, Operations Manager David Sanguinetti, and Chief Labor Negotiator Deborah Glasser-Kolly

II. ADJOURNMENT

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

President Riffle called the Regular Meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Curt Riffle, Yoriko Kishimoto, Pete Siemens, Cecily Harris, Jed Cyr, and Larry Hassett

Members Absent: Nonette Hanko

Staff Present: General Manager Steve Abbors, General Counsel Sue Schectman, Real Property Manager Mike Williams, Operations Manager David Sanguinetti, Planning Manager Ana Ruiz, Public Affairs Manager Rudy Jurgensen, Administrative Services Manager Kate Drayson, Acting Natural Resources Department Manager Kirk Lenington, and District Clerk Michelle Radcliffe

President Riffle stated there were no reportable actions taken in Closed Session.

II. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mike Busheau of Belmont shared his appreciation to the staff who designed and created White Oak Trail in Monte Bello.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

President Riffle stated that Agenda Item #7 be moved to be heard after Agenda Item #8.

Motion: Upon motion by Director Kishimoto, seconded by Director Hassett, the Board adopted the agenda as amended. (Vote: 6-0-0; Absent; Hanko)

IV. ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Upon motion by Director Kishimoto, seconded by Director Hassett, and unanimously passed, the Board approved adoption of the Consent Calendar to approve **Revised Claims No. 12-02; and the Minutes of December 13, 2011, and December 14, 2011, as amended** (Vote: 6-0-0; Absent: Hanko)

V. BOARD BUSINESS

- 1. Agenda Item #4** – Tentative Approval of an Amendment to the Use and Management Plan for Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve and Acceptance of the Mindego Gateway Project Description for Purposes of Environmental Review Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (R-12-13)

Planner II Gina Coony provided an overview of the Mindego Gateway Project and stated that the proposed project would consist of a commemorative site honoring the work of former Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) president Audrey Rust, a new staging area, trailhead connections and signage, and a new 1.2 mile multi-use trail from the staging area north to the Ancient Oaks trail, a new hiking and equestrian trail

to the summit of Mindego Hill, and closure of a one-way segment of Mindego Ridge Trail to bicycle use for the protection of San Francisco garter snake. She explained that elements of the project and recommendations for trail use were approved by the Use and Management Committee and that an amendment to the Russian Ridge Comprehensive Use and Management Plan and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review is needed prior to Board adoption of the proposed facilities and uses. Lastly, Ms. Coony explained that the Board will need to tentatively approve the amendment and accept the project description to begin environmental review and that after conducting a public hearing on the environmental documents; the Board will consider final approval of the project.

Planner II Lisa Bankosh provided an overview of the proposed trail and explained that due to San Francisco Garter Snake seen observed in the area, the Mindego Ridge Trail will only be open to equestrians and hikers. She then provided an overview of the project schedule, stating that the trail naming and signage will go to the Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs Committee in February, CEQA consideration will occur in the Spring, construction to begin this summer, and opening of the Ancient Oaks Trail in Spring 2013.

Planning Manager Ana Ruiz thanked staff for their work and shared her appreciation with working with POST. Ms. Ruiz then provided reasons for staff's recommendations on opening the Mindego Ridge Trail only to equestrians and bikers and explained that the recommendations were developed with guidance of the District's consultant biologists and were based on the best facts. Discussion ensued.

Director Hassett questioned whether signage will be posted at the Russian Ridge parking lot to direct users to the new staging area. Ms. Ruiz stated that staff would look into placing a sign at the Russian Ridge parking lot and that staff could put more emphasis to show a new parking area in District brochure maps and on the website.

Director Harris expressed her discomfort in including commitments in purchase agreements without knowing if there are any biologically sensitive issues associated with the property. Brief discussion ensued.

Director Kishimoto asked if bike parking will be incorporated into the trail design and Ms. Bankosh explained that a bike rack accommodating three bikes will be installed at the staging area and possibly at Gate R03.

Director Cyr questioned staff on the reasons for having paved parking lot at the staging area and Ms. Coony explained that maintenance on a gravel and baseline rock parking lot is high and that emergency response vehicles require 95% compact surface to drive on. She also explained that the Regional Water Board requires a pervious surface on parking lots. Director Cyr stated that this project is an opportunity for the District to educate the public on the San Francisco Garter Snake and suggested that in the future, the District needs to be cautious about promises made in purchase agreements.

Public Comment: Jeff Powers, Conservation Project Manager for POST, stated that this is a great project for POST and that they are looking forward to working with the District in future projects.

President Riffle stated that this project is a great way to implement the District's Strategic Plan in regards to resource management, partnerships, and working with the public.

Director Harris stated she would like to have the Board or Committee look at promises when purchases are made.

Motion: Upon motion by Director Siemens, seconded by Director Kishimoto, the Board tentatively approved an amendment to the Use and Management Plan for Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve and accepted the Mindego Gateway project description. (Vote: 6-0-0; Absent: Hanko)

2. Agenda Item #5 – Informational Report on Audio-Based Tours that Showcase the Integration of Technology and Interpretation (R-12-04)

Docent Program Coordinator Renee Fitzsimons and Website Administrator Vicky Gou provided an overview of the District interpretive program and gave a informational presentation on audio-based tours using technology.

No action was taken by the Board.

3. Agenda Item #6 – Appointment of Standing and Ad Hoc Board of Director Committee Members for Calendar Year 2012 (R-12-011)

President Riffle stated that the Committee members for Calendar Year 2012 have been selected and asked that the Committee's assign a Chair as the first item of business. ~~Curt—when you're committee's meet you assign a Committee Chair as first item business.~~ He also stated that Committees should adhere to the Tuesday afternoon schedule and as appropriate, staff should include the Committee's direction/thoughts in the Board report.

Motion: Upon motion by Director Cyr, seconded by Director Siemens, the Board approved President Riffle's appointment of Standing and Ad Hoc Committee members for Calendar Year 2012. (Vote: 6-0-1; Absent: Hanko)

4. Agenda Item #8 – Addition of Management Analyst Position to the Administrative Services Department (R-12-14)

General Manager Steve Abbors explained that the proposed staff addition is to help the Human Resources (HR) department with its workload capacity. He stated that the department currently has an HR Technician and HR Supervisor and that the complex

tasks of the department require an additional position to ensure that the District's business is moving forward. He explained that there are currently ten vacancies that need to be filled and given the current workload, staff can only conduct one recruitment at a time.

Discussion was held on how HR department's growth and Mr. Abbors stated that the HR Department will need to expand to accommodate the District's growth. HR Supervisor Annetta Spiegel further explained that her position has morphed into dealing with employee grievances, labor negotiations, employee relations, and other complex issues. She also stated that she is considering retirement in the next year and hopes the HR Analyst will be part of the District's succession plan. ~~ning tool~~. Brief discussion ensued.

Motion: Upon motion by Director Hassett, seconded by Director Harris, the Board approved the addition of a Management Analyst position to the Administrative Services Department. (Vote: 6-0-0; Absent: Hanko)

5. Agenda Item #7 – Annual Dedication of Certain District Lands and Dedication Status Report (R-12-12)

Senior Real Property Planner Sandy Sommer provided a status report of District lands to be dedicated. Brief discussion ensued.

Motion: Upon motion by Director Siemens, seconded by Director Cyr, the Board adopted a resolution dedicating interests in certain specified District lands for public open space purposes. (Vote: 6-0-0⁺; Absent: Hanko)

VI. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no reports.

STAFF REPORTS

Planning Manager Ana Ruiz reported that San Mateo County Planning Commission approved the permit for the El Corte de Madera parking lot. Public Affairs Manager Rudy Jurgensen reported that Media Communications Specialist Leigh Ann Gessner and Public Affairs Specialist Kristi Britt will be leaving the District and that a temporary employee, Patricia Parisi, will be assisting the department. He also reported that the Kings Mountain Newsletter published a District article on Sudden Oak Death and that the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society has an article in their newsletter about the District as well.

Acting Natural Resources Manager Kirk Lenington reported that he and Ms. Ruiz attended a meeting with Semper ~~virens~~ ~~Virens~~ regarding the redwood ~~CAPeap~~ and vision plan.

General Manager Steve Abbors reported that the Bay Area Open Space Council is in the in process of becoming a non-profit organization. He spoke briefly about the Mount Umunhum Public Hearing held on January 18th, reported that he met with Walter Moore of POST to discuss priorities, and announced that he and Ms. Gessner will be speaking at the Saratoga Rotary Club. Lastly, he stated that David Sanguinetti will be the Acting General Manager when he is away on vacation and that the District sold its bonds at the peak of the market, saving the District \$26 million in debt service.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

The Board submitted their compensable forms to the District Clerk.

Director Hassett asked staff about work being done at the gate at Windy Hill Open Space Preserve.

Director Kishimoto reported that she attended the Bay Trail meeting regarding Facebook's new headquarters and stated that the nearby cities are appreciative of work the District is doing to finalize the Bay Trail alignment.

Director Cyr reported that he will be on vacation from March 5th to March 22nd. President Riffle thanked the Managers for helping the Board with the General Counsel recruitment and expressed his appreciation to the Board Appointee Evaluation Committee and General Counsel Sue Schectman for ~~taking lead in the recruitment~~ her leadership in the recruitment process.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

President Riffle adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at 9:17 p.m.

Michelle Radcliffe, CMC
District Clerk