



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs Committee  
February 19, 2015

## LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Administrative Office  
330 Distel Circle  
Los Altos, CA 94022

### DRAFT MINUTES

February 19, 2015

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Director Hanko called the Regular Meeting of the Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) to order at 1:00 p.m.

#### II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jed Cyr, Nonette Hanko, and Cecily Harris

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Assistant General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Sheryl Schaffner, Operations Manager Michael Newburn, Foothills Area Superintendent Tom Lausten, Community Outreach Specialist Julie Amato, Public Affairs Manager Shelly Lewis, Volunteer Program Manager Paul McKowan, and Interim District Clerk Kim Marie Smith

#### III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

#### IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

VOTE: 3-0-0

#### V. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

##### 1. Appointment of Committee Chair

Director Cyr nominated Director Hanco as Committee Chair, Director Harris seconded the nomination. Director Hanco accepted the position with appreciation.

VOTE: 3-0-0

**2. Approve March 18, 2014 Minutes**

Director Hanco inquired about the section of minutes in which staff was directed to prepare annual board policy revisions to insure conformity. Public Affairs Manager Shelly Lewis explained that it would take place after District Clerk Jennifer Woodward returns to work in about four months.

**Motion:** Director Cyr moved and Director Harris seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the March 18, 2014, special meeting of the LFPAC.

VOTE: 3-0-0

**3. Informational Report from Ralph Heim, Public Policy Advocates, LLC**

Mr. Ralph Heim of Public Policy Advocates participated in the meeting via conference call.

Mr. Heim said his agency has been involved with the District since 1982. Their legislative role includes a review of all bills and amendments that are introduced. He said that some information is available now, but as many as 1,000 bills may be added before the deadline of February 27. After review, they will send a list of any that may have a potential impact on the District, and pursuant to the Committee's direction, they will lobby legislative members and testify when necessary. He noted that his agency relies heavily on the District staff to put together information for the legislators.

Mr. Heim said he was excited about the District building a government affairs program, which was particularly important since there are 37 new legislators since November, and his agency makes it a priority to develop relationships with all legislators, not just those in the District's service area.

Director Hanco said she hoped that the District's example could help other communities form their own special districts, as set forth in Provision 5500 of the Government Code. Mr. Heim responded that there are cost issues that have kept other agencies from following suit, and there are some legislators who believe that too much land is already in government ownership. He said he would follow up with Director Hanco to provide more information about which states have an enabling act like that of California.

Mr. Heim gave a brief review of the proposed state budget as described in agenda Attachment 1, and said the May revision will have a more accurate reflection of expenditures and revenues. At this time there is nothing in the budget that appears negative for the District, and one positive aspect is that the governor has made a commitment to return tax revenues back to agencies that had received redevelopment

funds. The water bond may also create some positive opportunities for the District, and he will be watching that closely in the coming weeks.

Mr. Heim said that the state park system is in serious difficulty, and the commission that was formed for the future of state parks has released a study and recommendations. He will be attending a hearing on February 24 between the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee and the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee when they formally receive that report, after which he will send a summary to the District. He suggested that it may be helpful for the General Manager to meet with the committee chairman at an appropriate time to discuss how the district may play a larger role.

Mr. Heim said there is also the potential for a future state park bond. It has been discussed in prior years, but it appears it will go forward this year.

Mr. Heim highlighted the new state Legislation (staff report Attachment 3) which may be of interest to the District. A position of support has already been taken on ACR 18 (Gordon D), Parks Make Life Better! Month, as directed by the District.

He said that the most controversial bill is SB 8 (Hertzberg D), which would create less reliance on personal income tax by expanding sales tax to other services. His agency will work to make sure that the District directly receives its fair share of the revenues.

Mr. Heim said that SB 45 (Mendoza D) is part of the economic development movement, and would allow use of tax increment financing. If it passes, the District board can choose not to participate, and if it chooses to opt in, that would reduce some of the tax increment revenues.

Public Affairs Manager Shelly Lewis added that the District also planned to sign a support letter with some local partners regarding AB 327 (Gordon) to remove the sunset clause from that legislation, which makes it easier to use volunteers for minor projects.

The committee members agreed that since more accurate information would be available in the next week, another committee meeting should be scheduled to discuss items of particular interest, including the spot bill about increasing the general manager's purchasing ability.

The committee received the report from Mr. Heim, and no action was taken.

#### **4. Discussion of future role and emphasis of Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs Committee**

Public Affairs Manager Shelly Lewis reviewed the staff report and asked for direction from the committee about its future role and focus.

There was discussion about the appropriate makeup of this committee. Director Hassett also asked whether the Board Appointee Evaluations Committee (BAE) should include the board president and vice president, or the board president and former president.

It was agreed that another meeting of the LFPAC was needed to discuss pending

legislation, but the committee's role was less defined regarding the categories of funding and public affairs, particularly since other committees had been formed such as the Action Plan and Budget Committee.

Director Hanko said that the LFPAC should have reviewed the suggestion to give the general manager more purchasing authority prior to it being presented at a full board meeting. Public Affairs Manager Lewis agreed that would have happened in the normal course of business, but in this case the deadline was so short they did not have time to bring it to the committee. Director Hanko asked that any further developments on that topic be brought back for discussion by the LFPAC.

Director Hanko said that she felt the existing policies for this committee were acceptable, but that the committee members should consider other ideas to share at a future meeting. She asked that the next agenda also include a discussion about commemorating individuals important to the district.

## **VI. INFORMATIONAL MEMOS**

- District Memorial Bench and Program Project

Volunteer Program Manager Paul McKowan reviewed the staff report and said that Claudia Newbold had been appointed as Volunteer Project Manager. An inventory spreadsheet and online reporting forms have been developed, and volunteers are conducting an inventory of all the structures currently in the preserves, which should be completed by April. He noted that there are about 30 benches and structures which have not yet been dedicated, and staff is also generating ideas about other items which might be considered as memorials, such as horse ties, brick defining walls in parking areas, outhouses, etc. He explained that a GIS map is under development which will make it easy to identify which areas already have memorial features and which areas would be appropriate for new ones.

Director Hanko said that future memorials do not have to be limited to structures, and might include such things as a lookout point. She said it would be nice to provide a list of options to those people for whom a structure or place will be dedicated.

The committee received the report, and no action was taken.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hanko adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs Committee at 2:43 p.m.

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Kim Marie Smith, MMC  
Interim District Clerk