

Minutes of the MCC Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting – September 9, 2002

Attending:

Sandy Emerson, Chair
Carl May (for April Vargas)
Bern Smith (for Paul Perkovic)

Barbara Lohman – HMB Parks & Recreation Commission
Gael Erickson
Scott Boyd – Montara Sanitary District
Jim Harvey – Montara Sanitary District
Fran Pollard – MidCoast Park Lands

1. Public Comment:

- Bern Smith reported further on the Bureau of Land Management's management of over 11,000 rocks on our Coast, from mean high tide level to 12 miles out from the coast. There are two interesting points to note: BLM has domain over coastal access to use and enjoyment of these rocks, and (2) it is authorized to use its power of eminent domain to acquire any land that leads to the rocks in the Coastal National Monument, which was created in 2000. On the other hand, BLM has only 1 ½ staff members to manage the rocks adjacent to the 700 miles of California coastline.

2. Montara Sanitary District and Assumption of Parks Powers

- On August 15, the Montara Sanitary District considered an agenda item "Review and Possible Action Concerning District Assumption of Responsibilities of County Service Area for Montara and Moss Beach". In a report to MSD, District Manager George Irving stated that in 1975, County Service Area 10 was created to establish assessments for park maintenance, but the assessment levy was not passed. The boundaries of CSA 10 are well within the existing boundaries of the Montara Sanitary District, approximately representing the urban area for Montara and Moss Beach. If the Board is interested in expanding its role to include a Parks function, it can either: (1) form a community service district that would include parks or (2) use the power it already has as a county water agency to include parks operations. After some discussion, the Board authorized an ad hoc committee (Scott Boyd and Jim Harvey) to bring a recommendation back on the District's position in this matter.
- Our committee discussed the LAFCo process (it might be necessary for MSD to go through LAFCo to activate its parks powers) and the differences between a County Services Area (CSA) and a Community Services District (CSD). The CSA is governed by the Board of Supervisors and has limited powers; a CSD is an independent governmental agency that has a number of powers including parks and recreation.
- Overall, the sense of the meeting with MSD is that parks and recreation is a lower priority for them at this time, because of the more pressing issues they are facing in acquiring the water company and continuing to provide their other services. However, MSD is interested in applying for the CalTrans ROW (the Tunnel bypass land) when it is declared surplus, for the sake of the water rights. [Consensus in the County is that GGNRA will be first in line for this land.]
- Jim Harvey and Scott Boyd expressed their personal support for parks. In particular, Scott is interested in how we can acquire and develop "pocket parks" on various vacant pieces of land in Montara. There is also a parcel adjacent to the alpaca farm, which is currently POST land but might be made available to the community as a park. This parcel is also fairly close to Farallone View school and should be considered in any collaborative effort with the school.

3. Midcoast Park Lands, and History of Efforts to Develop a Midcoast Parks and Recreation District

- Fran Pollard recounted the 1994 efforts (Measures E and F) to create a Midcoast Parks and Recreation District. The measures (one to fund the District, and the other to acquire Quarry Park) did not pass. Granada Sanitary District is still moving forward, little by little, on reorganizing itself as a Community Services District in order to acquire parks and recreation powers. This would require a LAFCo process but no assessment, at first. Fran expressed an interest in collaborating with any other organizations that are interested in parks and recreation projects.

4. Development Fees

- The Committee expressed strong support for the collection of development fees (for new single-family residences built in the Midcoast) and the establishment of a fund for parks and recreation projects.

5. Planning for the Midcoast Parks and Recreation District. [this is a repeat from last month's minutes]

- The final draft of the County's Midcoast Recreational Needs Assessment made it clear that the County will *not* be directly involved in planning, implementing, or maintaining parks on the Coastside. Therefore, it is incumbent on us to:
 - (1) create an entity to govern Midcoast parks and recreation
 - (2) acquire funds for development and maintenance of Midcoast parks and recreation programs
- There are several possible candidates for the governing organization(s) for Midcoast parks and recreation:
 - New MidCoast Parks and Recreation District
 - Combined MidCoast and Half Moon Bay District
 - Montara Sanitary District
 - Granada Sanitary District
 - Cabrillo Unified School District
 - Harbor District
 - Midcoast Park Lands

The governing entity must have the ability to acquire and manage parks and recreation funds, and to contract for maintenance services with an appropriate agency. Leonard Woren, Dwight Wilson, Bern Smith, Gael Erickson, and Fran Pollard volunteered to be part of a "MidCoast Parks Task Force".

- Funding sources: the funding source (such as a parcel tax, or bond measure) could be simultaneous with the establishment of a parks and recreation district. State and Federal grant money is also available. The County is willing to provide legal and organizational advice to help us determine the best funding mechanism for the Midcoast parks and recreation system.
- Next steps: we'll continue individual discussions with stakeholders such as Midcoast Park Lands, Montara Sanitary District, HMB Parks and Recreation, and CUSD. We should schedule a Saturday morning workshop in November to hash out more of the specifics and formulate a plan of action.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Emerson
Chair