

MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
Preserving and Protecting Parks and Open Space



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kelly Sorenson - Marina, East Garrison/Fort Ord,
north Seaside (**Ward 1**)

Shane Anderson – East Seaside (**Ward 2**)

Kevin Raskoff – Sand City, Del Rey Oaks,
west Seaside, central Monterey (**Ward 3**)

Kathleen Lee - Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach
west Monterey (**Ward 4**)

Monta Potter - Carmel, Carmel Valley, Big Sur,
south Monterey (**Ward 5**)

**Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District
Board Meeting**

**September 4, 2024
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

- 1) **6:30 p.m. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:35.
- 2) **Roll Call** - Roll Call was taken.
PRESENT: Directors Anderson, Potter and Raskoff
ABSENT: Directors Lee (arrived at 6:43) and Sorenson (arrived at 6:53)
- 3) **Approval of Agenda** – Upon motion by Director Anderson, seconded by Director Potter, the Agenda was unanimously approved. (Vote: 3-0)
- 4) **Public Comments** – Ivan Eberle, a wildlife photographer, spoke about the bobcat population at Palo Corona Regional Park and reported that he believes a long term resident bobcat likely perished in the past two weeks due to mange. He opined that the District has its priorities out of whack and should be doing more to protect wildlife in the park.
- 5) **Presentations**
 - A. Special District Leadership Foundation Transparency Certificate, Richelle Noroyan, California Special Districts Association (CSDA) (*K. McCullough*)
 - Ms. Noroyan presented the District with a renewed SDLF Transparency certificate.
 - B. Locke-Paddon Wetland Community Park and City of Marina Update (*R. Payan*)
 - General Manager Rafael Payan presented the Board with information from a recent City of Marina Council meeting about planned changes to Locke-Paddon.
 - Betty Chung Nguyen a Marina resident read a statement from her husband, CSUMB professor, Dr. Phuong Nguyen, announcing his support for the planned Asian American Garden at Locke-Paddon.
 - Troy Ishikawa also spoke in support of the planned Asian American Garden at Locke-Paddon.

- Heerez Park (sp) also expressed support for the planned Asian American Garden at Locke-Paddon, for which she's been waiting twenty years.
- Johnny Eugenia a long term resident of Marina and business owner, and member of Asian Communities of Marina (ACOM), Korean American Community Association of Monterey County and Filipino-American Community Club of Monterey Peninsula spoke about the beauty of Locke-Paddon park and urged the Board to support the community and the proposed project.
- Yong Soo Oh, another ACOM member spoke in support of the Asian American Garden at Locke-Paddon and the benefits to not just the Asian community, but the larger Monterey County community. He also assured that the community would support maintenance efforts in the garden.
- Kathy Biala a resident of Marina and President of ACOM, read about some of the features of the planned Asian American Garden, LPP master plan with the garden was unanimously approved July 2, 2024 and the City allocated funding for, and the garden was added to the City's list of priorities. She also noted that additional fundraising would be done for the project. She encouraged the Board to approve moving the project forward.
- Kate Hwang thanked the ACOM members for attending the meeting and announced that she moved to Marina from Korea forty years ago and in recent years has recognized all the hard work that Ms. Biala has done with ACOM and the local Asian community. She expressed her support for the proposed garden and offered to help, despite her busy schedule.
- Madonna Nuqui a county employee and ACOM member a statement from ACOM Board member Jhoie Pasadilla about gardening in Japan and the ideals and ongoing effort required to nurture. She noted that Asian gardens in American are important, both for immigrants and non-immigrants alike and an important part of American culture. She asked the Board to support the proposed garden at Locke-Paddon.
- May Dungo a Marina resident, PRO for the Filipino-American Club, and ACOM member congratulated the District on the Transparency certificate. She announced having been a part of the proposed Asian American garden for some time, including taking field trip to Fresno to visit their garden. She expressed her support for the garden, not just for Asians, but Marina and the larger community and asked the District to support the project.
- Anna Tao a Board member ACOM, and long-term Marina resident, whose family used to own Lee's Garden Restaurant, large Asian immigrants, almost 70% people of color. She noted she's never heard any negative feedback about Asian American gardens and that most people enjoy them and asked the Board to also support it.
- Jeff Markham thanked the ACOM members for attending and as the incoming District Board member for Ward 1, spoke about his support for the proposed project and noted that he looks forward to working with ACOM. He recently met with Marina City Manager

Layne Long and noted that the City is looking to harmonize 2005 and 2012 park plans to develop an updated plan.

- David Kong a lifelong MC resident and Board President for Greenfield Public Recreation District and Trustee for Greenfield Unified School District offered his support for the garden at Locke-Paddon even while living in Greenfield. He noted the tremendous positive public output at the meeting for the project. He also thanked Director Sorenson for his work with the California Condors.
- Brian McCarthy a local resident noted that the District and City have a good relationship but that the community would like to see the relationship improved. He noted wide support for the proposed Asian American Garden among those he's spoken with and said he hopes that a joint meeting between the two agencies will occur very soon.
- Greg Simmons a Marina resident, who frequents the park often, noted it's a well-loved park. He noted that there's a need for maintenance in the park and expressed concerns with some of the 2005 park plan elements and the lack of significant public input on all elements and asked for a new public process for community input.

C. Strategic Plan Update, Chris Sliz, Regional Government Services (*R. Payan*)

- Chris Sliz of Regional Government Services and Strategic Plan (SP) facilitator gave an overview of the first rough draft of the Plan.
- The Board provided feedback on the draft document.
- Most important, the Board asked staff to review and provide deadlines for completion of items.
- The revised draft that includes staff deadlines will be gathered in September, for inclusion on the October packet.
- Jeffrey Markham noted that there appears to be a significant inequality in expenditures within the District and that the District should try to bring it as local to the public as possible.

D. Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project Update (*J. Smith*)

- Planning and Conservation Program Manager Jake Smith and Katrina Harrison of McBain & Associates provided an update and look ahead on the Floodplain Restoration Project.
- Ivan Eberle expressed concerns with the proposed project and opined that underlying data has not been widely shared.
- Michael Anderson noted that he's excited about the project and the potential changes to the Carmel Rivers.

6) Consent Items – Upon motion by Director Sorenson, seconded by Director Potter, the entire consent calendar was unanimously approved. (Vote: 5-0)

- A. Approval of July 3, 2024 Minutes (*S. Parker*)
- B. Approval of August 7, 2024 Minutes (*S. Parker*)
- C. Approval of Summary of Payments (*K. McCullough*)

7) Discussion/Action Items

- A. Status of Oversight Committees (*S. Parker*)

- Administrative Services Manager Shuran Parker introduced the item.
- After discussion, the Board directed staff to post the openings on social media and put together a questionnaire for candidates to complete. The hope is that these recruitment efforts will garner enough interested candidates for the Nominating Committee to review and present to the Board for consideration.

B. Consideration of 2024 Board Standing Committee Assignments (*S. Parker*)

- Legal Counsel Tucker Wisdom-Stack introduced the item and answered Board member questions.
- After discussion and upon motion by Director Lee, seconded by Director Sorenson, the Board unanimously appointed Director Potter to replace Director Sorenson on the Real Property/Land Use and Management Committee. (Vote: 5-0)
- Director Sorenson agreed to participate in the September 18 Finance Committee meeting. If additional Finance Committee meetings are needed before year-end, staff will advise the Board so a plan of action can be made. President Raskoff offered the option of presenting materials to the full Board in lieu of the Finance Committee.

8) **Division Reports** – All Division reports are informational only and may be written or oral.

- A. Monthly Financial Report (*K. McCullough*)
- B. Mid-Monthly Staff Report (*R. Payan*)

9) **Identification of Closed Session Items** – President Raskoff announced that the Board would be going into Closed Session to discuss the noted items and solicited public comments.

- A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2). Four potential cases.
- B. Instructions to Real Property Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 A.P.N. 015-162-009, 015-162-048 and 015-162-049 (Negotiators: Payan and Wisdom-Stack) (Under negotiation: terms and conditions)

10) **Public Comment on Closed Session** – None

11) **Adjourn to Closed Session** – Closed Session began at 9:56 and ended at 10:55.

12) **Report on Return from Closed Session** – Nothing to report.

13) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:56.

Shuran Parker, Recording Secretary