

**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**

**March 1, 2023  
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

- 1) **6:30 p.m. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:30.
- 2) **Roll Call** – Roll call was taken.  
PRESENT: Directors Lee, Potter, and Raskoff  
ABSENT: Directors Anderson and Sorenson
- 3) **Approval of Agenda** – Upon motion by Director Raskoff, seconded by Director Potter, the agenda was unanimously approved with the revision to remove item 6-B which was tabled until the April meeting.
- 4) **Public Comments** – Julie Davis, a resident on Paso Hondo reported going through a terrible ordeal and having to be evacuated due to the recent rain and flooding events (winter storms).

John Long, another resident on Paso Hondo commented on his experiences during the winter storms and asked the District for a public liaison to meet with area homeowners, and suggested that berms be put in place to protect area homes affected by storms.

Paul Ingram, a resident on Paso Hondo and General Manager of Spreckels Memorial District and Spreckels Community Services District, announced that the pump station was damaged during the storm and he attended a recent FEMA orientation meeting. He was happy that the District was also in attendance and encouraged continued cooperation with the county and other agencies, as solutions and resources are available.

Terry Parker, a Paso Hondo resident announced having gone through many floods, one of the worst in 2017, and reported that they've gotten worse since the (San Clemente) dam was removed (in 2015). She reported flooding that was knee deep in her backyard and being shocked when there was water coming down the street.

Gary Briant, a Paso Hondo resident urged MPRPD to move forward with solutions, like a berm to fix the flooding issues.

Fernando Morgadinho, read from a statement detailing his experience based on the flooding and encouraged the District to apply for federal funding to make improvements to the park that would also help neighbors.

Yassen Batchev another Paso Hondo resident commented that he thought the K-wall caused a tidal wave which made flooding worse and asked the difference between Monterey County Parks and Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, and also inquired about the relationship between the District and the Big Sur Land Trust.

Rob Farrens of Paso Hondo spoke about his efforts to secure his property before the flooding started which didn't help and noted that insurance doesn't cover and FEMA isn't helpful. He asked the District to take action.

Marikay LeValley a Paso Hondo neighbor reported that water hadn't come into her house until this year. She reported that the Army Corps of Engineers used to come and do bank work every year and that there's a lack of river management.

Chad Armstrong of Paso Hondo reported on his experience because of the flooding and remarked that there must be ways to fix the problem.

Susan Farrens also of Paso Hondo commented that it's not just homes that are damaged; a neighbor fell in a sinkhole. She has spoken with engineers and noted that we need permanent solutions to fix problems.

Jenny Klein another Paso Hondo resident noted that a berm could help, and she hadn't experienced flood water in her house until 2017.

Neal Schlegel spoke about the silt flattening the river and reported not seeing trout in the river and other life, noting that it's not a healthy river. He commented that agencies need to work together to fix the problems.

Kathy Fitzer a Paso Hondo resident applauded everyone who spoke and for doing so in a civilized way.

Marilyn Morgadinho reported how she used to get in the river but that it's changed drastically and it's overwhelming.

Susan Farrens announced that everyone wants to be a part of the solution and suggested that a neighborhood task force be developed.

Fernando Morgadinho announced that at a meeting years ago he spoke with Mary Adams about the flooding but the issue of fire danger wasn't discussed.

Neal Schlegel again spoke about the environment of the river and how he doesn't think work on the berm will make a difference.

John Long announced that the District needs to work with residents to fix the problems.

President Lee thanked everyone for their public comments and announced that the District has submitted an application for damage relief from FEMA. She also announced that Community Bridges and the County of Monterey will hold a community meeting via Zoom meeting on March 2 at 5:00pm which will be focused on Carmel Valley, and will hopefully touch on relief.

The meeting was paused for a brief break at 7:32 and resumed at 7:41.

**5) Consent Items** – Upon motion by Director Potter, seconded by Director Raskoff, the entire consent calendar was unanimously approved.

A. Approval of February 1, 2023 Minutes (*S. Parker*)

B. Approval of Summary of Payments (*K. McCullough*)

**6) Presentations**

A. Recognition of MPRPD as a Blue Zones Organization by the Blue Zones Project of Monterey County (*D. Wyatt*)

- Environmental Education Coordinator-Volunteers Debbie Wyatt announced the District has been working with Blue Zones and introduced Senior Marketing Manager Veronica Plascencia.

- Ms. Plascencia announced their goal is to create a healthier environment for adults to help them live longer and better. She announced that the District is now recognized as a participating organization, the third participating organization in the county expansion project and the first park district.

B. Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget Review (*S. Parker*) – *ITEM TABLED*

**7) Discussion/Action Items**

A. Appointment of District Voting Delegate and Alternate for the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (*S. Parker*)

- Upon motion by Director Potter, seconded by Director Raskoff, the Board named Kathleen Lee as Delegate and Kelly Sorenson as Alternate.

B. Update on District Role in Carmel River FREE Project (*R. Payan*)

- General Manager Rafael Payan introduced the item and the District's role, then introduced Jeannette Tuitele-Lewis and Rachel Saunders of the Big Sur Land Trust.

- Ms. Saunders and Ms. Tuitele-Lewis spoke about the \$54 Million project and announced that after almost a decade of planning, they hope to begin construction in Spring 2024. She asked that the District contribute toward the left-hand turn lane into Palo Corona so that they can finalize a grant agreement for the CRFREE project, and to have notice of that amount by July 1.

- Paul Ingram commented that it will be difficult to see the CRFREE project begin, knowing about the challenges occurring in Carmel Valley Village and that it would be great if the scope of the project could be expanded.

- "Kristen" also spoke in support of the CRFREE project.

- C. Review and Approval of Request for Disbursement of Marina Dunes Restoration Project's Management Reserve to Satisfy State Coastal Conservancy Requirement (*J. Smith*)
  - Planning and Conservation Program Manager Jacob Smith introduced the item and answered questions.
  - After discussion and upon motion by Director Potter, seconded by Director Raskoff, the Board unanimously approved the item.
  - President Lee asked the General Manager to inquire with Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) if we can revisit the agreement if there are contingencies.
  - Lizzy Eichorn of Burlison Consulting, Inc. reported that dune restoration is different than riparian restoration and contingency dollars are a very big deal and reported that the environment takes to dune restoration easier and feels confident that criteria developed with Fish and Wildlife Service and PG&E will not be overly burdensome and are achievable.
  - Jeannette Tuitele-Lewis announced that they were approached by PG&E but they decided to pass on the partnership.
- D. Review and Approval of Agreement with Resource Conservation District of Monterey County to Implement Portions of the Carmel Valley Strategic Fuel Break Project (*J. Smith*)
  - Mr. Smith introduced the item and along with Supervising Ranger Caine Camarillo, answered Board member questions.
  - After discussion and upon motion by Director Raskoff, seconded by Director Potter, the item was unanimously approved.

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

A. Monthly Financial Report (*K. McCullough*)

B. Monthly Staff Report (*R. Payan*)

- Director Potter asked how many volunteer applicants we recently received and Environmental Education Supervisor Jackie Nelson reported that 14 candidates showed.
- Director Potter asked whether Joyce Stevens Pine Preserve is open for hikers and Mr. Camarillo reported that it's closed to public access.

**9) Identification of Session Items** – President Lee announced that the Board would be going into Closed Session to discuss the agenda items, then Director Raskoff announced he would recuse himself from discussions on Item 9-B. That item was then tabled, with public comment solicited for the balance.

A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2). One potential case.

B. Instructions to Real Property Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 A.P.N. 259-011-025 (Under negotiation: terms and conditions) – *ITEM TABLED*

C. Instructions for Contract Negotiators for General Manager Position Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

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

11) **Adjourn to Closed Session** – Closed Session began at 8:56 and ended at 9:56.

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

13) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:57.

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Shuran Parker, Recording Secretary

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