

MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kelly Sorenson (President) - Marina, Northern Fort Ord (**Ward 1**)
Shane Anderson - Seaside, Northern Sand City, Southern Ft. Ord (**Ward 2**)
Kevin Raskoff - Monterey, Del Rey Oaks, Southwest Seaside, Southern Sand City (**Ward 3**)
Kathleen Lee - Pacific Grove, New Monterey, Northern Pebble Beach (**Ward 4**)
Monta Potter - Carmel, Carmel Valley, Big Sur, Southern Pebble Beach (**Ward 5**)

Palo Corona Regional Park, Pub Room
4860 Carmel Valley Road
Carmel, California

December 11, 2019
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

- 1) **6:30 p.m. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:31.
- 2) **Roll Call** – Roll call was taken.
PRESENT: Directors Anderson; Lee; Potter; Raskoff and Sorenson
ABSENT: None
- 3) **Approval of Agenda** – Upon motion by Director Anderson, seconded by Director Raskoff, the agenda was unanimously approved.
- 4) **Presentations**
 - A. MPRPD Fiscal Year 2018-19 Draft Financial Statement Audit Report, Nitin Patel – White Nelson Diehl Evans, LLP
 - Robert Perl of White Nelson Diehl Evans reported on the District’s draft financial statement, indicating that the firm established an unmodified opinion on the statement and no adjustments were needed.
 - Jeff Gorman asked whether the status of the District’s pension funding was reviewed and addressed by the auditors. Mr. Perl advised that their role is to report on whether the financial statements as presented, were materially stated correctly, and not opine on the funding status.
 - B. Fort Ord Rec Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) Environmental Review Update, Debbie Hale and Rich Deal, Transportation Agency for Monterey County
 - Stephania Castillo of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) reviewed for the Board the proposed FORTAG plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), focusing on the portion proposed to go through the Frog Pond Wetland Preserve, along with alternatives, and answered Board and audience member questions.
 - TAMC staff announced that the public comment period on the DEIR will close on January 3, 2020.

- Jim Vanderzwaan expressed concerns with the proposed project through the Frog Pond, particularly as it relates to fire danger.
- Robert Hale noted that the proposed project would create too many impacts to sensitive habitat in the preserve, especially if bicycle use were permitted.
- Donna Burych reported that she does not support the proposed project through the Frog Pond.
- Don Gruber expressed displeasure with many of the proposed project alternatives and noted that the purpose of a preserve should first be to concentrate on the value of the property, then recreational use, if it does not affect the nature. He asked the Board to recommend alternatives that do not go through the Frog Pond.
- James Waidler announced that he walks through the Frog Pond, twice a day on most days and asked that the project not be allowed to go through the Preserve. He also gave the Board a handout of text about the Frog Pond from the District website.
- Nikki Nedeff announced that a grant was used to purchase the Frog Pond and encouraged the Board to review the grant agreement, to determine whether there are use restrictions.
- Ms. Castillo and Rich Deal from TAMC reminded the Board and public that the proposed project contains alternatives, including those that do not go through the Frog Pond and ultimately, if the MPRPD Board does not want the trail to go through its park, another alternative, including not building the trail, would be considered.
- Fred Watson spoke about some of the initial planning for the project and encouraged having a study session to further discussion on the item.
- The public was also reminded that the proposed trail is a TAMC, and not MPRPD project, and to submit comments to TAMC.
- The Board directed the General Manager to look into whether grant funding used to purchase the Frog Pond restricts any uses, and also send a letter to TAMC before the public comment period closes on January 3, advising that the District supports the project but not the alignment that goes through the Frog Pond.

C. Cross Country Course Proposal, Whit Rambach, Carmel High School

- Jon Russell of the Big Sur International Marathon discussed their desire to submit a proposal to hold cross country meets at Palo Corona Regional Park and answered Director questions. The group plans to present an official proposal in the next few months.

5) **Public Comments** – None

6) **Consent Items** – Upon motion by Director Lee, seconded by Director Anderson, the consent calendar was unanimously approved.

- A. Approval of November 13, 2019 Minutes (*S. Parker*)
- B. Approval of Summary of Payments (*K. McCullough*)

7) **Discussion/Action Items**

- A. Consider Approval of Request for Bids for Palo Corona Gateway: Multi-Use Pads Project and Resolution #2019-06 (*J. Nelson*)

- Finance Manager Kelly McCullough and Ranger Jacob Sanderson reviewed the project and answered Board Member questions. After discussion and upon motion by Director Potter, seconded by Director Raskoff, Item 7-A was unanimously approved.
- B. Review and Approval of Assistance Agreement with Big Sur Land Trust for Park It! Project (*R. Payan*)
 - Rachel Saunders of the Big Sur Land Trust reviewed the Park It! project and answered Board member questions.
 - Ms. Christine Kemp, representing Mrs. Diana Fish sent the Board a letter in response to the proposed project.
 - After discussion and upon motion by Director Potter, seconded by Director Lee, Item 7-B was unanimously approved.

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

A. **Administration**

- 1) Monthly Financial Report (*K. McCullough*)

9) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:28.

Shuran Parker, Recording Secretary