



## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Mel Pincus, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Marico C. Enriquez, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Neil Merrilees, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Vacant, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Michael J. Cooney, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Henry Ruehl, Youth Commissioner

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(650) 599-1393  
Brenda Bennett  
Executive Secretary

**SAN MATEO COUNTY**  
**Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**Special Meeting**  
**August 29, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.**  
**Cypress Meadows Conference and Event Center**  
**343 Cypress Avenue**  
**Moss Beach, CA 94038**

### MINUTES

Chair Cooney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### 1. Roll Call

Commissioners: Cooney (Chair), Enriquez, Merrilees (Vice Chair), Pincus, Ruehl

Staff: Lockman, Lombardi, Nantell

#### 2. Oral Communications

None.

#### 3. Agenda Amendments

None.

#### 4. Action Item

##### A. Devil's Slide Trail Project

1. Review and Receive Public Comment on 90% Project Plans
2. Direct Staff to Develop 100% Project Plans
3. Recommend Approval of 100% Project Plans to the Board of Supervisors

Staff Comment: Interim Parks Director Nantell outlined the process for the hearing, and introduced Park Superintendent Lockman, who made a presentation on the project.

Superintendent Lockman provided background on the origin of this project. He said that there was a Devil's Slide Trail Task Force whose members worked toward the plan development in conjunction with staff. He noted the Commission held a hearing on the 30% plans earlier in the month, received public and Commission comments, which were incorporated into the development of the 90% plans. He introduced Public Works staff members involved in the project development, Mr. Hagan and his team from Brian Kangas Foulk (BKF), and numerous members of the Midcoast Community Council. He said the project was conditioned to be completed by March 2014 with a \$1.3 million dollar construction budget under a Coastal Development Permit and environmental constraints. He noted that the project was about \$100,000 over budget for the engineering services, and that some adjustments were being recommended to the plans to stay under total budget. He said he did not think any large changes were

possible to make to the plans but small changes could be made.

Mr. Hagan, BKF, introduced Ms. Sarah Sutton and Ms. Cynthia Greenburg, DCE-The Planning Center, environmental consultants and landscape architects. He provided an overview of the proposed project, and next steps after developing 100% project plans would be to ask the Board of Supervisors to authorize a call for bids. After bid award, work would occur over winter with the trail to open in March. He made a PowerPoint presentation on the paving and striping of the multi-use trail, and provided a materials sample of the paving material noting its smooth surface, durability and easy applicability. He noted safety features would include k-rail on both sides of the trail, increased buffer for the bicycle lane, and Ambassador docents, volunteers and Park Rangers to monitor. He provided information on proposed signage and locations. He noted accessibility features. He said about 4,000 feet of k-rail was being relocated. He said it would be removed on the south end where there's been much discussion about the fence and the bird area. He said the k-rail would be removed there to expose the rock walls. He noted the k-rail improvements that would be made.

Ms. Sutton said they were doing the environmental review but noted that most of the environmental review had been done. She said they were doing a supplemental memo to assure plans are consistent with all the environmental documents which started in 1968 through more current actions as well as the CDP that conditions what can and cannot be done. She said the work would stay within the k-rail, and would not harm but help the environment. She noted treatment of the wetlands created by the k-rail. She related proposed treatment of the birding area noting there were colonizing and migrating species to use a transparent grid fence and signage warning sensitive area that regulatory agencies found acceptable. She described the overlook areas and provided visual simulations.

Park Superintendent Lockman said that Fish and Game were favorable generally with the proposed plans but wanted assurance that there would be "no take" as a result or any disturbance or impact on the bird populations. He said a bird and wetlands monitoring program was being required which was still in process. He said there was annual budgeting to do exotic plant removal and native plantings. He noted some CalTrans maintenance that involved scaling the rocks and removing loose rocks, and staff would need to review maintenance practices. He said there were two wells that served no purpose and would probably be capped. He said two ranger positions were being funded for assignment to this trail. He said they were also looking at trail and parking lot operations and decision makers would meet soon to determine hours and operation policies.

Questions of Staff: Commissioner Merrilees asked about recycling containers. Superintendent Lockman said the type of refuse containers were garbage on one side and recyclables on the other. Commissioner Merrilees commented that the 10 mph speed limit for bicycles was slow and suggested raising it to 15 mph.

Public Questions/Comments Received:

- Increase speed limit for bicycles
- Cover rock walls with screen to prevent rocks falling
- Complimented the elegant solution for the bird nesting area
- Pleased to see equestrians included.

- Question of trail to Whale Cove in future.
- What's provision for horse manure?
- Low micro-bacterial content in horse manure.
- Suggested more garbage/recycling containers might be needed along the trail that was covered
- What part of the trail would be for equestrians?
- When south parking lot opens, wondered if there would be access to a bluff to south of that – might be private property.
- Is there cell phone access?
- Considerable parking in north lot, can it be limited to 2 hours to allow more turnover?
- Could bicycle races and other bicycle events be accommodated and how?

Superintendent Lockman said there would be garbage/recycling containers at the parking lots on each end and one or two at each of the three overlooks. Staff will be removing trash / recyclables liners every day if the containers are getting full. The type of containers used securely close so wildlife cannot get into them. He said they would prefer the County not to take on responsibilities for garbage collection associated with rest stop facilities.

Mr. Lockman said the County's ordinance for bicycle speed on trails is 10 mph. He mentioned Crystal Springs Trail and audience members indicated the speed there was 15 mph. He said that the bicycle speed at the entrances on that trail was 5 mph. He suggested they might want to lower speed limit at the ends of the new trail. He said he would review what the speed limit was by ordinance and was open to raising it to 15 mph and look at slowing bicyclists down on both ends of the trail. He said there were potential user conflicts.

Mr. Lockman said regarding screening the cliffs from rocks that based on feedback from the last meeting and discussion with geologists was to get away from fencing as much as possible. For the north end, where originally they proposed using cyclone fence to catch rocks they were now proposing k-rail setback would trap rocks and that then could be cleaned out by backhoe or by hand.

Mr. Lockman said regarding Whale Cove Trail length that several questions about linkages had been asked previously. He showed on a map the location of the Trail coming in from Pacifica that there was a gate and the question was posed if the gate could be opened. He said he does not know yet but the gate and first segment of that trail are on County property. He said adjoining property was CalTrans property and while this was beyond the scope of this project, they would follow up with the other agency. He said on the south end there were grant funds for plans and specifications and an easement from CalTrans for a proposed Green Valley trail from Gray Whale Cove up the roadway to the ranger residence and then through marshy/creek area that would then connect to Devil's Slide Trail. He said at this time there were no funds for construction. He said at the last public meeting Supervisor Horsley had mentioned the City of Pacific was pursuing securing land for a trail connection from Pacifica to Devil's Slide Trail at north end. He said nothing was finalized but Pacific was in negotiations for the property. He said regarding other access they had checked with Pacifica which has a shuttle to Linda Mar Boulevard. There was a plan for a shuttle from Pacifica to the north and south parking lots of the Devil's Slide Trail and hopefully there would also be future trail access as well. He said on the other side, Samtrans has a Route 294 bus

and working with them on the south side to have stops for public transit access to the Trail.

Mr. Lockman said regarding horse manure cleanup that at this time there was no requirement for users to clean up on County park trails but park staff would do regular maintenance and the droppings would be swept to the side. He said they would have to see what impacts were if any and responses would be needed. He said the goal was to have staff patrol the Trail several times a day in addition to maintenance activities.

Mr. Lockman said regarding property south of the south parking lot that the County owns only to the end of that parking lot. He said there were no plans to put fencing on that boundary line. He said that the property owner of the land to the south and location of a bunker had been contacted by CalTrans for an easement but nothing was completed with that owner at this time.

Mr. Lockman said they have tried cell phones in the area of the Trail and there was spotty service with it worsening the closer they got to the slide area. He said a request had been made for an emergency call box. He said there was telemetry infrastructure that would be kept for movement and erosion warnings they would keep and they would find out whether those lines might also be used for an emergency call box. He said cell service was pretty good at both ends of the Trail.

Mr. Lockman said regarding parking lot turnover that it was unknown yet what the turnover rate would be. He said that staff was cognizant of camper vehicles and "squatting" behavior and would be able to address.

Mr. Lockman said regarding the potential for bicycle races and ride events that the County currently uses a special event permit process for events other than the normal uses of park facilities. He explained the special event permit process. He said under the CDP there was no fee for parking or prescribed use of the Trail but there were fees for special event permits.

Chair Cooney closed the public comment period.

Commission Comment: Commissioner Pincus noted the changes made to the plans based on comments from public meetings. He asked if there were requests that had not been incorporated into the plans, whether benches would be designed to prevent use for sleeping, whether the construction of the fencing to protect the birds would impact the birds negatively, and why equestrian requests to have horses close to the cliff was not the chosen route.

Mr. Lockman said recommendations not incorporated into the plans included the broader concern of having equestrians on the trail and that rather than create a separate lane closer to the cliff for horses that would make the other use lanes narrower was to include the use with the pedestrian lane. He said because of the impact of water drainage on the soil strata contributing to slides and erosion that they would not remove asphalt to provide a soil surface for horseback riders. He said there was also a request for tiles on the k-rail which would not happen at this time but could be revisited in the future as a fundraising possibility. He said that they received comments both for and against bright mosaic tiles in this area. He said they planned to use standard benches and those do not have slats to prevent lying down. He said someone asked if stainless steel mounts would be used for the benches but that was not available, and they would

use the available powder covered metal. He said in the parks there was not currently a problem with benches being used for sleeping but if that problem arose a solution would be sought.

Commissioner Enriquez asked about pedestrian and equestrian safety sharing a lane. Discussion ensued in which equestrian indicated they were well used to sharing trails with walkers and hikers and used standard trail direction conventions. It was also indicated that equestrians communicate with hikers/walkers on intent and directional signals.

Commissioner Enriquez asked about the County's liability. Interim Parks Director Nantell said that risk was accommodated on other County trails and would with this trail as well.

Ms. Sutton replied to Commissioner Pincus' earlier question related to construction of fencing and bird nesting area protection. She said there would be protocols identified in the environmental review memo related to the prevention of impacts to the nesting birds. She said that work would be closer to the existing road than the edge where the birds might be impacted.

Commissioner Merrilees said the project plans had improved through the public process; although he felt the road could open now as a trail, he was well satisfied with the way the plans were evolving. He said he was thrilled with the trail opening and looked forward to future connectivity.

Commission Action: M/S Cooney/Enriquez to direct staff to develop 100% project plans and recommend approval of the 100% project plans to the Board of Supervisors for purposes of obtaining bid proposals.

Motion carried 5-0.

## **5. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.