

# 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

April 5, 2023  
Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

- 1) **6:00 p.m. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:08.
- 2) **Roll Call** – Roll call was taken.  
PRESENT: Directors Lee, Potter, Raskoff and Sorenson  
ABSENT: Director Anderson
- 3) **Identification of Closed Session Item** – President Lee announced that the Board would be going into Closed Session to discuss the agenda item and solicited public comments.  
Conference with Negotiators for General Manager Contract Renewal Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6
- 4) **Public Comment on Closed Session** – Marina Mayor Bruce Delgado spoke in support of District staff and particularly the actions and of General Manager (GM) Rafael Payan and announced he hoped the Board would continue the GMs employment with the District to not lose any momentum on existing projects.

Karen Andersen, a citizen of Marina and member of Citizens for Sustainable Marina spoke in support of General Manager Payan, touting the Eagle Scout projects that took place at Locke-Paddon Wetland Community Park.

Hyunsoo Hur a resident of Marina spoke in support of Dr. Payan and encouraged the Board to consider his employment with the District.

George Powell announced knowing the General Manager a short time but was impressed by his interactions with him at recent events and supported the District continuing his employment.

Phuong Nguyen a longtime Monterey peninsula resident and current Marina resident reported seeing General Manager Payan in action, particularly at Locke-Paddon, described him as a visionary, and urged the Board to renew his contract.

Kathy Biala a citizen of Marina announced knowing General Manager Payan for 7 years and has interactions about the issue of dogs at Marina Dunes Preserve. She hoped that the District would acquire the CEMEX property and spoke about the General Manager's desire for inclusivity and asked the Board to recognize his 10 years with the District and renew his contract.

Dr. Catina Smith stated that General Manager Payan is a leader and brings something new to the City of Marina and urged the Board to renew his contract so he can continue to be a resource.

Wesley Hage announced meeting General Manager Payan at the recent MLK celebration in Marina and being impressed with him and asked the Board to continue his employment.

Yong Oh, head of a Korean community association reported being moved by the comments of others about General Manager Payan and noted that he's a proven leader. He urged the Board to continue the General Manager's employment with the District.

Lorin Letendre reported meeting General Manager Payan the first week he joined the District. He described him as a transformational leader who was a major player in the acquisition of the Palo Corona Rancho Cañada unit and strongly encouraged the Board to renew his contract.

Cristina Medina Dirksen (virtually) a 25-year resident of the Monterey peninsula thanked General Manager Payan for all that he's done. She praised the "Let's Go Outdoors!" activities guide and Dr. Payan and announced that as an Apache, he understands the needs of the underserved. She implored the Board to continue his employment with the District so he can be a part of continued growth for the City of Marina.

- 5) **Adjourn to Closed Session** – Closed Session began at 6:36 and ended at 7:17.
- 6) **6:30 p.m. Report on Return from Closed Session** – Nothing to report.
- 7) **Approval of Agenda** – Upon motion by Director Sorenson, seconded by Director Raskoff, the agenda was unanimously approved.
- 8) **Public Comments** – Fernando Morgadinho a Carmel Valley resident recognized the public support for General Manager Payan and also offered his support and asked the District to help with recent flooding issues in his neighborhood on Paso Hondo. He reported that he would continue to bring attention to the issue.

Bruce Delgado announced that an Earth Day celebration would be held on April 23 at Locke-Paddon park.

Environmental Education Supervisor Jackie Nelson announced that the District started the event 18 years ago in concert with the City of Marina and that the City has done an excellent job in recent years of now hosting the event with community support.

Mary Dainton (virtually) thanked the staff and Board for the recent volunteer appreciation event.

**9) Presentation** – Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget Review (*S. Parker*)

- Administrative Services Manager Shuran Parker reviewed the status of the budget through February and the year-end projections and answered Board member questions.

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

- A. Approval of March 1, 2023 Minutes (*S. Parker*)
- B. Approval of Summary of Payments (*K. McCullough*)
- C. Approval to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Monterey County Free Libraries-Marina Branch (*S. Peña*)

**11) Discussion/Action Items**

- A. Review and Approval of Supplemental Agreement to FORTAG Master Agreement with the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) (*J. Smith*)
  - Planning and Conservation Program Manager Jake Smith and Michael Zeller of TAMC introduced the item and answered Board Member questions.
  - After discussion and upon motion by Director Raskoff, seconded by Director Potter, the item was unanimously approved.
- B. Review and Approval of Resolution #2023-01, Finding the Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Consistent with the State Water Resources Control Board Restoration Projects Statewide Order Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and Adopting the Project-Specific Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (*J. Smith*)
  - Jake Smith and Lauren Huff of SWCA introduced the item and answered Board member questions.
  - An unknown speaker asked about the multibenefit community trail and Mr. Smith clarified. He then commented that he did not see much advertisement on the item and indicated he hoped there would be future opportunities for public involvement and seasonal access to the trail.
  - Rachel Saunders of the Big Sur Land Trust applauded the District on the project, announcing that it would be complementary to the Carmel River FREE project, and urged the Board to approve.
  - Fernando Morgadinho applauded the project and asked about how it would improve issues of upstream flooding.
  - Christy Fischer of The Trust for Public Land (TPL) congratulated the District on the project and its benefits, announced that TPL is a proud partner and encouraged staff to continue efforts toward the project and urged Board support.
  - Nikki Nedeff asked whether the upland sound barrier is considered part of the project and asked about long-term maintenance of the project.

- Steve Park President of the Carmel River Steelhead Association thanked the District for the work that's gone into the project so far and asked if there are flooding concerns as a result of the dam removal.
  - After discussion and upon motion by Director Sorenson, seconded by Director Raskoff, the item was unanimously approved.
- C. Consideration of Cost of Living Adjustment for FY2023-24 Budget (*S. Parker*)
- Administrative Services Manager Shuran Parker introduced the item and answered Board member questions.
  - After discussion, the Board asked staff to provide additional information at the May meeting with a presentation by the consultant who conducted the classification and compensation studies.
  - No action was taken.
- D. Review and Approval of Updated Meeting and Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy (*K. McCullough*)
- Finance Manager Kelly McCullough introduced the item and answered Board member questions.
  - After discussion and upon motion by Director Potter, seconded by Director Raskoff, the item was unanimously approved.
- E. Review and Approval of Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with SWCA Environmental Consultants for Biological Services (*K. McCullough*)
- Ms. McCullough introduced the item and answered Board member questions.
  - After discussion and upon motion by Director Sorenson, seconded by Director Potter, the item was unanimously approved.
- F. Review and Approval of Employment Agreement Amendment with Rafael Payan for General Manager Position (*M. Whilden*)
- Legal Counsel Michael Whilden introduced the item and answered Board member questions.
  - After discussion and upon motion by Director Raskoff, seconded by Director Sorenson, the Board unanimously approved the contract amendment, effective April 5, 2023 through April 5, 2024.
- G. Review and Approval to Solicit Proposals for Palo Corona Ranger Station Mobile Office (*C. Camarillo*)s
- Supervising Ranger Caine Camarillo introduced the item and answered Board member questions.
  - Christy Fischer announced her support for the item.
  - After discussion and upon motion by Director Raskoff, seconded by Director Sorenson, the item was unanimously approved.

**12) 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*)

**13) Identification of Closed Session Items** – President Lee announced that the Board would be going into Closed Session to discuss the agenda items and solicited public comments and Director Raskoff announced that he would be recusing himself from Item 13-B and leaving the room during that discussion.

- 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. 031-191-026, 031-191-027, 031-191-028, and 259-011-025 (Negotiators: Payan and Whilden) (Under negotiation: terms and conditions)

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

**15) Adjourn to Closed Session** – Closed session began at 9:59 and ended at 10:31.

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

**17) Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:32.

*Shuran Parker*

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Shuran Parker, Recording Secretary