

MIDPINES PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES FINAL

DATE: WEDNESDAY, August 9, 2023
TIME: 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Midpines Community Center
Midpines Park, 6364 Highway 140
Midpines, CA 95345

1. Roll Call

Seeing a quorum, the regular meeting of the Midpines Planning Advisory Committee (MPAC) was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair Francisco.

Present: Gary Francisco, Adam Ferguson, Angela Heiss, Candy O'Donel-Browne, Caroline McGrath, Charles Lammers (arrived at 6:07 p.m.), Eileen Collins, Heather Huppe, Art Baggett (Planning Commissioner), and Rosemarie Smallcombe (Supervisor)

Guests: Nancy Parke, Lieutenant (Lt.) Michael Charman

Staff: Steve Engfer and Polina Pivak

Excused: None

5.b. Oak Fire – Update, Evacuation Routes and Lessons Learned Discussion

Item moved up to accommodate guest Lt. Charman.

Francisco introduced item and explained that the MPAC has concerns about the Oak Fire.

Smallcombe described Leigh Westerlund's story about attempting to evacuate on Sherlock Rd, but Westerlund was then told to evacuate from Colorado Road. People got stuck when cars were attempting to circulate both directions on Colorado Rd.

Lammers explained concerns about access quality and a need for signage indicating that the road is not paved, is steep, and is narrow. Additionally, there is a need for brushing along Colorado Rd and communication between jurisdictions. Capacity for evacuating traffic is also a concern.

Discussion occurred regarding the root issues associated with poor circulation and the potential for a future disaster.

Smallcombe stated that the main issues seem to be associated with communication and the management of evacuation routes.

Heiss asked about the appropriate location for signage and that signage may not be the solution. McGrath stated that brushing is important to widen road.

Lt. Charman stated that he cannot necessarily help with Public Works issues, such as brushing and signage, but can assist with direct health and safety issues. Lt. Charman explained issues associated with NPS attempting to direct traffic. Lt. Charman explained a key issue with directing evacuation traffic and closing off roads is potentially closing off constitutional access rights to people's property who are not under an evacuation order. Additionally, neither Sherlock nor Colorado Road seem like appropriate evacuation routes due to quality, however one has to be chosen. There are a lot of collaborations between departments and jurisdictions, therefore coordination can be difficult, however communication can be improved.

Huppe stated there should be a pre-approved evacuation plan communicated to NPS to consider Highway 140

closures. Additionally, El Portal should be allowed to evacuate properly within this plan.

Ferguson suggested another evacuation route that would still permit access to some properties, but also allow for efficient evacuation.

Francisco suggested tabling the rest of the discussion and keeping the item on the agenda. Smallcombe recommended putting together a letter or email with all of the questions and concerns to send to Lt. Charman and Sheriff Brieze.

2. Approval of Minutes:

a. Meeting of July 12, 2023

By a unanimous vote, the MPAC approved the minutes of July 12, 2023, meeting as written with a motion by Lammers motion and a second by McGrath.

3. Public comments

4. Committee Business

a. Community Plan

i. Draft Community Plan Review -Ad-Hoc Committee Edits Report

Francisco introduced the item. Any dates will be changed as needed.

MPAC reviewed ad-hoc edits page by page.

Francisco asked about how to efficiently acknowledge all of those involved in the creation of the document, even those who have since left the committee or other. Heiss suggested that all of the current members be listed, and then former members acknowledged at the bottom. The MPAC agreed unanimously.

Page 1-1: Collins stated that all demographic data should be updated to 2020 data, not just the marked section.

Page 1-5: Heiss stated that every time the Community Plan is mentioned or referred to it should be capitalized.

Page 1-6: Francisco stated that the comment was stricken, because the question was answered.

Page 2-1: Heiss stated "All the while, responding..." starting on line 9 is not a sentence. A comma should be added after "habitats" on line 8 to continue the sentence.

Page 5-1: Collins asked whether SHO needs to be spelled out every time. Engfer stated that every few pages the SHO should be spelled out again to remind the reader. Collins agreed.

Page 5-2: Engfer stated that we are still waiting on a response from the Assessor.

Page 5-3: Engfer explained that the rest of the County does not require a primary residence prior to an accessory structure. It is up to the MPAC to decide if they want a special policy for the Midpines Community Planning Area.

Discussion occurred.

Strike line 25-26, "Accessory uses may be developed.."

Result: (7-1)

*Aye: Francisco, Lammers, McGrath, Ferguson, Heiss,
Collins, O'Donel-Browne*

No: Huppe

*Page 5-4: Clarification about note to update page
references.*

*Francisco commented on SHO reference. Need to
evaluate repetition and consistency of reference.*

*Page 5-6: MPAC voted unanimously to strike line 30 and
31.*

*Page 5-7: MPAC voted unanimously to strike line 15 and
16.*

*Page 5-8: Discussion occurred regarding No.3 of
"Criteria for New Lands to be Included."*

*MPAC voted for Engfer to rewrite line 34 and 35 for
clarity per the recording approximately at 1:45:00.*

*Page 5-14: MPAC voted unanimously to strike the
population density requirement.*

ii. Consider edits and take action to approve

*By a unanimous vote, the MPAC directed staff to apply the suggested edits that were made by the
ad-hoc and from the meeting for the creation of a final draft and final approval at the next meeting
on September 13th, with a motion by Lammers, and a second by O'Donel-Browne.*

1. CEQA Initial Study progress update

Discussion tabled.

2. Discuss public engagement and adoption schedule

Discussion tabled.

b. Seeking Fire-Wise Recognition Discussion

The MPAC decided that a separate group should be formed to continue this discussion.

5. Updates and Activity Reports

a. Muir Lodge Site –Status Update

Smallcombe stated that not much has occurred, the assigned staff will be moving forward with evictions.

~~b. Oak Fire Update, Evacuation Routes and Lessons Learned Discussion~~

c. KOA/Terramor Status Update

No new update.

d. Whispering Pines/Bear Creek Cabins Update

Smallcombe recommended removing this item, because the issue has been dealt with. MPAC directed staff to keep the item as the clean-up of the project occurs.

e. Oak Road Bridge Project Update

No new update.

f. CALTRANS Project/Study Update

No new update.

g. Ferguson Update

Smallcombe stated that the team is currently working on establishing drainage channels into the slide material to drain the water and keep the slide material more stable when there is more rainy weather.

h. Planning Commissioner Update

No new update.

i. Supervisor Updates

Smallcombe states that the County has signed an agreement with Mercy Ambulance for a year to develop performance measures and write a new contract that includes those performance measures. Will benefit the older folks in the community.

6. Future agenda items

MPAC directed staff to return with a final draft of the Community Plan, draft CEQA document, and leave all other agenda items the same.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. by Chair Francisco.

Respectfully Submitted,

Polina Pivak, Planner II