

MIDPINES PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: WEDNESDAY, November 8, 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 by Chair Francisco at 6:01 P.M.

Present: Gary Francisco, Angela Heiss, Caroline McGrath, Heather Huppe, Eileen Collins, Nancy Parke, Candy O'Donel-Browne, Rosemarie Smallcombe

Excused: Charles Lammers, Adam Ferguson

Staff: Polina Pivak, Steve Engfer, Hannah Harrison

Guests: Ava Burns, Al Abbott, Theresa Johnson, Joanne Zeek

2. Approval of Minutes:

a. Meeting of October 11, 2023

By a unanimous vote, the MPAC approved a motion by Heiss, with a second by O'Donel-Browne, to accept the minutes as written.

3. Public comments

Guest, Al Abbott, asked if there is any way to encourage Fish and Wildlife to clean up the streambed before flooding happens again during the coming winter season. Smallcombe stated that she will contact the former director of Fish and Wildlife, John McCammon, to determine if any help can be provided.

4. Committee Business

a. Community Plan

i. Action to Accept Final Edits to Draft Community Plan

Steve gave a presentation and explained background information associated with the Draft Community Plan.

Collins recommended adding a space after the word, "forest," on Line 18, Page 1-1.

By a unanimous vote, the MPAC accepted an addition; "...is allowed and will..." on Line 8, Page 5-15.

Collins recommended adding hyperlinks to certain documents that referenced in the plan.

By a unanimous vote, the MPAC directed staff to extend the list of acknowledgements to all participants.

Francisco said that Chuck Fleming's name should be spelled, "Flemming."

Smallcombe reminded Engfer that the Mariposa Fire Safe Council should be changed to Mariposa County Fire Advisory Council and add reference to the Sheriff's Office.

Francisco stated that staff should delete extra blank Page 1-4 and correct reference to Figure 5-1.

Parke stated that page references should be corrected, specifically Page 1-2.

Huppe stated that the location of Cobey Lane should be corrected on the land use map.

By a unanimous vote, the MPAC approved a motion by Collins with a second by McGrath, to accept the draft Community Plan with corrections.

ii. Action to Kick-Off Informal Public Engagement by Approving Tentative Adoption Schedule and Informational Flyer

By a unanimous vote, the MPAC approved a motion by Heiss, with a second by O'Donel-Browne, to approve the Community Plan draft adoption schedule.

By a unanimous vote, the MPAC approved a motion by McGrath, with a second by Huppe, to approve the survey and flyer as presented.

b. Discuss Request for Qualifications for Working Lands, Working Artists Project Phase 2 at Midpines Park

Guest, Ava Burns, gave a presentation. Burns explained the draft Agriculture Working Landscape Plan and Creative Placemaking Strategy Plan. Burns stated the project is a grant funded project to hire local artists to respond to the draft Agriculture Working Landscape Conservation Plan. Burns stated that the Request for Qualifications will be posted to garner artist proposals.

McGrath asked where the art will be located in the Midpines Park. Burns and Harrison stated that it will be up to the artist as long as it is within the boundaries of the park.

Francisco recommended that the artist review the Visitor's Guide to the History of Midpines. Francisco recommended that there be a storyboard explaining Midpines history. Francisco asked how to contact Burns for input and Burns directed to the group to their contact: burns@mariposaartscouncil.org or on mariposaartscouncil.org.

Harrison stated that anyone can also provide input on the Agriculture Working Landscape Conservation Plan at hharrison@mariposacounty.org.

5. Updates and Activity Reports

a. Dallin Kimble's Presentation on Community-Wide Survey Results

Dallin Kimble was not present. Smallcombe provided a brief overview of the survey: the economy, natural environment, and safety are the highest priority for community members.

Francisco directed staff to table the item for the agenda for the January meeting.

b. Muir Lodge Site –Status Update

Francisco provided a brief overview. Smallcombe stated that there is no update since the last meeting, the project team is still attempting to relocate the homeless on the property.

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

i. Action to Adopt Letter of Recommendations and Concerns for Oak Fire Emergency Response for Distribution

Francisco opened the discussion. Collins clarified that the first letter in the packet is the final document.

Huppe stated that there is a vehicle length limit on many roads and wondered if it would be possible to ask the National Park Service to limit large vehicles at the time of Highway 140 closure. Smallcombe stated that the first bullet in the letter indicates that the closure would be for all vehicles.

Heiss suggested that the following statement should be added under the last bullet on the second page of the letter: “Sheriff’s Office should be present to direct traffic,”

Guest, Theresa Johnson, stated that signage, personnel, and or ribbons could be placed to direct traffic appropriately, especially for out-of-town vehicles.

Guest, Joanne Zeek, recommended that evacuation plan be prepared so that evacuees know where to go.

Francisco stated that the draft Community Plan (Page 5-20 and 5-21) contains an implementation measure that encourages the development of safe evacuation routes and that MPAC would monitor this progress in the future.

By a unanimous vote, MPAC approved the motion by Heiss, with a second by McGrath to approve the letter as written.

d. KOA/Terramor Status Update

No discussion.

e. Whispering Pines/Bear Creek Cabins Update

No discussion.

f. Oak Road Bridge Project Update

No discussion.

g. CALTRANS Project/Study Update

No discussion.

h. Ferguson Update

No discussion.

i. Planning Commissioner Update

No discussion.

j. Supervisor Updates

No discussion.

6. Future agenda items

Community workshop for the Community Plan draft will occur at the next meeting on December 13th. Francisco directed staff to include the same items for Update and Activity Reports.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, the MPAC meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M. by Chair Francisco.

Respectfully Submitted,

Polina Pivak,
Planner II