



CARMEL AREA WASTEWATER DISTRICT
BRIDGE TO EVERYWHERE
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 15, 2024, Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.

Via teleconference and in-person

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

Present: President Ken White
Director Mike Rachel

**Signifies Virtual Attendance*

Other Attendees:

Barbara Buikema, General Manager
Patrick Treanor, District Engineer
Mayor Dave Potter, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Katherine Wallace, Associate Planner, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Greg D'Ambrosio-Friends of Mission Nature Preserve Trail
Laura Bowling, Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve
Doug Schmitz, Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve
Brett Bell, Terracon-Restoration Ecologist, Local Biologist/Botanist
Brent Cox, Terracon - Scientist
Paul Bartow, Citizen Representative
Dan Paul, Chief Operating Officer, Carmel Unified School District (arrived 2:10 pm)

Absent: Albert Ramirez, Principal, Carmel River School

Appearances/Public Comments: None

Agenda Changes:

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **Appearances/Public Comments:** *Anyone wishing to address the Committee on a matter not appearing on the agenda may do so now. Public comment shall be limited to 3 minutes per person per topic. No action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda.*
2. **Agenda Changes:** **Any requests to move an item on the agenda will be considered at this time.**
The group was notified that Mr. Ramirez would be arriving later on.

3. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Brief Introduction of Brett Bell and Brent Cox of Terracon.

Presentation & Discussion:

- Alberto Ramirez, Principal, Carmel River Elementary School

*Mr. Ramirez was running late and the suggested arrival time was to be at 3 p.m.
Mr. Ramirez did not attend the meeting*

- BTE Presentation

At the start of the meeting the General Manager, Barbara Buikemo, requested that the BTE presentation be presented when Mr. Ramirez and Dan Paul, Chief Operating Officer, Carmel Unified School District are at the meeting.

President White stated that a BTE presentation will be done on Monday, June 3rd for the Carmel Residents Association.

Discussion Of Benefits To The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea & The Public:

- This project will engage and bring together participants locally, regionally, and globally to the natural beauty of the Carmel Area by experiencing the extended walking and hiking trails, stimulating economic opportunity across our tourism and local economy ecosystem. Parts of the trail will be accessible to people with disabilities
- Creates a major trail connection for residents and visitors walking or biking from Carmel south and north over the Carmel River
- Will improve the well-being and health of our residents, including by drawing in other local communities from across Monterey County and adjacent counties to participate in healthy outdoor activities and to learn about/appreciate the beauty of our natural resources.
- Elevates Carmel-by-the Sea's marketing and publicity opportunities, which will drive tourism, particularly as a marketing resource for the Carmel Hotel Owners Associations and other local businesses.
- Will motivate more people to access BTE's connection spaces without needing to create new parking areas.
- Opening Rio Park creates a new 6.5-acre passive-use park for safe walking and biking with a modest city investment. This is the first new park in 34 years.
- Rio Park area will maintain a modest, restricted Public Works/Forestry materials storage compound.
- Addition of Rio Park to the City's public open spaces with active/passive recreational opportunities.
- Rio Park's design will be a dual-purpose infrastructure concept for the retention and processing of stormwater.
- Rio Park's design will provide some seasonal flooding relief.
- A new crosswalk at Mission Trail Nature Preserve Rio Road will create a dual-purpose safe pathway for children and other walkers to circumvent busy Rio Road in order to access the youth baseball field and the Carmel Mission Basilica.
- Future opportunities to expand and improve "Flows to the Bay".

Additional comments were made by Laura Bowling stating the meeting with the City went well. A sample lease will be prepared and a written response to the questions the City asked for will be provided by District.

There was a discussion about the need to clean up the Rio Park site. Mayar Potter responded that a schematic be drawn up with the ingress and egress and how the easements will be addressed, any parking needed, would there be the ability to store building material at the site or elsewhere at a District property.

At 2:13 pm Lauro Bowling and Patrick Treanor went through the BTE presentation and discussed:

- *10 public access walking trails*
- *Safety for the youth walking to school*
- *Increasing public access and improving the community well being*

President White suggested changing the terminology from park to nature preserve. This language change will be investigated.

Patrick Treanor stated that the new bridge would be ADA compliant.

Brett Bell is interested in keeping apprised of this project.

General Discussion Items:

4. Future Protocols:

- This committee has recurring meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.
- Items that are to be placed on the agenda for next month must be received eight days prior to each meeting.
- All communication response turnaround time is within 24 hours or less (e.g. phone calls, emails, invitation request, information request).
- Next assigned target goals will require your focus in order to meet targeted deadlines.

Greg D'Ambrosio brought up that action is needed by the City regarding the annexation of Rio Park from the County. The City representative stated that it is policy not to initiate annexations but they would consider a request. Doug Schmitz stated the property in question belongs to the City. The City representative stated they will work with the City attorney to provide an answer.

President White requested to contact the neighbors in the area and explain the BTE project. Paul Bartow stated he will follow up on this request.

5. Initial Report On Rio Park- Protected Species Survey Results:

- See initial field study of the Dusky footed woodrat nesting sites-recommendation is for a second field study in late fall.
- Storage Site or Alternate Option

6. Topics of discussion:

- Where are we on the easement? Do we have a definitive answer or do

we need to solicit a professional to make a final determination.

Patrick is going to discuss this topic more with Doug Schmitz.

- Rio Park Zone Designation- Currently this is under county jurisdiction until annexation by the City is completed. Requesting the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea start the annexation process to take control.
 - Discuss zoning designation

The City representative will meet with the City attorney to provide an answer regarding annexation.

7. **Requesting Status Update on the Logo Trademark:**

- What is the time line to securing the trademark?

This is still in process per Laura Bowling

- Are there any additional requirements?

This is still in process per Laura Bowling

8. **Designated Negotiating Team:** (Doug, Greg, Barbara, and Patrick)

- Requesting general discussion on negotiation issues.

The meeting took place and an introduction was completed with Chip Rerig.

9. **Schedule BTE Presentation to the City Council.**

- Suggested date and time

Ken White will work with Mayor Potter to get a date.

10. **Budget Expenditures Guidelines:**

- What are the staff's established expenditure limitation for the BTE?

The Dusky Footed Woodrots nest are present and an assessment was completed. Greg D'Ambrosio asked how the expenses will be addressed as they come up. Barbara Buikema stated that a summary report will be provided to the BTE committee and the District current policy will be followed.

- When do we need to submit approvals to the District board?

When it exceeds the General Managers signing authority of \$35K.

11. **Future identifiable Project Expenditures:**

- Pending protected species field survey report and map
- Trimming & general cleanup
- Cost of hauling log debris and spoils
- Clear debris and make site safe
- Identify costs as necessary

Ken White stated these expenditures will be dependent on the City's reaction to cleaning up the site.

Patrick Treanor suggested that an item be agendaized regarding grants and/or funding in general. Laura Bowling stated that Brett's comment on educational aspects of this project could be grant funded. At the next board meeting could the types of grants be discussed.

Patrick Treanor also suggested a public bond funding, which will leave it up to the public to decide if the project should move forward.

Paul Bartow was concerned about the right of way through the Dioceses. Doug Schmitz is working on this communication.

Paul also asked if the District could consider clearing the area up so the bridge can be seen by the public.

12. BTE Outreach:

- Who will manage the outreach and scheduling for our target audiences(s)

Mike Rachel requested that other agencies be reached out (e.g. Sierra Club). Laura Bowling stated that the outreach will be at a grass root level until additional funding can be obtained. Laura suggested developing an outreach scheduling calendar.

- *In written communication: Greg D'Ambrosio requested that Peninsula Bicycling Clubs be included in the public outreach (e.g., Monterey Velo Bicycle Club and Monterey Off Road Bicycling Associations)*

- 13. ADJOURNMENT:** *The committee adjourned the meeting at 3:25. The next Bridge to Everywhere committee meeting will occur on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 at 2 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, May 30, 2024, in person or with a teleconference webinar link. The teleconference webinar is hosted through Zoom and you may receive access by visiting our website homepage, www.cawd.org, calling the District office at 831-624-1248 or via email at downstream@cawd.org.*

AS REPORTED TO:

Domine Barringer
Domine Barringer, Board Clerk

APPROVED:


Ken White, President of the Board