

DEL MONTE FOREST PROPERTY OWNERS

HIKING AND EQUESTRIAN TRAILS COMMITTEE (HETC) MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 19, 2017 ~ 1:45 p.m.

Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD) Board Room

Leadership Members present: *DMFPO Board Members:* Bart Bruno, Kamlesh Parikh, Maureen Lyon
Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC) Board Members: Don Eastman and Kim Caneer

Absent: *DMFPO Board Members:* Katie Spitz

Resource Members present: *Pebble Beach Company (PBC):* Dawn Mathes, Micah Hawbaker (alternate for Shawn Casey)
DMFC Board President: Suha Kilic
PBCSD General Manager: Mike Niccum
Open Space Advisory Committee Chairman: Rick Verbanec

Absent: None

Guests present: Elizabeth Behrens-Nagle, Nancy Dwan, Kelly Getreu, Gina Gianfala, Marcia Hayes, Cheryl Jordan, Margaret Leighton, Thea Montella, Averil Nero, and Mary Wiltse

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Bruno called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.
2. **Acceptance/Modification of Agenda** – There were no requested changes to the agenda.
3. **Introduction of Guests:** Those noted above were present.

Chair Bruno addressed the committee, stating that the newly formed committee under the umbrella of DMFPO will promote many of the issues of the now disbanded PBRTA while working cordially with PBC and other organizations such as DMFC, and PBCSD. Creation of new committees can be difficult and there have been challenges. This cannot be allowed to disrupt what are admirable goals for the benefit of all property owners. While attaining such goals, the DMFPO organization is bound by its stated purpose, bylaws and procedures, and by corresponding agreements made with PBC. The board's purpose is a commitment to promoting balance among competing desires to conserve the unique environment of the forest and shoreline. Forty miles of hiking trails are a vital part of our environment. The HETC goal is to bring to the board how best to promote development, improvement and use of these trails. The job description and board manual for roads and land use can be used to determine how and what the committee should do: monitor hiking and equestrian trail conditions in the forest and interface with PBC regarding maintenance as defined in the 1984 Land Use Plan (LUP) agreement between PBC and the County Board of Supervisors.

Emphasis is given to “balancing between competing desires” and “cordial interface with PBC.”

So while hiking and equestrian trails and their place in the forest are this committee's primary concern, we must put this in perspective with all the needs and desires of the community and the capabilities and responsibilities of PBC. For those not familiar with the terms of the 1984 Agreement, there are general statements regarding PBC responsibilities on open space management and public access areas, however there are no specifics as to trails. PBC has agreed to continue to maintain Collins Field and the Equestrian Center well beyond its 1984 Agreement obligation. In the amended LUP, the issue of trails *has* been addressed, with PBC agreeing that interior trails "shall be permanently protected for long-term and continued public use" and expressing its willingness to accomplish these goals.

The Committee's recent efforts in trail survey reports, evaluations, and recommendations required a great deal of time and effort on the part of the members and is vital in determining what needs to be done – many thanks to the members for a job well done.

The HETC mission statement issued circa April 27th that included an evaluation of PBC with regard to trail maintenance was something the committee was *not* entitled to make public (as it did) prior to submission and approval by the DMFPO board. That action will need to be corrected. The committee shall move forward ruled by standard DMFO board procedures. We must put the past behind us. It is hoped that the concern for the trails is great enough to do so, and that this committee can go on with its work.

4. Public Comment: There was not public comment.

5. Approval of the Minutes – It was moved by Member Eastman, seconded by Member Parikh, and unanimously carried, to approve as presented the minutes of the HETC meeting held April 4, 2017.

6. PBCSD/Cal Fire:

- a. Annual fire prevention and fire road maintenance – PBCSD General Manager Niccum informed that the District, Cal Fire, DMFC and OSAC, along with PBC, coordinate on fire prevention efforts. The District funds approximately \$190,000 annually for tree thinning, fire road clearance, and other fuel reduction work to protect homes and the Forest.
- b. Goats for trail and fire maintenance – The District budgets up to \$60,000 annually for goat clearance.

7. Pebble Beach Company:

- a. Update on trail and open space improvements – Dawn Mathes thanked the committee for providing the trail surveys under the guidance of Kelly Getreu. Most downed trees have been cleared. Considerable time has been dedicated to weed eating. Approximately 80% of trail clearance was performed on the Green Trail between the Equestrian Center and Spyglass Road, reinforced with decomposed granite. A new alignment was proposed for the trail along Stevenson Drive from Spyglass Woods Drive at the Spyglass Lots, and positive response was received from equestrians – all comments are welcome. Ms. Leighton advised of two areas along the route that need additional work that Ms. Mathes took note of. "Trail days" to perform monthly or quarterly trail work will be instituted by

PBC on the last Tuesday of each month for anyone interested, planned to start at 8:00am – call the DMFPO office to be added to the list that will be developed for participants to receive invitations and information on the trail work. PBC will address missing or fallen trail markers in the near future. An outside crew will be hired to help with heavier trail work. A new forestry manager is in the process of being hired by PBC.

8. New Business:

- a. Communications protocol – Chair Bruno stated that HETC meetings would continue on a quarterly basis. Functioning under DMFPO, the HETC is a depository of information from committee members and the community. In addition to direct comment to the DMFPO office, Kelly Getreu will remain as one of the persons who will receive trail maintenance needs from equestrians and other trail users. Information provided her will be forwarded to the HETC via calling or emailing the DMFPO or DMFC office no later than 7 days prior to the HETC meetings. The information received is then reviewed, prioritized, and a recommendation provided to the DMFPO board. The board then approves whether the information is to be submitted to PBC. An annual meeting is planned to include all DMFPO members where exclusively trails information is shared.

Member Gianfala suggested providing the forms and trail survey grid map to the public, perhaps through the newsletter or the website; Mrs. Getreu will provide the trail condition packet of forms and maps to Chair Bruno for his reference.

- b. As discussed by the Leadership Members in closed session, the number and composition of the committee membership and the resources of the committee shall be as determined by vote of the DMFPO Board of Directors. Those chosen will be limited to members of the DMFPO, PBC, DMFC, OSAC, & PBCSD. All others shall be considered welcomed guests at the HETC meetings.

9. Old Business:

- a. Newly printed Hiking and Equestrian Trail maps – Kim Caneer suggested adding a line on the DMFPO membership remit envelope that gives the opportunity to donate to the HETC with the donor to receive a map in return.

Member Caneer referred to the PBC Preservation and Redevelopment Plan and the need to review for placement of trails along golf courses and in areas being developed. Member Caneer also requested that two copies be made of the Plan documents so a master could be kept in the DMFPO office and two copies available for check out by those willing to review. She suggested that maps be provided to MPCC members so they are aware of trails that skirt or are on MPCC courses. Chair Bruno will speak with the MPCC general manager on the issue.

Averil Nero suggested that the tradition of the PBRTA annual picnic be continued under the HETC. Past picnics held at Indian Village were very successful, included community members, forged friendships, and would create exposure for the HETC and its efforts.

The suggestion was taken under advisement, however, no activity will be considered until the road to Indian Village is complete and accepted by PBC.

10. Announcements:

- a. Next meeting – October 11, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Dadiw