

**SPECIAL MEETING  
SAN MATEO COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AGENCY  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2006  
7:00 to 9:30 p.m.  
McKinley Institute of Technology Auditorium  
400 Duane Street, Redwood City 94062  
(cross street is James Avenue)**

**MINUTES**

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Roll Call**

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Guingona, Khanna (arrived at 7:06 p.m.), Pincus, Smith, Vanden Bosch

Commissioners Absent: Gandhi and Jeong, Youth Commissioners

Staff Present: Alvarez, Bennett, Herzberg, Holland, Moore, Noyer

**3. Oral Communications**

There were none.

**4. Public Hearing: Draft Huddart/Wunderlich Master Plan**

1. Staff Presentation

Director Holland noted that on August 4, 2005, the Commission directed staff to explore alternatives for cyclists to be routed from Woodside to Skyline Boulevard and to bring recommendations to the Commission prior to its recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for approval of the draft Huddart/Wunderlich Master plan. He said that staff had spent several months soliciting comments from numerous user groups, citizens, and various public agencies, including a recent public meeting at Independence Hall in Woodside. He noted that over 300 written comments on the proposed mountain bike routing alternatives had been received.

Planner Herzberg provided a short overview of the draft Huddart/Wunderlich Master Plan. He said the purpose of the Master Plan was to define a 20-year vision for development, operation and maintenance of the parks. He said following approval of the draft Master Plan an Environmental Impact Report would be prepared so that the final Master Plan could be adopted. He said

following that funds would need to be secured for the construction of the projects proposed in the Master Plan. He said in some instances, additional design planning and CEQA review would be required. He said the proposed "Valley to Skyline Trail" was the most viable mountain bike alternative in either Huddart or Wunderlich Parks and would accommodate mountain bicyclists from Greer Road to Skyline Boulevard where they have access to Purissima and Corte de Madera. He said following construction of the trail and a proposed parking lot that the lands south of King's Mountain Road would be transferred to become part of the adjacent Teague Hill Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District lands.

Mr. Bill Harris, Harris and Associates, provided the Commission with an expanded overview of the draft Master Plan. It was noted previously that this was for the benefit of new Commissioners. Mr. Harris said every stakeholder that could possibly be thought of had been contacted for input on the plan. He said that Huddart Park was dominated by trails. He said the Master Plan identified the development of more picnic areas, a day camp area and indoor facilities that would hopefully increase revenue for Parks. He said that the draft Master Plan's biologist suggested mitigation to reduce sedimentation into the San Francisquito watershed through the use of split rail fencing along the West Union Creek, interpretive signage, and a bridge to cross the creek rather than in-stream crossing. He said at a storm drain system at Wunderlich Park was to be implemented to reduce sedimentation from the stables to the watershed. He said also a new water system was needed in both parks and that signage regarding trail etiquette was proposed.

Director Holland acknowledged the tremendous amount of public involvement there had been over the past several months. He said that the Huddart and Wunderlich Parks are unique jewels in the County public lands and serve as backyard recreation areas featuring incredible experiences with nature through a tremendous trail and parkland network. He said that horse riding, hiking and picnicking have a long, historic tradition in the Parks. He said in the County's review of the public needs and input that staff acknowledged and was sensitive to the traditional uses. He said however that staff had to acknowledge all user groups, new uses, and the changing needs of the citizenry, including the cycling community. He said staff had brought all of those needs into its deliberations over the past several months and had identified the issues as concerns of trail design, safety, enforcement, location, environmental issues, facilities and the capacity of the Division to manage. He said this effort had been divisive and had polarized people and brought new players and issues.

Director Holland said in reviewing the guidance in the County's existing Trails Plan, approved in 2001 and developed in the late 90s, he found it to be inadequate to inform the decision regarding the need, location, or standards for road and mountain bike trails in the County. He said many have asked why put a trail for mountain bicyclists along Squealer Gulch, why now, or why not somewhere else. He said those were legitimate questions as were questions about equity for the cycling community regarding trail access in County Parks.

Director Holland said the County needed to develop a more prescriptive plan that discussed the needs and locations for trails, how they connected into the network of trails within the County, what the standards were for each trail, how they would be maintained, and who would maintain them. He said such a plan needed to involve all user groups as well as land managing agencies in the County and needed to be done now, rather than later, as trails were the single most unique attribute of the County Parks. He said staff's recommendation was three parts: 1) recommend approval of the draft Huddart/Wunderlich Master Plan to the Board of Supervisors; 2) remove the mountain bike trail alternative from the plan; and 3) develop a Trails Master Plan for the County to include all users within the next 18 months and appoint a Blue Ribbon Committee to develop the trails plan.

## 2. Open Public Hearing

## Speakers

1. Shane Overton, OBI, MTBR, MSDHW, NORBA (mountain bikes), Mountain View, said that he belonged to a number of mountain bike organizations. He supported trails for cyclists and noted that cyclists were willing to volunteer to maintain trails.
2. Casey Terribillini, MSAR, Menlo Park, said he was a mountain bicyclist as well as an equestrian and appreciated efforts to find equal trails use for cyclists. He said however that such a trail would need to be logical and safe and what was being proposed was not. He said he was against bicyclists in Huddart and Wunderlich Parks.
3. Ed Begun, Mounted Patrol, Woodside, said he was Captain of the Mounted Patrol and an equestrian of 65 years. He said that he was against introducing more bikes into the area because of the impacts on the infrastructure and increased safety issues.
4. Ernst Meissner, ETRAC, Menlo Park, said there was a unique history of horses in Huddart Park. He said equestrians because of safety issues no longer used areas such as El Corte Madera and Purissima where mountain bicyclists are allowed. He said the draft Master Plan had addressed issues well until the bike access revision. He recommended removal of the bike access revision.
5. Rick De Benedetti, past Captain of the Mounted Patrol, Woodside, said there were environmental concerns with mountain biking because it increased sedimentation into watersheds and increased maintenance costs for trails. He said the parks were a refuge and should maintain their wilderness character.
6. Mike Lewine, Mounted Patrol, Woodside, said that bikes were burdening the Woodside infrastructure. He said most cyclists were not from Woodside and did not contribute to taxes to pay for the extra services needed. He said that the introduction of mountain bicyclists into the Parks would mean an increase in bootleg trails. He asked where an additional \$100,000 would come from to eliminate bootleg trails.
7. Kermet Clayton, member MSAR, Woodside, said that he endorsed preservation of the Parks. He said that a viable alternative to the proposed bike trail had not been discussed. He said that horse and bikes should have separate trails. He said that there had to be a regional approach to bicyclists' concerns. He said that mountain bicyclists have 170 miles of trails available to them in San Mateo County and 190 miles in Santa Clara County. He said that there is a "Valley to Skyline" trail already at Windy Hill. He said perhaps the solution for bikes could be part of the Alpine Trail development. He was against bicycles on trails in Huddart and Wunderlich Parks.
8. Becky Witter, Woodside, said renegade bicyclists and their recreational terrorism were destroying the quality of life in Woodside. She questioned the Commission's decision to explore alternate bike trails at its August 4, 2005 meeting and that only three of the four Commissioners were present that day.
9. Joyce Halpin, ETRAC, La Honda, said she would support a Blue Ribbon Committee to develop a County Trails Plan that would look at all users and hoped that ETRAC, an organization of 12 equestrian groups, would be represented. She said that State Parks regulates users because of terrain and neither bikes nor horses were allowed in the Portola Redwoods State Park and no bikes were allowed at Castle Rocks. She said she was against a bike trail in Huddart Park.
10. Paul Guirata, Woodside, said he was a frequent user of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks and a mix of bicyclists, hikers and horses was not good. He said there were safety issues outside the Parks that was directly related to bike trails. He said cyclists access trails from Greer, Richards and King's Mountain Roads and that shared access for hikers and cyclists was unsafe. He said that cyclists use the parking lot at Woodside Elementary School preventing use of the parking for school events.
11. Robert Susk, Woodside, said he was a Greer Road resident of 50 years. He said his concern with the proposed bike trail was the lack of access. He said Greer Road was a single-lane, "no through traffic" road and was already unsafely congested. He said his second point was a policy point and that Huddart Park, because of its rural wilderness character and the quiet refuge it provided, was not the right place for mountain bicyclists.

12. Lexi Bartlo, member WHOA and ETRAC, Woodside, said it was important to preserve Huddart/Wunderlich parks as they were originally intended by their donors to be semi-wilderness and secluded. She said with the introduction of cyclists to the Purissima Open Space that the noise level had increased tremendously and wildlife sightings had dropped significantly. She said that radar traps were to no avail to stop cyclists from excessive speed. She said cyclists leave trash on the ground and deliberately create mud.
13. Susan Lang, Friends of Huddart/Wunderlich Parks, Woodside, said she and her husband had founded the Friends of Huddart/Wunderlich Parks about 10 years prior, but if they had known then of the bicyclist issues, they would not have founded the Friends. She said that bicyclists should not be allowed on the trails in these parks.
14. Donna Poy, WHOA & ETRAC, Woodside, said that the Commission's direction at its August 4, 2005 meeting to explore a trail for mountain bicyclists conflicted with page 2 of the Master Plan with the statement that safety is the primary concern. She quoted a number of statements from the Master Plan that conflicted with the idea of establishing a trail for mountain bicyclists regarding open space for equestrians so they do not have to compete with bicyclists, preserving the County's cultural treasure, bikes and dogs are upsetting to other uses, protect the pristine quality of the parks, and protect the watershed from sedimentation.
15. Fentress Hall, Woodside, urged the Commission to keep the parks open to all people but not all users because of safety issues and to preserve the wilderness character of the Parks.
16. Rolly Steele, Mounted Patrol, Woodside, related his experience with "rogue" mountain bicyclists who caused his horse to rear, throwing him off and breaking his shoulder, and then chasing his horse without offering him any aid. He cited another instance when his family was taking a ride on Christmas Eve and were accosted by "rogue" mountain bicyclists who directed profane remarks to the children on the ride.
17. Kathrin Dancer, Woodside Junior Riders, Woodside, said that Greer and Tripp Roads were very narrow and made narrower by cars parking along them. She said to open a trail for cyclists would compound this problem. She said that park usage should be limited to hiking, running and equestrians because of these safety and parking issues.
18. Susan Doherty, Woodside Cycling, Woodside, said that bicycling was good and resident bicyclists loved their rural gentle community. She said that she lamented the polarization of the community and that a website and postcard mailing had demonized bicyclists. She said bicyclists needed safe routes so that they were not the targets of cars. She said she also rides horses and that the issue was not about bikes versus horses. She said that bicyclists have rights too.
19. Paul Molder, Atherton, said he was a mountain biker and equestrian, but horses and bikes were not a good mix. He said they not only needed to be kept separate but bikes should be kept out of the sight line of horses. He said as a watershed manager in the area of the Parks that he spent two to three thousand dollars annually to repair fences that renegade bikers took down to create new illegal trails.
20. Mark Deem, Mountain View, said that the impacts of cyclists are over-exaggerated by a closed community, and that public access should be fair and even. He said horses were not a low-impact on the environment. He said he supported the idea of a Blue Ribbon Committee to develop a comprehensive trails plan.
21. Trent Poltronetti, member ROMP/IMBA, Palo Alto, supported the opening of a new trail for mountain bikes and felt that horse owners should learn to share. He said the demographics of park users was changing.
22. Tom Ward, International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), Sacramento, said he was the recently retired Recreation Director for State Parks, and that State Parks embraces multi-use. He said that the demographics of park users was evolving. He said he supported the proposed bike trail. He said that IMBA was a non-profit 501.c whose mission was to maintain and preserve trails for responsible mountain bikers.
23. Brooke Fox, San Mateo Horsemen's Assoc., Folger Restoration, ETRAC, Volunteer Horse Patrol, Palo Alto, said it was unsafe to mix these uses and that the Town of Woodside was opposed to the proposal for a mountain bike trail through Huddart Park. She said that a paid

- lobbyist represented the cyclists. She said “rogue” bicyclists come into the Park at night with lights on their helmets to create illegal trails and that residents had no way of stopping them.
24. Vera Quijano, Woodside, said her concern was public safety. She said 70 percent of the cyclists in Woodside were not residents. She said local residents were careful traversing the narrow roads in the area, but cyclists were not necessarily careful.
  25. Judith Swartz, Friends of Huddart/Wunderlich, said that she would support the formation of a Blue Ribbon Committee to get bicyclists and equestrians together to work on a trail to the ridge. She said horses deserved a place in the parks and were part of the legacy and history of the area. She said that mixed use of bikes and horses in these parks would not work because of safety issues.
  26. Steve Lubin, Woodside, said he was a member of the Woodside Trails and Bicycle Committees. He said that he has been a bicyclist since 1957 and at that time bicyclists had a multitude of routes to use. He said that development had cut off many of those routes. He said he could emphasize with the loss equestrians had experienced because as a bicyclist he had lost a lot. He said that a bike route should not be accessed from Greer Road but from Edgewood or the Canada Road area.
  27. Patty Ciesla, Executive Director, Northern California Mountain Bike Association, said that the proposed bike trail would not intersect at any point with horses. She said that equestrians would not lose anything if this trail were built. She guaranteed that her organization could raise funds and build the trail with volunteers.
  28. Doug Hall, San Francisco, said that a bigger issue beyond this trail was national obesity. He said the number of school children riding their bikes to school had dropped by 90 percent. He said bicycling is a healthy activity that battles obesity.

Chair Smith said that there was only 26 minutes remaining for the building’s use for this meeting. He said that if people wanted to defer their comments that the Commission could come to a decision or the meeting could be continued to the regular Commission meeting of April 6, 2006, 2:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 400 County Center, Redwood City.

Commissioner Khanna said he was hearing support for Director Holland’s recommendation for a Blue Ribbon Committee for a comprehensive trails master plan. He suggested that perhaps the remaining speakers might want to limit their comments to whether they would support that idea or not.

A member of the audience noted that Woodside’s Town Manager was present and it would be appropriate to hear from the Town of Woodside.

29. Susan George, Woodside Town Manager, Woodside resident, said the Town Council at its March 14 meeting heard three-and-a-half to four hours of testimony mainly regarding the proposed bicycle trail. She said the Woodside Council was adamantly opposed to the use of Huddart Park for the construction of either road or mountain bicycle trails. She said the Council is supportive of a collaborative approach to identifying a viable valley-to-Skyline alternative that does not utilize the lands of either Huddart or Wunderlich Parks. She said the proposed bike trail would impact the Town’s infrastructure including parking, traffic, litter and the need for restroom facilities. She said the Council was opposed to the elimination of in-stream crossing without additional data to substantiate claims of impacts on water.
30. John Grundy, ROMP, Nor-Cal bikes, IMBA, Menlo Park, said that mountain bikers unlike equestrians travel up to 120 miles a day and need to ride through a number of places. He said that County parks are for everyone, not just horses, and the valley-to-Skyline trail and N/S position were needed for mountain bikes.
31. Janet Estep, Woodside resident, said she was a neighbor of Huddart Park. She provided the Commissioners with a map from the 1982 Huddart Park Master Plan that showed the slopes of the area. She said that where the bike trail was proposed the slope made it unfeasible. She said that bicyclists make illegal trails in the Park and the Friends restore them. She said within

a week the illegal trails reappear. She said the bike route proposal was inconsistent with the County's General Plan, Trails Plan and 1982 Huddart Master Plan.

32. Jeanne Carley – did not speak – written comments on speaker's slip: SMCHA, Los Viajeros, Shack Riders, Volunteer Horse Patrol, no on bikes.
33. Kris Moriarty – did not speak, Woodside Trail Club, Portola Valley, owns horses who live at 410 Mountain Home Road and 3445 Woodside Road, Woodside – mixing mountain bikes and equestrians inappropriate and dangerous to both parties – area lacks infrastructure to support more cyclists – parking, bathroom, wide road, restaurants, etc.
34. Art Lesser, Redwood City, said he was concerned about any additional bike usage as the number of bicyclists was already creating problems for the Town of Woodside and the surrounding community.

The public hearing will be continued at the Commission's regular meeting of April 6, 2006 and the remaining speaker slips (35 through 60) would be heard first at that meeting.

3. Close Public Hearing
4. Commission Action

## **5. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.