



Attachment "A"

SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 24, 2013 MINUTES

5:06 p.m. Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Laurie Gallian	Sue Conley	Jeff Holtzman
Shanti Edwards	Cary Fargo	John Nagle
Don McEnhill	Bill Smith	

Members Absent

Kristin Thigpen	Jan McFarland
Steve Rabinowitsh	Dennis Murphy

Staff Present Bill Keene, General Manager; Misti Arias, Acquisition Program Manager; Sue Gallagher, County Counsel; Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager; Sara Press, Acquisition Associate Planner; Leslie Lew, Stewardship Associate Planner; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Public Attendees Temra Fisher

Announcement from the Chair

Vice Chair Gallian standing in for Chair announced the Advisory Committee's newest member, Don McEnhill. Bill Keene, General Manager, introduced Don to members and each member introduced themselves to Don.

Public Comment

No public comments on items not on agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Gallian standing in for Chair asked for comments on the minutes of December 13, 2012. Motion by Sue Conley to approve minutes and seconded by Cary Fargo. All were in favor.

Advisory Committee Administration

- a) Election of Committee Officers

Vice Chair Gallian asked for a nomination for Chair. John Nagle nominated Laurie Gallian and Bill Smith seconded. All in favor, vote was 8 to 0. Laurie Gallian accepted the nomination.

Chair Gallian asked for a nomination for Vice Chair. Laurie Gallian nominated Steve Rabinowitsh and Cary Fargo seconded. All in favor, vote was 8 to 0. Steve Rabinowitsh was absent from the meeting but had expressed interest in this position.

Chair Gallian asked for a nomination for Chair Pro Tem. Jeff Holtzman nominated Cary Fargo and Sue Conley seconded. All in favor, vote was 8 to 0. Cary Fargo accepted nomination.

b) Advisory Committee Rules of Procedure

Chair Gallian asked for a review of the Advisory Committee Rules of Procedure. After members reviewed the rules, Bill Smith motioned to approve Rules of Procedure and Don McEnhill seconded. All in favor, vote was 8 to 0.

c) Ad Hoc Subcommittee Assignments

General Manager Bill Keene requested that a Matching Grant Ad Hoc Subcommittee be formed for 2013. Chair Gallian asked for volunteers. Four committee members volunteered: Sue Conley, Jeff Holtzman, Bill Smith and Laurie Gallian. Members not present will receive an email from Committee Clerk Mariah Robson to find out if there are interested members who were not in attendance. Don McEnhill moved to accept the Ad Hoc committee and John Nagle seconded. All in favor, vote was 8 to 0.

Mr. Keene added that there would not be an Ad Hoc Subcommittee for the Mitigation Policy this year as all members seem very interested in this topic.

d) Committee Calendar and Roster

Chair Gallian asked members to review the calendar dates for meetings in 2013. John Nagle made a motion to approve and Jeff Holtzman seconded. All in favor, vote was 8 to 0. Chair Gallian had members look over the roster and give the Advisory Committee Clerk any address, phone number or email changes that needed to be made. Motion to approve the roster by Cary Fargo and Don McEnhill seconded. All in favor, vote was 8 to 0.

Chair Gallian mentioned that several members terms are expired and Mr. Keene explained that the Board of Directors need to update and will be reappointing all members whose terms have expired and who would like to be reappointed.

Vacancies were also discussed and Mr. Keene explained that two new members will be appointed by the Mayors' and Councilmembers' for the members that were recently not reappointed. These new members will be in attendance at the March meeting.

General Manager's Report

- The Taylor Mountain transfer to Regional Parks will be taken to the Board on February 5, 2013. The transfer will take place sometime in mid February followed by an opening later in February by Regional Parks at which point the public will have access without going through the permit program.
- The Creekside Park Matching Grant Agreement will go to the Board on February 5, 2013 as well. This project is in Monte Rio at the former Monte Rio School.

- The District is working actively with Sonoma County Water Agency on a number of fronts to share resources on joint priorities and gain efficiencies. Karen Gaffney, Planning Program Manager, will bring more information on their collaborative efforts at a future Advisory Committee Meeting.
- The Vegetation and Habitat Map is progressing forward and a coalition is being formed to develop county wide LiDAR – which will enhance the District’s ability to map carbon potential as well as other information about forests and rangelands. The District held a one day workshop a month ago that was well attended by stakeholders and funders.
- The Ecosystem Services initiative is progressing well and there are good connections being made and joint work plans with our local and regional water agencies. This project will also be presented by Karen Gaffney to the Advisory Committee at a later date.

Montini Update

Leslie Lew, Stewardship Associate Planner, and Sara Press, Acquisition Associate Planner, presented a PowerPoint update on the Montini project. Ms. Press spoke regarding the transfer of the property to the City of Sonoma, and Ms. Lew addressed the construction of the trail. The Montini Open Space Preserve provides the scenic backdrop to the City of Sonoma and the District has been working on this project since before 2005. This backdrop looks about the same as it did 100 years ago. Ms. Lew explained that the trail will connect with the existing and popular Overlook Trail in Sonoma. Ms. Press explained that the District will be transferring the property to the City of Sonoma and the transfer of title will likely take place in 2014. The transfer project, which includes a Transfer Agreement, Conservation Easement and Recreation Covenant will be taken to the Board on February 26, 2013. The Board will also review the plans and specifications for construction of the trail project on that date.

Once the trail project is complete, the City of Sonoma will have 30 days to open the property to the public. The Conservation Easement will protect the conservation values on the property and the Recreation Covenant will ensure that the property remains open to the public. Ms. Lew explained that volunteers will be helping to create the trail, with a volunteer training taking place next Saturday. The trail, once completed, will be 1.8 miles long. Small portions of the trail will be ADA accessible.

State Legislative Program Update

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the State Legislative Program. Ms. Gaffney has been working with the Conservation Strategy Group in Sacramento. The Legislative Program helps to track and influence legislation that may affect District programs, processes and funding, and includes AB 32 cap and trade auction revenues, SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy Funding, AB 1532 auction revenue allocation and others. Ms. Gaffney has been working with Conservation Strategy Group to help the District maintain a high profile in Sacramento and with local legislators.

Projects in Negotiations

- Fitch Mountain is in due diligence period and will be closing in April 2013
- Creekside Park Matching Grant Agreement going to the Board on February 5, 2013.

Announcements From Advisory Committee Members

Laurie Gallian, Chair

Happy New Year and I will be working on filling vacancies in the Committee this year. Thank you for my nomination as Chair.

Adjournment: 6:42 pm

Next scheduled meeting date: February 28, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary