

SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
April 28, 2011 MINUTES

5:35 p.m. Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Kristin Thigpen	Janet Orchard	Bill Smith
Cary Fargo	Douglas Hanford	Sue Conley
Suzanne Doyle	Laurie Gallian	Jeff Holtzman
Andy Rodgers	Steve Rabinowitsh	Karen Bianchi Moreda

Members Absent

Dennis Murphy	Yancey Forest Knowles	Guy Wilson	John Nagle
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Staff Present

William J. Keene, General Manager; Maria J. Cipriani, Assistant General Manager; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager; Karen Gaffney, Strategic Initiatives Manager; Sue Gallagher, Deputy County Counsel; Peggy Flynn, Community Relations Manager; Carrie Johnson, Receptionist.

Public Attendees

Donna Norton, Susan Kirks, Tim Smith, Kathy Tresch, Wernher Krutein

Approval of Minutes

Chair Janet Orchard called for comments on the minutes of March 24, 2011. Hearing none, she called for the question. Motion by Laurie Gallian, and second by Kristin Thigpen to approve the minutes.

General Manager's Report

General Manager Bill Keene will return to the Board to introduce a three-year work plan, a fee lands strategy, and financial update. Mr. Keene stated that he and District staff will collaborate with the Committee to develop the plans.

The Committee commended Mr. Keene for the well-prepared workshop presentation, while voicing concern prompted by Board response. Committee members affirmed that the District had made sound financial decisions consistent with the economic climate. The Committee is eager to contribute their extensive experience to assist District staff in developing the three-year and fee lands strategy.

Funding Strategy Update

Strategic Initiatives Manager Karen Gaffney identified resources targeted to expand the District's financial leverage. Ms. Gaffney outlined three objectives: funding, initiatives, and current focus/activities. The presentation included expected outcomes for each objective.

The PowerPoint presentation is posted on the District's website at www.sonomaopenspace.org

Mitigation Policy Issue

Mr. Keene opened the discussion by reiterating the Board's direction to suspend further action, given the pending litigation.

The Committee discussed options to form work groups, independent of the District, and maintain platform for public comment. They concluded that action contrary to Board direction could reflect poorly upon the District and harm the future policy.

County Counsel addressed questions and cited Board direction. Stewardship Program Manager Sheri Emerson stated that Permitted Use Requests that may involve mitigation, proposed prior to policy adoption, will continue to be evaluated on a case by case basis and evaluated against the terms of the conservation easement.

Public Comment

Donna Norton, Tim Smith, Susan Kirks, Kathy Tresch, and Wernher Krutein commented on the Committee's role in developing a mitigation policy and the potential for establishing adverse legal precedent without a checks and balance set in place by policy.

Motion

Chair Orchard made a motion stating that the Committee will write a letter to the Directors addressing the following points:

- 1) noting the letters sent previously by the Committee expressing concerns about mitigation and the continued interest expressed by the public on the issue;
- 2) request by the Committee to be apprised by staff of mitigation proposals that may come forward; and
- 3) the Committee remains very interested in developing a policy at such time direction is given to do so.

Second was made by Ms. Gallian.

Ayes: Orchard, Gallian, Thigpen; Fargo; Doyle; Rodgers; Hanford; Rabinowitsh; Smith; Conley; Holtzman; Bianch Moreda
Noes: 0
Absent: Murphy, Nagle, Forest Knowles, Wilson

Announcements from Advisory Committee Members

Steve Rabinowitsh issued an invitation on behalf of Southeast Greenway Campaign to participate in a community meeting to discuss developing a greenway to Spring Lake. Flyers were passed around.

Adjournment: 7:14 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting dates

- Citizens Advisory Stewardship Sub-Committee—Thursday, May 19, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
- Regular Meeting—Thursday, May 26, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Johnson, Receptionist