



Attachment "A"

*SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 24, 2012 MINUTES*

5:05 p.m. Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Janet Orchard	Sue Conley	Jan McFarland
Jeff Holtzman	Laurie Gallian	Cary Fargo
Suzanne Doyle	Steve Rabinowitsh	Kristin Thigpen

Members Absent

Bill Smith	Shanti Wright	Guy Wilson
Dennis Murphy	John Nagle	

Staff Present Bill Keene, General Manager; Karen Gaffney, Strategic Initiatives Manager; Misti Arias, Conservation Program Manager; Sara Press, Associate Open Space Planner; Sue Gallagher, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Secretary

Public Attendees Susan Kirks, Kara Heckert, Valerie Minton, Bill Haluzak

Announcement from the Chair

No announcements from the Chair

Public Comment

Mr. Bill Haluzak spoke regarding Taylor Mountain access. He expressed his dismay at the public having little access as of yet to Taylor Mountain, and the 'no dog's allowed' policy. He wanted to know what the holdup is. He and his wife have lived in Roseland half of their lives and are very active volunteers in various community projects. He would like the park opened to public access and to have dogs be allowed in the park so that the people in the Southwest of Santa Rosa do not have to travel so far to enjoy the natural world. He feels nothing fancy needs to happen, such as facilities and signs, but just access to the park itself.

Bill Keene, General Manager, responded that Regional Parks is collaborating with the District to plan new facilities and better access to Taylor Mountain via Petaluma Hill Road. There will be additional trails built, however, funding is limited and they are looking for grant funding.

Mr. Haluzak offered his services and tractor as a volunteer if the District and Parks need help getting the facility and access opened to the public.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Orchard asked for comments on the minutes of April 26, 2012. Motion by Laurie Gallian to approve minutes and second by Steve Rabinowitsh.

General Manager's Report

- The Parks Alliance meets each fourth Wednesday of the month at the District and has been successful in keeping five state parks open, including Sugarloaf, for at least the next year. This is not a permanent fix and more resources are needed such as funding and volunteers, but the Alliance has had a positive impact.
- Fee lands strategy will be coming to the Advisory Committee next meeting, on June 28, 2012.
- Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager, will distribute the draft mitigation policy to the Advisory Committee on June 1, 2012 to give members as much time in advance as possible to review the policy before the next meeting. The meeting will be informational and include the potential for the Committee to take action on this item.
- Sheri Emerson will also be presenting a framework for the fee lands strategy on June 28, 2012. This item will come back to the Advisory Committee at a future meeting with a detailed plan for all fee lands.
- The Press Democrat has printed articles recently regarding the PG&E work along transmission lines in Sonoma Valley. Sheri Emerson is talking to them. Trees that are in District easements will be discussed so that the impact of PG&E's work effects our easements as little as possible. Supervisor's Brown and Zane have sent letters to PG&E regarding cutting down the trees and a copy of that letter will be retrieved and sent to all members.
- Regional Parks has put a tenant on Jacob's Ranch who will be there as early as June 1st. This person will act as property manager.
- Paula Lane closed last week.
- Bordessa is scheduled to close tomorrow and the Bordessa lawsuit has been dismissed.

July and August Meetings

Chair Orchard asked the committee if they would like to keep the July and August meetings in session this summer or cancel one of the months due to high volume of vacations and absences. An early poll conducted by the Advisory Committee Secretary via email disclosed that at least eleven members would be present for the July meeting and it was decided that since two important items with deadlines would be presented that evening that the July meeting would not be canceled. Motion to cancel August meeting by Kristen Thigpen and second by Laurie Gallian.

New Acquisition Projects Overview

Misti Arias, Conservation Program Manager and Sara Press, Associate Open Space Planner, presented two new acquisition projects to the Advisory Committee. The District uses a candidate list as a waiting list and when a space opens up for a new project to start, it is taken off the candidate list. Two new projects the District is working on are Foppiano Vineyards and Rancho Mark West.

Foppiano Vineyards is located between the Russian River and the east side of Highway 101 and on both sides of Old Redwood Highway and the SMART train corridor. It is a greenbelt and community separator project. The majority of the property is agricultural land planted in grapes. The property has been owned by the same family for over 100 years and has been in production the whole time. It is prime farmland. The District is currently working with the family to negotiate a 160-acre easement over the property.

The 120 acre Rancho Mark West is located off of St. Helena Road and is the same parcel on which the District has a conservation easement, acquired from the Doerksens back in 1993.. LandPaths has a purchase agreement with the Doerksens in which the Doerksens retain a life estate. The District will amend the existing easement to provide additional protection to the redwood forest and the grasslands. There may also be a grant agreement to ensure LandPaths will continue to use the property for outdoor education. There is a possibility as well to link up to Saddle Mountain which could create better access to Saddle Mountain than currently exists. This is an unusual situation and does not happen often, but the amended agreement will provide more protection and more public access for the property.

Strategic Initiatives & Funding Update

Karen Gaffney, Strategic Initiatives Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the District's strategic initiatives and a funding update that included:

- Economic Valuation of Conservation
- Greenprint
- Funding Outlook, Opportunities & Actions

The District received a grant from the Moore Foundation to evaluate the economic benefits of conservation and educate decision makers and community leaders about these economic benefits in order to enhance and expand investment in conservation. (PRESENTATION ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT A)

Projects in Negotiations

The District is continuing to work with the property representative on acquisition of Fitch Mountain. Bill Keene, General Manager, is optimistic that it will be successful this time.

Announcements From Advisory Members

Laurie Gallian

- 2012 Cottage & Garden Tour in Sonoma, Sunday June 3rd, put on by the Sonoma League for Historic Preservation.
- A trail was built between Flowery School and Larson Park in Sonoma, making it much safer for the school children.

Steve Rabinowitsh and Kristen Thigpen

- An event regarding greenways in Southeast Santa Rosa and San Francisco, called Urban Greenways, Connecting Neighborhoods, Transforming Communities, will be taking place Thursday, June 7, 2012 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Location for the event is the Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa. Doors will open at 6:30 pm. Guest speakers from the San Francisco Parks Alliance will be in attendance to speak about the Blue Greenway in San Francisco.

Adjournment: 6:51pm.

Next scheduled meeting date: June 28, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary