



Attachment "A"

SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
July 26, 2012 MINUTES

5:10 p.m. Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Janet Orchard	Bill Smith	Jan McFarland
Laurie Gallian	Suzanne Doyle	Jeff Holtzman
Steve Rabinowitsh		

Members Absent

Guy Wilson	Sue Conley	Cary Fargo
Dennis Murphy	John Nagle	
Shanti Wright	Kristin Thigpen	

Staff Present Bill Keene, General Manager; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager; Sue Gallagher, County Counsel; Misti Arias, Conservation Program Manager; DeAnna Kamber, Assistant Planner; Sara Press, Associate Open Space Planner; Curtis Kendall, OSD Planning Technician; Sue Jackson, Administrative Aide.

Public Attendees Elizabeth Tyree, Robert O'Connor, Janice Gilligan, Susan Kirks, Joanne Parker, Janet Zagoria, Patti Brunelle, Ken Wells, Lucy Barnett, David Bannister, Brian Grant, Stephanie Felch, Brian Martens, Mary Luttrell

Announcement from the Chair

No announcements from the Chair

Public Comment

No public comments on items not on agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Orchard asked for comments on the minutes of June 28, 2012. Motion by Bill Smith to approve minutes and second by Suzanne Doyle.

Fee Lands Strategy Revisited

Bill Keene, General Manager, introduced the item, and commended staff for their work developing the Fee Lands Strategy. Sheri Emerson presented the Fee Lands Strategy, providing an overview of properties owned by the District. She described the Tier-One and

Tier-Two properties and action plan and answered questions from the Committee. Sheri reported that the District is recruiting for a Volunteer Coordinator to oversee and expand stewardship activities on District owned properties.

The Committee members stated their overall approval of the plan.

Steve Rabinowitsh of the Committee voiced support of the District's strategic approach. He said he would like the District to keep the option of buying "in fee" open, when buying in fee is necessary to secure desirable property. He asked for additional information about trail construction. Sheri responded that the District will be looking to partnering organizations for trail construction and maintenance.

Vice Chair Gallian stated her support of the District's strategic approach. She urged the District to prioritize filling the Volunteer Coordinator position, as volunteerism allows increased public access.

Chair Orchard stated that the Fee Lands Strategy should be consistent with the Mitigation Policy once it is adopted.

Chair Orchard solicited public comment. There was none.

The next steps in the process will be to continue compiling public comments until August 10th, and subsequent presentation to the Board of Directors in September 2012 for review and approval.

The Advisory Committee recessed at 5:40 p.m. and reconvened at 6:00 p.m.

Matching Grant Program

Deputy County Counsel Sue Gallagher reported that, while there is a quorum, two members will need to recuse themselves from the Matching Grant Program discussion, which will result in a lack of quorum. While the staff report, public comment and discussion with the remaining Advisory Committee members can occur, no action related to the MGP recommendation can occur. Staff can communicate public comments to the Board.

DeAnna Kamber gave an overview of the program and its recommended recipients. Nine applications were received; one was ineligible and one was withdrawn. The recommended projects, applicants, and those who spoke in support of the project are:

- Creekside Park Phase 1A
Applicant/Partner: Monte Rio Recreation and Parks Dept
Speaking in support: Brian Grant
- Forever Forestville
Applicant/Partner: Forestville Planning Association
Speaking in support: Lucy Barnett Hardcastle
- Guerneville River Park Phase 2
Applicant/Partner: Sonoma County Regional Parks
Speaking in support: Elizabeth Tyree
- Irwin Creek Trail Access and Riparian Restoration
Applicant/Partner: Laguna Foundation/City of Santa Rosa
Speaking in support: David Bannister
- SMART Pathway – Hearn to Bellevue Segment
Applicant/Partner: SMART

Speaking in support: Joanne Parker

- Sonoma Garden Park Phase 2
Applicant/Partner: Sonoma Ecology Center/City of Sonoma
Speaking in support: Mark Newhouser

One applicant, Bayer Neighborhood Park and Gardens, Phase 1 (City of Santa Rosa) was not recommended, but was encouraged by Chair Orchard to submit an application in the next round.

Considerations for 11/12 MGP Funds Not Expended

The MGP subcommittee reported that they had met. Further discussion on the agenda item was postponed due to the abovementioned lack of a quorum.

General Manager's Report

- District management and Supervisor McGuire will continue discussions with Pacific Gas & Electric related to the utility's process for managing vegetation underneath transmission lines. Additionally, Regional Parks and District management participated in a briefing with Assembly member Chesbro.
- The District has concerns about the safety of the surface on the Laguna Trails at Kelly Farm. The District and Regional Parks are working together to repair the damage this fall, and hope to open the trail to the public upon completion.

Projects in Negotiations

No Report Out

Announcements From Advisory Members

Laurie Gallian

- Commended KRCB's Series on Sonoma County watersheds.
- Commended SAY for their work with 170 youths throughout Sonoma County, including 33 from the City of Sonoma, who worked to repair riparian corridors. The youth and SAY will be publicly honored on August 1 from noon until 1:00 and all are encouraged to attend.
- "Broadway Under the Stars" – a fundraiser for State Parks – is a wonderful show that should be supported. Next performance is August 3rd and 4th "Fantastical Family Night."

Adjournment: 7:15pm

Next scheduled meeting date: September 27, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Jackson,
Administrative Aide,
on behalf of Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary