



Attachment "A"

SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 23, 2014 MINUTES

5:08 p.m. Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

John Nagle	Cary Fargo	Jeff Holtzman
John Dell'Osso	Bill Smith	Jan McFarland
Shanti Edwards	Curt Nichols	Laurie Gallian
Don McEnhill	Gary Wysocky	

Members Absent

John Azevedo	Steve Rabinowitsh
Sue Conley	Janet Orchard
Kristin Thigpen	

Staff Present Bill Keene, General Manager; Misti Arias, Acquisitions Program Manager; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager; Elizabeth Coleman, County Counsel; Mary Dodge, Administrative & Fiscal Services Manager; Curtis Kendall, Acquisition Assistant; Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Public Comment

Chair Laurie Gallian asked for public comments on items not listed on the agenda.

Duane DeWitt commented on the District's past funding of seventeen acres along Roseland Creek in the neighborhood of Roseland on Burbank Avenue. The 17 acres is near a school allowing the schoolchildren the opportunity to experience an oak woodland in an urban area. Mr. DeWitt thanked the District. He also requested the District and the Advisory Committee Members work with non-profit and community groups in Roseland to do some urban forestry. He noted that there are many opportunities to do great things with urban forestry in Santa Rosa.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Gallian asked for comments on the minutes from August 28, 2014. One correction needed to be made. Motion to approve the minutes with correction by John Dell'Osso; Bill Smith seconded the motion. There was one abstention (who?), and nine in favor of approval of the minutes with the correction.

General Manager's Report

- General Manager Bill Keene, commented on the Advisory Committee field trip to the Montini Open Space Preserve last month. He would like to have a field trip at least once a year with the Advisory Committee and suggested North Sonoma Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve next year when it is open to the public. There will be a dedication and ribbon cutting event for the opening of Montini on Saturday, November 1 from 3:00 to 5:00. An invitation to the event that will be sent to the Advisory Committee Members. The City of Sonoma is now the new owner of the Montini Open Space Preserve.
- The Matching Grant Projects went to the Board October 14, 2014 and the Board approved all of them. The General Manager thanked the Advisory Committee for its work on these.
- The District Outings and Educational contracts also went to the Board October 14, 2014 and the Board approved them. The vendors will be conducting educational outings over the next three years. \$1.2 million dollars in contracts were approved.
- The Fitch Mountain acquisition, 180 acres in Healdsburg, went to the Board this week and was approved. The transfer went through the city of Healdsburg to LandPaths who will hold the property for three years and transfer back to the city.
- The Curreri Conservation Easement acquisition also went to the Board this week and will become part of Sonoma County Regional Parks.
- Mr. Keene went on a field trip September 23, 2014 to the East Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail. This trail creates an extension of the ridge trail. It is 1.2 miles long and connects the southern portion of the trail to Jack London State Park and onto Ted Eliot's home property. It is a small loop that goes through an oak forest. Sonoma County Trails Council volunteers, lead by Ken Wells, helped the District with the trail by brush clearing and finish work. The District could not have completed the trail without their help. This would be a good trail to take the Advisory Committee to in the future. It will be open in the spring of 2015.
- Mr. Keene's contract with the County Board of Directors was approved for three years on October 14, 2014. The BOD's has several goals for him to work on during the three years: Urban Farm development; the completion of the tier one transfers; continuing to protect the land; recognition of the District's 25th anniversary through a history of the District including the originators of the District, , and possibly a digital history of the District; implementation of the Management Review recommendations; and a long term study of stewardship costs.

Acquisition Program Update

Misti Arias, Acquisition Program Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the current acquisitions at the District. She began with the status of the fee transfers. There were originally ten properties in tier one and seven of those have been transferred. There are three still needing to be transferred. Three properties have been added and three are being considered. Currently there are twenty one active projects, fifteen on the candidate list and twenty five active matching grant projects, which includes ongoing reimbursements.

Ms. Arias highlighted four projects: Curreri, Foppiano Vineyards, Jones Dairy, and Howlett Tree Farm, which is adjacent to Buckeye Forest, formerly known as Preservation Ranch.

The PowerPoint presentation is available at the District for more information.

Fee Lands Strategy Update and Initial Public Access, Operation and Maintenance Policy

Mr. Keene and Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Fee Lands Strategy Update and Initial Public Access, Operation and Maintenance IPAOM Policy. Mr. Keene began the presentation by stating that a few years ago, the District came to the Advisory Committee and the Board with a policy on fee lands strategy and it was approved by the Board in November 2012. The policy needs to be updated and brought back to the Board. After the Fee Lands Strategy was approved, the District took the IPAOM Policy to the Board and it was approved October 2013, but there is still work to be done on clarifying the policy and the definition of Initial Public Access. The District asked for input from the Advisory Committee. The District will also take this item to the Fiscal Oversight Commission for input and then to the Board in early 2015. Ms. Emerson explained that when the fee lands strategy first went to the Board the District held 7400 acres of fee lands. Approximately 2400 acres have transferred in the last couple of years. 3900 acres are to be transferred by 2017 as partners take on more lands. There are about 1100 acres that currently do not have ready recipients. To see the Fee Lands Strategy Update and Initial Public Access, Operation and Maintenance Policy in more detail, the PowerPoint presentation is available upon request at the District offices.

Chair Gallian opened up the discussion to the Advisory Committee, and then to the public. During the discussion it was noted by the Chair that it was getting late and she asked if the committee was in favor of extending the meeting to 7:10. All were in favor. After the discussion, Mr. Keene explained that all of the Committee's and public's comments would be taken into account, and that this item will come back to the Advisory Committee after being taken to the District's Fiscal Oversight Commission and then discussed with several stakeholders, but before going to the Board in 2015.

Projects in Negotiations

- Mr. Keene announced that the projects in negotiations were covered earlier in Ms. Arias' Acquisition Program Update

Announcements From Advisory Committee Members

Laurie Gallian

Chair Gallian announced that there was no November meeting and that the next Advisory Committee Meeting would be December 11, the second week in December instead of the fourth due to the Holidays.

Adjournment: 7:10 pm

Next scheduled meeting date: December 11, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary