



Attachment "A"

*SONOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AND OPEN SPACE
DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE*

May 25, 2017 MINUTES

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

Members Present

Curt Nichols	Doug Lipton	Bill Smith	Don McEnhill
Jan McFarland	John Nagle	Evan Wiig	David Cook
Neysa Hinton	John Dell'Osso	Paul Martin	

Members Absent

Kristin Thigpen	Regan Connell
Steve Rabinowitsh	Elly Grogan
Cary Fargo	

Staff Present

Bill Keene, General Manager; Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager; Alex Roa, Associate Planner; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager; Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist; Catherine Iantosca, Stewardship Technician; Bob Pittman, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Chair Dell'Osso called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

Public Comment

Chair Dell'Osso asked for public comments on items not on the agenda.

Duane DeWitt spoke about Paulin Creek Preserve as a good model for Roseland. He created a park equity study of Santa Rosa in 2010 and documented that most of the parks were in the North East side of the city and no parks were in the South East side. He does not want to see Bayer Farm overly developed but kept in a natural state.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Dell'Osso asked for any corrections to the April 27, 2017 minutes. Seeing none, Chair Dell'Osso approved the minutes as they were.

General Manager's Report Out

- Bill Keene introduced two new Advisory Committee members: Paul Martin, farmer and longtime Two Rock resident representing the second district and Evan Wiig, strong advocate for small farmers who started the Farmer's Guild and Community Alliance with Family Farmers, representing the fifth district. The new members introduced themselves to the Advisory Committee members.
- On Sunday May 21, OpenRoad aired a 7 ½ minute segment on Taylor Mountain that was filmed with Supervisor Shirlee Zane and Melanie Parker from Regional Parks, and Prince Memorial Greenway, with the Advisory Committee's Steve Rabinowitsh.
- Last Friday May 19, there was a kickoff celebration for the Sonoma County Vegetation Map that took place at the District.
- On June 8 there will be a groundbreaking for the Crane Creek trail at 9:00 am. Information will be sent to the Advisory Committee members.
- Mr. Keene discussed upcoming Board items: June 20 two coastal trail segments, Kashia and Stewarts Point Trails, which is a joint item with Regional Parks; July 18 Mitigation Policy; August 1 Young Armos Incubator Farm and Restoration Concept Plan; and August 15 Andy's Unity Park Matching Grant – also a joint item with Regional Parks.

Subcommittee Report Out

The District currently has three active subcommittees:

1. Matching Grant Program
2. Agriculture
3. Vital Lands Initiative

The Matching Grant Program subcommittee has not met recently and there was no report out.

The Ag Subcommittee Chair, John Nagle, reported out that the two new Advisory Committee members, Paul Martin and Evan Wiig, volunteered for the Ag Subcommittee. At their last meeting, which took place right before the Advisory Committee meeting tonight, they reviewed the Sonoma County Vegetation Map. They also discussed the agriculture portion of the Vital Lands Initiative. The subcommittee will set up another meeting for 2 ½ hours to further discuss the Vital Lands Initiative.

Alex Roa, Assistant Planner, reported out on the Vital Lands Initiative Subcommittee, and said at their last meeting they discussed the recent thematic community meetings. They discussed the subcommittee's role, which will include reviewing upcoming material and drafts and the glossary of terms.

Chair Dell'Osso announced that agenda item #6, Youth Recruitment, will move to item #5.

Youth Recruitment

Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist, provided an update on the Youth Recruitment process. The District Board authorized two youth members to join the Advisory Committee. Last year the District recruited two youth members and are recruiting again for the upcoming school year. She has interviewed four candidates and found one match and is continuing to recruit for one more. Ms. Ricard asked the members to encourage anyone they might know to apply. She will also be asking members to consider volunteering as a mentor to the youth members. This would be a one to two hour commitment to go over agenda, talk through issues, and help orient the youth to the committee.

Update on Cannabis Issues

Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager, presented a PowerPoint overview and update on the cannabis issues that the District is encountering. Ms. Emerson discussed the District's approach to cannabis. She presented a range of cannabis scenarios and how the District will handle these in the future. She will bring this topic back to the Advisory Committee in future meetings with any new information.

The PowerPoint presentation is available at the District upon request or you can contact Ms. Emerson with any questions.

Vital Lands Initiative Update & Input

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, updated the Advisory Committee members on the Vital Lands Initiative. Today was the last of the thematic community workshops and the District received great feedback. Between thirty to fifty people attended each workshop. Now the District will focus on one to one meetings with stakeholders. The District is working with the Advisory Committee VLI subcommittee, working with a consultant with a bilingual outreach, updating the website, and improving the social network of the District. A poll of 800 respondents was just completed, and the Sonoma Vegetation Map, after five years of effort, just celebrated its completion last week and will inform the Vital Lands Initiative. Now the District is working on the draft sections of the plan, and will be looking to the Advisory Committee for feedback.

Projects in Negotiations

Howlett Forest closed recently, which consists of over 800 acres of old growth trees on the northern coast of Sonoma. Andy's Unity Park will go to the Board in August.

Announcements from Advisory Committee Members

John Nagle

Mr. Nagle let the members know that he is now the new Director of the Sonoma Resource Conservation District.

Adjournment: 6:05 pm

Next scheduled meeting date: June 22, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary