



AG + OPEN SPACE
SONOMA COUNTY

SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APPROVED MINUTES

747 Mendocino Avenue – Suite 100, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
July 25, 2019 | 5:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Smith	Curt Nichols	Steve Barbose	Paul Martin
Jan McFarland	Cary Fargo	Leah Gold	Doug Lipton
John Dell’Osso	Taj Hittenberger	Jennielynn Holmes	Steve Rabinowitsh
Don McEnhill			

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tawny Tesconi	Evan Wiig
Neysa Hinton	John Nagle

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Keene, General Manager; Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager; Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist; Jennifer Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator; Alex Roa, Special Projects Planner; Allison Schichtel, Conservation GIS Planner; Sara Ortiz, Administrative Aide; Lauren Alpert, Community Relations Assistant; Aldo Mercado, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Dell’Osso called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Public Comment

Duane DeWitt handed out a Roseland Creek Neighborhood Preserve Master Plan Proposal that was created by the neighbors of Roseland to show their community vision for a master plan. Mr. DeWitt stated he would prefer to save the Roseland riparian corridors and oak woodland rather than create cement and concrete structures, which he is concerned is the City of Santa Rosa’s interest. Mr. DeWitt also handed out a For All Nature in the “Neighbor Wood” petition to the staff of Ag + Open Space.

Approval of Minutes

Leah Gold motioned to approve the minutes as is, and Bill Smith seconded the motion. All in favor, with abstentions from Jan McFarland, Steve Rabinowitsh and Doug Lipton who were not in attendance at the May meeting.

Chair Dell'Osso had a goodbye card for our youth member, Halei Trowbridge, whose term ended in June. The card was given to Advisory Committee members to sign and will be sent once received back with signatures.

General Manager's Report Out

- An amendment to the Howlett Forest easement will go the Board on August 6, 2019. Howlett Forest is close to Buckeye Forest and has old growth redwoods and Douglas fir. The amendment concerns language requested by the landowner so that he can receive the IRS deduction.
- The Saddle Mountain management plan is going to the Board on September 20, 2019 for adoption. Saddle Mountain is above Rincon Valley off of Calistoga Road. The management plan includes resource protection and management, limited public access due to roadway and traffic safety, and added sections for fuels management, via shaded fuel breaks and prescribed burns.
- Taylor Mountain's Cooper Creek addition is going to the Board on October 22, 2019.
- The Matching Grant Program will go to the Board on November 5, 2019.
- The Stewardship Workshop update will go to the Board on December 10, 2019.
- Lauren Alpert, our new Community Relations Assistant, started on June 18, 2019. She comes to us from the California Academy of Sciences and has over eight years of volunteer management, community engagement, and government relations experience, mostly in nonprofits. She will be working with Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager and Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist, on social media education and outings program, volunteer engagement, and helping Ag + Open Space develop better tools for community reporting and engagement.
- The Advisory Committee is still recruiting for two new youth members to join the committee for this coming school year. Please direct any potential candidates to Ms. Ricard or reach out to her directly if you have questions or need more information.
- The Duckworth Family Farms – our Nahmens Conservation Easement – has experienced a recent surge in popularity with their U-Pick Blueberry Days. The final U-Pick weekend is this weekend, Friday through Sunday from 7am – 2pm. Search Duckworth Family Farms on Facebook for more information.
- Reminder to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter on our website to learn more about these types of insider stories.



Subcommittee Report Out

The Advisory Committee currently has one active subcommittee, the Matching Grant Program. The subcommittee has not met since the last Advisory Committee meeting and has no update.

Vital Lands Initiative Update

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, gave an overview and update on the Vital Lands Initiative. Small group meetings have been set up with Advisory Committee members and Ag + Open Space staff to discuss the draft and to receive further input from members. Members who have not contacted Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk, for an appointment are encouraged to do so. Ms. Gaffney presented a PowerPoint that went over the history, graphic layout, maps, table of contents, chapters and appendices, goals, objectives, measures of success, and next steps. A discussion ensued with comments and input from Advisory Committee members and members of the public.

For more information on the Vital Lands Initiative, the PowerPoint presentation is available upon request, or contact Ms. Gaffney at Ag + Open Space.

Agriculture Position

Mr. Keene, General Manager, spoke about a new position being added at Ag + Open Space as directed by the Board of Directors. This position will be focused on the agricultural work of Ag + Open Space and will be a partner with the agricultural community. An ideal candidate document has been drafted and the position will be taken to the Board to be approved in either August or September. The position will be filled by the beginning of next year. The draft will be shared with the Advisory Committee at next month's meeting.

For more information, contact Mr. Keene or Ms. Robson at Ag + Open Space.

Projects in Negotiation

Jacobsen Ranches will be brought to the Fiscal Oversight Commission in August or September. Ag + Open Space would like to close later this year.

Senators Mike McGuire, Bill Dodd, and Assembly member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry have made an agreement on the Sonoma Developmental Center that will empower the County of Sonoma to preserve the open spaces of the undeveloped land.

The matching grant project on Taylor Mountain, the Cooper Creek addition, is going to the Board in October.

Announcements from Advisory Committee Members and Members of the Public

Steve Rabinowitsh | On July 9, 2019, the Santa Rosa City Council voted to certify the Environmental Impact Report and approve the rezoning for the Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway. This approval will



allow for the appraisal of the property followed by negotiations for its purchase from Caltrans this fall and early winter.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 pm.

Next Meeting: August 22, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson
Advisory Committee Secretary

