



Attachment "A"

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

August 25, 2016 MINUTES

5:04 pm Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Cary Fargo	Bill Smith	Laurie Gallian	Kristin Thigpen
Jan McFarland	Gary Wysocky	John Dell'Osso	
Steve Rabinowitsh	Curt Nichols	Jeffrey Holtzman	

Members Absent

Don McEnhill	John Nagle
Sue Conley	
Doug Lipton	

Staff Present

Bill Keene, General Manager; Misti Arias, Acquisition Program Manager; Jen Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator; Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist; Lisa Pheatt, County Counsel; Bob Pittman, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Chair Rabinowitsh called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

Public Comment

Duane DeWitt spoke about Bayer Farms, four acres of land in the Roseland area. Recently there has been development on the property and a lot of concrete has been added that could resemble a skate park and is not what the public originally wanted for this area. The original idea for this four acres of land was to save nature, not for development.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Rabinowitsh asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. No corrections were requested and the minutes of May 26, 2016 were approved.

General Manager's Report

- Two new youth members have been added to the Advisory Committee. Annaleigh Nguyen will begin in September and Regan Connell will begin in December. They are both top students at Montgomery High School in Santa Rosa. Regan is a senior, is student body Vice-President and plays soccer. Annaleigh is a sophomore, is very engaged in community service efforts with the Kiwanis and Key Club, plays badminton for Montgomery and wants to be a

pediatrician. Mr. Keene thanked Steve Rabinowitsh for his leadership on interviewing and recruiting these two youth representatives. Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, and Mr. Rabinowitsh will work to develop a detailed orientation plan and link our youth representatives with Advisory Committee mentors in the next month. Mr. Rabinowitsh and John Nagle have volunteered as mentors.

- The District hired Judy Bellah as a Marketing Specialist in an extra help capacity for one year to give support in the community relations efforts.
- Culture Pop Films are wrapping up shoots and the videos should be ready for launch in the next couple months. Modini, McCord, Jenner Headlands, Cresta and the Mayacamas are some of the properties being featured.
- The Board approved District funding toward the acquisition of the Stewarts Point Ranch Property.
- Nathanson Creek Matching Grant agreement and the Pole Mountain funding agreement will be taken to the Board on September 13, 2016.
- An amendment to the land maintenance services contract with Regional Parks is going to the Board on September 20, 2016.
- The Estero Ranch mitigation will go the Board on September 27, 2016. There will be a Bay Day proclamation Gold Resolution presented to the Bay Trail Project at the Board that day as well.
- The 2016 Matching Grant Program funding recommendations will go to the Board on October 25, 2016.
- A District land management services agreement and the Calabazas Creek and Poff Ranch management plan approvals and CEQA adoptions will go to the Board in late 2016.

Regional Parks Tax Measure

Mr. Keene explained that there is a tax measure on the ballot for a half-cent and that Caryl Hart, Regional Parks Director who is on leave to work on the campaign, will discuss how it relates to Open Space funding. The funding is to help develop public access to and maintain properties the District has helped protect.

Ms. Hart told the members that an explanation of the measure is on the Sonoma County Regional Parks website on the bottom of the webpage titled Parks Ballot Measure for more information.

One of the key parts of the measure is the expenditure plan as it relates to Open Space. A unanimous vote of the Supervisors placed a proposal for a half-cent sales tax for park improvements on the November 8, 2016 ballot. Elizabeth Tyree, Department Analyst at Regional Parks, gave the Committee Clerk a copy of the Sonoma County Integrated Parks Plan for sharing with the public and also noted that the Plan can be found online. Measure J was envisioned as a result of that plan.

For more information on Measure J, the PowerPoint presentation is available at the District upon request.

This item will be agendized at next month's meeting as an action item for the Advisory Committee to consider whether they wish to take an official position on the measure.

Sub-committee Report Outs

The Ag Subcommittee did not meet this month and did not have a report out.

Matching Grant Program Recommendations

Mr. Keene introduced Jennifer Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator, to present the Committee with the details of the latest Matching Grant Program funding cycle.

Bob Pittman, County Counsel, explained that some members may have a conflict of interest that would disqualify them from voting on the recommendations and would have to recuse themselves. Members that have some involvement with a project but have not received and will not receive any financial compensation would have to abstain from voting, but would not be required to recuse themselves.

Ms. Kuszmar stated that the last eight months the Matching Grant Program has been active, receiving applications and that the Advisory Committee Matching Grant Program Subcommittee has been meeting to review the applications and make recommendations.

The Matching Grant Program is offered every two years and the Program Guidelines were adopted by the Board of Directors in 2011. It is a program that requires a one to one match. The General Manager sets the budget, which was \$2.5 million this year. There was a public meeting in January to reach out to the community. Applications were due at the end of March.

The recommendations will also be brought to the District's Fiscal Oversight Commission in the beginning of October and then to Board at the end of October.

Ms. Kuszmar presented each project via PowerPoint presentation, explaining why and how the recommendations were made for each project. It was a competitive round and the projects in total exceeded the \$2.5 million budget.

There were three options that were considered in the process:

- 1) Retain the \$2.5 million budget
- 2) Add in project savings from the last Matching Grant Program cycle for a total of \$2.9
- 3) Fund over and above options 1 and 2

The Subcommittee recommended option #2.

Chair Rabinowitsh opened the meeting to comments from the public. Duane DeWitt, Lisa Krantz, Wendy Eliot, Linda Proulx, and Elizabeth Tyree all spoke regarding the recommendations.

Mr. DeWitt was not in favor of the decision for Colgan Creek. Ms. Krantz, Ms. Eliot and Ms. Proulx spoke in favor of the Southeast Greenway decision. Ms. Tyree is in favor of Andy's Park.

Chair Rabinowitsh opened up the discussion to the Advisory Committee members.

Laurie Gallian motioned to move forward with accepting the Subcommittee proposal of funding projects up to \$2.9 million. John Dell'Osso seconded the motion. A vote was taken with two abstentions. The motion passed.

Jeffrey Holtzman motioned to draft a letter from the Advisory Committee Executive Committee to the Board of Directors that reflects the \$2.9 million recommendation. Laurie Gallian seconded the motion. A vote was taken with two abstentions. The motion passed.

For more information on the Matching Grant Program 2016 recommendations, the PowerPoint presentation is available at the District upon request.

Projects in Negotiations

No report out.

Announcements From Advisory Committee Members

John Dell'Osso

Today is the National Parks 100th Birthday. Point Reyes National Park will be celebrating.

Laurie Gallian

Sonoma celebrated the National Parks 100th Birthday for four hours last Saturday.

Jeffrey Holtzman

The Board of Supervisors approved 159 acres of biotic land in Atascadero Creek.

The town of Graton will hold the First Annual Graton Park Party on October 2, 2016 from 3:00 to 6:00 at the Graton Labor Center to celebrate.

Adjournment: 7:18 pm

Next scheduled meeting date: September 22, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary