

Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

7:00 PM on Monday, October 27, 2008
Open Space Authority Administration Office

Attendees:

Citizen Advisory Committee Members:

Name	Represent	Present	Absent
Susan McKuhen	District 1	-	√
Vacant	District 2	-	-
Jan Hintermeister	District 3	√	-
Eric Carruthers	District 4	√	-
Chris Kangas	District 5	√	-
Yacanex Posadas	District 6	-	√
Vacant	District 7	-	-
Vacant	Agriculture	-	-
Mandy McClellan	Business	√	-
Vacant	Civic Organizations	-	-
Daniel J. Kenney	Development Community	√	-
Gloria Dirkmaat	Education	√	-
David Poeschel	Environmental	√	-
Son Cheong (C.K.) Kuan	Labor	-	√
Dorsey Moore	Parks	√	-
Kitty Monahan	Trails	√	-
	Totals	9	3

Other Attendees:

Board Liaison Present:

The Honorable **Garnetta Annable** – Director, District Four
 The Honorable Dr. Calvin Gill – Director, District Seven
 The Honorable Nancy Pyle, San Jose City Councilmember, District Ten
 Kathy Sutherland, Assistant to Nancy Pyle

Staff Present: Rachel Santos, Planner II

Public Present: none

Action Items:

Task	Lead	Due Date	✓
From 10/27/08 Meeting:			
1. Dorsey to do Member share at next meeting	Dorsey Moore	11/17/08	
2. Agricultural Recommendations Subcommittee (Kitty, Eric, David, Gloria & Dorsey) to meet on Tuesday, November 11 th to prepare presentation	Dorsey Moore	11/11/08	✓
1. Call to Order at 7:08 – Dorsey Moore, Chairperson			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved excused absences – none • Introduction of Guests –Garnetta Annable – Director, District Four Dr. Calvin Gil – Director, District Seven Nancy Pyle, San Jose City Councilmember, District Ten Kathy Sutherland, Assistant to Nancy Pyle Rachel Santos, Planner II 			
2. Public presentations for Items not listed on the agenda (Limit: 3 minutes)			
No public presentations were made.			

3. Guest Presentation: The Honorable Nancy Pyle – City of San Jose’s General Plan and the District 10 Vision

- Nancy passed out copies of her “My five year plan goals” and the brochure, “San Jose’s Green Vision”
- Nancy stated that she did not currently serve on the General Plan Task force, but told the CAC members they were welcome to attend the meetings and the times/location were posted on the city webpage.
- She shared information about the Urban Reserve that is owned by the county
 - The land is being sold off at a regular rate in 20 acre parcels. The sale has slowed with the current economic situation
 - Successful schools in the area are a big draw. Leland HS scored within 1 point of Gunn HS on the CASHEE Math and English exams
 - Attempt to keep their resource of the Urban Reserve protected as long as possible and to preserve the hillsides
- Boulder Ridge Golf Course is in a big battle currently over the placement of a large tent to facilitate weddings and large events because of the noise impact on neighborhoods
- Current concern is around housing
- High density housing is being built along transportation corridors and we have a lot of empty homes in the area due to the sub-prime mortgage crisis that need to be occupied before more housing is built.
- Current retail space being developed to support housing is 19% below where it should be and because of that the San Jose sales tax revenues are impacted negatively.
- The big mantra should be “Smart Growth”
- Nancy’s commitment to District 10 is to make sure projects maintain the quality of the neighborhood and attract the executive level employees
- There is a bottleneck traffic issue in Almaden Valley, but there are no plans to expand the Almaden Expressway except in the area around the Highway 85 Interchange where a possible IKEA may be built and a residence inn facility.
- Nancy has developed a five year plan even though her term is only four years because she feels it is important to have a “hook” connecting the two terms
- Goal One comments: The state and federal governments have failed and we need to be self-sufficient in the area of developing self-sustainable infrastructure and services in our neighborhoods
- Goal Two comments: Partnerships with schools and other community organizations can become a model of maximizing space in neighborhoods (i.e. turf in schools)
- Goal Four comments: Referred to San Jose Green Vision document
- Nancy talked about the Canal Path and how over time the barriers have broken down. Kitty suggested that OSA needs to get involved to pick up some of the land for that project.
- David asked what agricultural uses for the Urban Reserve were and asked if they couldn’t be enhanced to provide greens for schools or other better uses than just cattle. Nancy was only aware of gardens. Kitty said there was other agricultural land use in the area.
- Dorsey stated that our Board was wondering how involved to get in the urban fringe/food sheds (i.e. raising healthy foods for schools) and stated we have an interest to preserve land for agriculture. He asked if there was currently any consideration for preserving/encouraging land use for small agriculture. Eric pointed out that Santa Clara has preserved a small farm area and the Kaiser Hospital Farmer’s Market and the Salinas School district who both contract with a collaborative of small farms for fresh foods. Nancy said she would talk to the Mayor about it.
- Nancy stated she was enthusiastic to work together with the OSA in developing the trails in the Santa Teresa area.

4. Approval of the Meeting Summary of Previous Meeting

- Motion: Kitty Second: Eric Minutes: approved

5. Member Presentation – Jan Hintermeister

- Jan was born in Minnesota
- He was a studious child who read a lot and was not an outdoors person.
- Went to college and still not a real outdoors kind of guy. When he went on to Stanford he had a remarkable bird event. He spotted an acorn woodpecker going between palm trees.
- Jan graduated and just worked for years. He decided finally he needed a hobby and decided to take an ornithology course. He had a remarkable teacher, Mr. Moffett, who took the class into the field to study birds and a whole new world opened up.
- From that point on, almost every vacation was spent on an activity related to birds.
- Jan has numerous community volunteer hours in organizations like the Golden Gate Rapture Society (banding hawks) and the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (banding little birds). He joined the SF Bay Bird Observatory to give back and was served as the president of the organization for several years.
- In the mid 90's he received letters from the Audubon Society and the Sierra Club inviting him to a meeting to discuss future development of a golf course. He went and saw a presentation on why the golf course should be set aside as a preserve. Eventually it became the Ulistac Natural Preserve. That experience was an eye opener and what to do when you want to move a cause forward. As a result of his involvement in that project, he was asked to fill the open seat in the CAC.
- He was also asked and is currently serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- He has continued with his interest in preserving and sharing the outdoors and became a docent for Mid Peninsula. It is here where he expanded his interest and got into bugs. He found bugs fascinating and found that "Bugs are where it's at". He joined an Aquatic Bug Club concerned with water quality above and below a dam and has become an expert in teaching how to identify bug larvae.
- In addition to the above, he enjoys poetry, geology and walking, seeing wildlife, docenting, and the academic side of learning new things.
- He gave a plug on donating \$50 to the SFBO and getting a "free" T-shirt.
- Garnetta thanked Jan for staying with the CAC after joining the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Dorsey Moore will be next month's member spotlight

6. Reports

A. Board Liaison Report – Garnetta Annable

1. Last OSA Board meeting was short.
2. Board is reviewing procedures on how to review the general manager position.
3. They are reviewing the Habitat Conservation Plan. Over 5,000 suggestions were received and they are now reviewing, responding and revising. A question is whether the OSA will be able to issue its own permits for its own projects. There would have to be a formal agreement as to what areas the OSA can issue permits.
4. Use and Maintenance Committee is still considering proposal of local Native American/Mexican heritage groups that are asking to use part (7.5 acres) of the Frutado Ranch for cultural arts and native ceremonies. There are issues like neighbors, fire, limited use and best use of area that need to be addressed. There is still a tremendous amount of research to be done and they are looking at other communities like Jackson and Pt. Reyes who have successfully supported cultural groups.
5. Terri, Interpretive program, has been out in the community and the Board is getting lots of great feedback on the program. At the Tech exhibit the "critters" got more attention than technology from the kids.

B. Authority Staff Report - Rachel Santos

1. Attended the Albertson's Parkway groundbreaking Ceremony and they recognized the OSA
2. Went to the Marshall/Cottle meeting #2 and there were over 100 people there. The event was well organized and people were divided into groups and the public discussed the alternatives and gave their feedback.
3. Eric worried in earlier meetings that people were concerned about their own interest rather than agricultural interests and Rachel said that it seems the community is embracing the project.
4. Kitty said she had noticed a change over time where people at first wanted high trees to block the project, but now find it pleasant to see people on the trails. She felt the group was very positive.
5. Rachel acknowledged that the CAC has been present at every meeting.
6. Reported on the Penitencia Creek ribbon cutting ceremony. Dr. Gill and Garnetta were present and it was a very nice ceremony. OSA contributed \$400K to the project.
7. The Halloween event was very nice although there was a lower turn out this year. One man came with his children all the way from San Mateo. Terri and 4 interns helped.
8. Chris Kangas – Doan Ranch Night Bike Ride was 3-4 weeks ago. There were approximately 75 riders and 6-8 staff manning the trails. The feed back has been real positive with comments like "It is the polar opposite of other areas where the staff is policing and contentious. Here people felt welcome and staff was helpful". It will be interesting to see if the night ride concept mains itself of drops off on the second ride that is coming up. Cones and glow sticks will probably not be necessary in future rides Chris noted.
9. Garnetta commented that the horse/hiker event at Blair/Rancho was successful with the 7 miles of trail taking about 2 hours. Chris said there was a real wonderful variety of habitat. She said there were 142 hikers and 60 equestrians. There is a beautiful outcropping of rocks with flora and the wonderful oaks make it a beautiful site.

C. Members –

1. David
 - Distributed a copy of a letter written to the next President that was written by Michael Pollan. Eric shared Pollan had written two books: Omnivore's Dilemma and In Defense of Food
 - SB 375 (Steinberg) was signed into law. It is an effort to promote smart growth and prevent greenhouse gases. It follows AB 32 last year. Communities need to comply with access state highway money. Developers receive benefits if they promote smart growth
2. Kitty
 - Albertson's Parkway – Santa Clara County Parks is developing a little history site (interpretive site dealing with water issues) and will connect the Santa Teresa Park. San Jose gave their 20% funding to help make the purchase.
3. Mandy
 - Blair Ranch preview had a great turn out and it was a beautiful day. The trails were kind of tough. She saw a lot of great potential trails and shared pictures from the event. Kitty told of a great picture of the watering trough with a cow drinking from one end and a horse and rider at the other end.
- D. CAC Chairperson – Dorsey Moore
 - Commented on helpfulness of staff at the night ride.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Bay Area Agricultural Land Conservation Agencies Program –Recommendations

1. Dorsey thanked Jan and Eric for their final comments and David for getting things going. He also thanked the subcommittee for their work (Eric, Kitty, David, Gloria and Dorsey)
2. The report has been delivered to the Board
3. He will get one final subcommittee meeting together to organize a formal presentation that can be given to the Board if they would like a presentation.
4. The group thanked Dorsey for his hard work in putting the final document together
5. Distributed a final copy of the Agricultural Land Conservation Recommendations

8. New Business – No new business at this time

9. Items for Next Meeting

- A. Review the CAC Work plan for this coming year.

10. Announcements

- A. CAC Members
 - Kitty: Pioneer Day at Almaden Quicksilver County Park and invited to go see the great interpretive sign and find the geocaches. The museum will be shut down for a year while it is being remodeled
- B. Board Announcements – Garnetta will not be here on November 24th
- C. Next meeting will be moved to November 17th due to the Thanksgiving holiday
- D. Eric Carruthers requested that the CAC close the meeting in honor of Walter Warner, an early member of the CAC. Walter passed away recently and Eric noted that he made substantial contributions to the projects of the CAC during his time.

2. Adjourned at 8:43 pm

cc: Garnetta Annable, Boardmember Liaison
Dr. Kulwant (Kalvin) Gill, Boardmember Liaison

Meeting summary by Gloria Dirkmaat