

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority

Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

7:00 PM on Monday February 22, 2010
Open Space Authority Administration Office

Attendees:

Citizens Advisory Committee Members:

Name	Represent	Present	Absent
Susan McKuhen	District 1	√	
Vacant	District 2	-	-
Jan Hintermeister	District 3		X
Eric Carruthers	District 4	√	
Chris Kangas	District 5	√	
John Fioretta	District 6	√	
Vacant	District 7	-	-
Vacant	Agriculture	-	-
Mandy McClellan	Business	√	
Clark Williams	Civic Organizations		X
Daniel J. Kenney	Development Community	√	
Vacant	Education	-	-
David Poeschel	Environmental	√	
Son Cheong (C.K.) Kuan	Labor	✓	
Dorsey Moore	Parks	√	
Kitty Monahan	Trails	✓	
	Totals	10	2

Other Attendees:

Board Liaison Present: The Honorable Virginia Holtz, Director, District 5

Staff Present: Patrick Congdon, General Manager

Public Present: Roland LeBrun (Save Our Trails), Suzanne Remmien

- 1. Call to Order at 7:09 p.m.** – David Poeschel, Chairperson
- 2. Public Presentations for Items not listed on the Agenda (Limit: 3 minutes)**
Roland LeBrun of Save Our Trails spoke briefly about that group's efforts regarding the Canal Trail near Santa Theresa County Park.
- 3. Approval of Meeting Summary from previous meeting**
 - CAC Meeting Summary Report for November 23, 2009 was approved.
- 4. Reports**
 - Board Liaison** –Virginia reported on why the Board decided to put the staging area on Sierra Road for the Sierra Vista Preserve on hold. See Authority Staff report for details.
 - Authority Staff** –Patrick reported on the following: (1) POST will do a presentation at the 4/22 Board meeting; the CAC is invited. (2) The Board's Liaison to the CAC will be discussed at the next Board meeting and may change. (3) The Palassou bridge is low on the list of priorities because of its cost of \$1 to 1.5 million. Multiple agencies raised issues because once you allow the public in the bridge must meet highway standards. Probably nothing will happen for 5 years. Staff is looking into grant funding, but this requires public access on the other side of the creek and going through the CEQA process first. As a matter of priorities, funding is better spent on Rancho Canada del Oro. (4) Sierra Vista neighbors expressed concern that the road would be blocked if a fire occurred, and that a parking lot would attract a bad element. This would require hiring law enforcement. The Sheriff's office would not patrol for free because the Authority would have created the problem. Security would cost \$200,000 per year. Note: One felony already has occurred at Sierra Vista. Staff is considering the possibility of building a trail from the north side of Alum Rock Canyon, but it

would be 3' wide instead of the standard 5' width. It might be open to bikes a few times per month. OSA does not contemplate equestrian use at Sierra Vista. Any injurious accident could be disastrous for the OSA. (5) District 2 funds—There is a perception that OSA has lots of money, but District 2 funds must largely be invested. Furthermore, OSA is adding a Volunteer Coordinator and Open Space Technician. OSA must make the settlement money last until additional funding is secured. Until then, Patrick is trying to not cut staff or hours at Rancho Canada del Oro.

- c. **CAC Members:** CK distributed info from SIREN (Services, Immigrants Rights & Education Network) about the U.S. Census and emphasized its importance for getting proper funding. Chris said that the Gilroy Hot Springs Rd. was open again. Kitty reported that SCC Parks had purchased Rancho San Vicente from POST, which provides or can provide access from Calero County Park to Santa Theresa County Park. Eric: (1) The Santa Cruz County Land Trust has preserved 1000 acres. It is entirely privately funded and has a grant-to-donation ratio of 23 to 1 (for every dollar donated it has obtained \$23 in grants)! This Land Trust also has a 20 year conservation blueprint. Eric asked what can we similarly do? (2) Eric announced the CA Land Trust Conference, 3/2-3 in Sacramento. He said that he has found these conferences helpful. (3) Agricultural Feasibility in Morgan Hill—MH engaged a consultant to answer whether agriculture remains feasible there and the answer is yes. A few of the consultant's findings: Of the 1200 acres in the SE quadrant, many farmers farm less than 50 acres with specialty crops. Only 43% of farmers report that farming is their primary occupation. In CA 50% of farms make net profit on a gross of \$10,000-25,000 per year. See MH web site for reports. Moral: to keep agriculture viable, keep land costs down via conservation easements. The MH project that prompted the study is preparing an EIR project description after which public review begins.
- d. **CAC Chairperson** – Dave Poeschel: The City of San Jose has a program to remove all landscaping (primarily in median strips) of everything but trees and replace it with mulch and rock. PG&E has a program to trim or remove trees under power lines despite that the lines aren't affected by these trees.

5. Guest Speaker

- a. **Martial Cottle Park Master Plan Project-Virginia Holtz**
This property has been in the Cottle family for four generations. The family wanted it preserved as an historic agricultural park to display traditional farming methods. In 2006 the OSA approved \$450,000 at the request of SCC Parks, all of which was 20% funding. The State Parks Department owns part of the property; this is the first time State parks has been involved in agriculture. Since 2006 planning has occurred. The park will consist of a total of 140 acres including agricultural fields, a community garden, a farmer's market, a seasonal wetland, a native plant nursery, a youth education area, demonstration gardens, a visitor center, a landscaped park area, and parking. An additional 30 acres will continue to be inhabited by the donator, Mr. Lester, and his family until his death, upon which these 30 acres and the Lester home, barn, and historic farm equipment will pass to the park. This park will be expensive to build out, operate, and maintain, due to fencing, building a perimeter trail, irrigation, etc., and is expected to far exceed the revenues it will bring in. Thank you, Virginia, for a fascinating talk about a unique park.

6. Unfinished Business

- a. **OSA Strategic Plan Joint Meeting Request and Designation and Board Subcommittee discussion--John reported that (1) Sequoia said he wants the Joint Board-CAC meeting to occur, but needs to complete work concerning the Habitat Plan and agricultural mitigation first due to deadlines. (2) The Board had concerns over the use of the word "liaison" in the CAC's motion. John said he told the Board the CAC was not particular about what word described the CAC representative. John said he would re-draft the CAC's previous motion to attempt to allay any concerns the Board had, and not require any further Board action. Eric wanted clarification that CAC members were welcome at Board Subcommittee meetings, and wanted this liaison's tasks written down. Virginia stated that using the term "liaison" created confusion. Patrick agreed, noted that there is no provision for CAC members to be on Board**

- Subcommittees, and said that the OSA's counsel, Bill Parkin's issue was that CAC members could not vote.
- b.** Agricultural Recommendations & Next Steps—(1) Dorsey said that the Board wants the CAC to take the agricultural recommendations and prioritize them and flesh out how to implement them, including what resources are needed. (2) Eric continues to await a meeting between OSA representatives and the MH developer who is interested in agricultural mitigation before he drafts a letter on that topic. (3) The CAC Agriculture Subcommittee (Dave, Eric, Dorsey, Susan) will meet on 3/10 at 7 p.m. at the OSA office
- 7. Items for next meeting**
- a.** Consider re-drafted CAC-Board "Liaison" motion.
 - b.** Consider OSA Strategic Plan in preparation for Joint Board-CAC meeting.
 - c.** Agricultural Subcommittee report on 3/10 meeting.
- 8. Announcements**
The meeting was adjourned without announcements.
- 9. Assign Recorder for Meeting Summary (for Next Meeting)**
Eric volunteered.
- 10. Adjourn** - The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Meeting summary prepared by John Fioretta

cc: Alex Kennett, Boardmember Liaison
Virginia Holtz, Boardmember Liaison
Garnetta Annable, Boardmember Alternate