

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
Citizens Advisory Committee

**Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting
 Meeting Summary**

7:00 PM on Monday, February 23, 2009
 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	10	2

Other Attendees:

Board Liaison Present:

The Honorable **Garnetta Annable** – Director, District Four

Staff Present: Patrick Congdon, General Manager

Public Present: none

Action Items:

Task	Lead	Due Date	✓
From 1. Meeting:			
1. Gloria to do Member share at next meeting	Gloria Dirkmaat	Feb 23, 2009	
2. Election of Officers	Dorsey Moore	Feb 23, 2009	

- 1. Call to Order at 7:00** – Dorsey Moore, Chairperson
 - Approved excused absences – Dan Kenney
 - Introduction of Guests – Garnetta Annable, Director, District Four

- 2. Public Presentations for Items not listed on the Agenda (Limit: 3 minutes)**
 No public presentations were made.

- 3. Summary Report of November 17, 2008 and January 26, 2009 Meetings Approved**

- 4. Member Report** – Gloria Dirkmaat
 - Born and raised in Seattle where she enjoyed pretending she was riding a horse or being a horse.
 - Started at the University of Washington in Dental Hygiene, but transferred to Brigham Young University where she majored in downhill skiing and managed to get a degree.

- She and her husband moved to San Francisco after schooling and military service during Vietnam years.
- Taught a few years and then started family.
- Spent June – August with four children in the Sierras camping while they grew up and learned to love the area.
- Volunteer one week per summer at high Sierra church girls camp with focus on nature and planning backpacking trips
- OSA is first experience with environmental issues. Became involved when IDC student group asked her to find out about the trails for hiking and biking for physical activity as they worked on district Wellness Plan.
- Hopes to use the experience gained here to become involved in open space endeavors in Wyoming and Southern Utah when she retires
- She expressed appreciation for the hard work and commitment of members of the committee.

5. Reports

A. Board Liaison Report -

1. Spoke about Henry Colletto who was the Santa Clara County Parks Warden years ago and then moved to the Sheriff's Department and became the Sheriff Game Warden. He now oversees the Canada De Los Osos Ecological Reserve . He came to the Board meeting because he has been talking with Patrick about how the lands are being grazed (Doan Ranch). He has extended an invitation to anyone who would like a tour of the Reserve.

Kitty mentioned that she and Henry did a pig study together in the 80's and that he is the one that introduced turkeys and elk to the area.

B. Authority Staff Report - Patrick Congdon

1. He reported that the OSA is seeing a lot of use on the preserve
2. Coyote Ridge hikes in April will be different from the past.
 - Goal is to develop a method for doing docent led hikes on mitigation lands and then use this as a template
 - There has been a vision of hiking biking, equestrian and even dogs on HCP Reserve lands, but nothing formal has been developed.
 - Developing a trail system is problematic in the area
 - Hikes are being carefully designed and hikers must stay with hike leaders.
 - Allow four hours to explore:
 - Natural and cultural interpretations
 - Wildflowers
 - Should see most of the listed species on the OSA website on this hike (except red-legged frog)
 - Engage hikers in conversations about land
 - Route of hike starts by the main entrance, main gate to Kirby Canyon Landfill goes to the former magnesite mine site and then follows the hill contours and comes down the north canyon-
 - Hikes will start on April 4th and go throughout the month
3. Kitty asked if there would be trees on the hike and Pat answered there were not, but elevation gains were only 700 feet.
4. Pallasou Hike in May
 - To be led by Doug Reynaud
 - Historic interpretive hike talking about the Anza party and what they experienced

- Chris asked if there would be a fall bike ride into the area and Patrick stated the big problem is having to cross over privately held land. They have tried to talk with the property manager and even purchase an easement in the past without success.
 - Looking for alternatives from Pallasou to State Park. The State Park is still trying to decide what to do with the Hot Springs
5. Dexter Canyon Hike in June will be a natural history hike
 6. Patrick will do a more formal presentation on the work plan in the future for the CAC
 7. Mr. Marks gifted 8 acres (Twin Creeks area) to Mid Penn and they have offered to gift the land to the OSA in the future. They had Mr. Marks work with Mid Penn because they had started the process and it made things move along smoother. Patrick said that two years ago meetings had started in discussing the boundary line set by LAFCO in the area and some proposed changes.

C. Members – none

D. CAC Chairperson – Dorsey Moore

1. California Conservation Corps got put back in the budget and he thanked those who had written letters to the legislature. Dorsey asked Patrick if the OSA had considered applying for stimulus dollars for youth development projects to restore trails. Patrick said the OSA would have to be careful and consider the risks such as whether the project was appropriate use of the funds for the stimulus dollars. Dorsey asked Patrick about the bridge project and could that be a good use for stimulus dollars. Patrick said to get stimulus dollars the project had to be “shovel-ready” and the bridge project is not ready. Another issue is that this is one-time money and then there has to be money for maintenance. There are a lot of restrictions on the bridge project because of protected species.

2. Discussion followed Dorsey’s questions of Patrick:

1. What is the timeline in the opening of Blair? The agreement with county parks is nebulous and hopes to be open in 5 years. We need to get more funds.
2. Can Blair Ranch gate be left open? Need to be good neighbors and keep people from trespassing. Right now it is more than the staff can manage.
3. Why can’t the fire trails be open to the public? More staff is needed to protect endangered species and the trails need to be improved. Once it is open, OSA has to be able to fiscally afford staff to manage the area.
4. Could the stimulus money be used? It will not cover the planning
5. National Marine Fisheries (NMF) wants to maintain steelhead to Uvas and say that not enough is being done. Eric said that NMF is requiring big bucks for riparian set backs and studies Patrick mentioned the idea being considered that a Uvas fish ladder might be constructed or fish may be trucked around the damn because steelhead is protected. Trying to recreate historic patterns and reestablish natural cycles. Because of funding shortfalls, there is a delay in dealing with the situation.
6. CK – Did Authority staff assist with the King of the Mountain Ride? There was a mix up and connected with County Parks instead of OSA. OSA did some good will measures and opened up some of our areas.
7. Garnetta said that the OSA will need to look at the issues and the bond issue. May need to be a private group to do the campaigning.

6. Unfinished Business

- A. May 14th 10am to 1pm Agriculture Today and Tomorrow Meeting
 - Patrick distributed flyer
 - Meeting is to get feedback from people who are involved in agriculture in the community on 1) What local agriculture means to them and 2) what does local agriculture look like in the future to them.
 - There will be opportunities for oral and written responses

- Parties invited include: mom and pop local producers, local farmer markets, community garden representatives, corporate farmers, agriculture education leaders, and the media (TV, Print, and radio). Personal letters have been sent, information is on the web and targeted phone calls are being made. There will be interpreters is needed and accommodations for people with disabilities.
 - David suggested flyers be distributed at local farmer's markets.
 - Facilitator is Skip Spitzer from ROOT Action who focuses on agricultural issues and has worked all around the world. See his website at www.rootaction.org
 - Agenda: 10-10:15 Social Gathering
10:15 Patrick to OSA presentation and introduce Skip. Skip will get input from the attendees and notes will be taken
Conclusion – Board share
 - A formal report will go on website and Board will use it and other information to develop a vision of agriculture.
 - Garnetta asked if we could write a letter to the editor about our interest in this meeting
 - Kitty asked if we could submit names and Patrick indicated the names should go to him
- B. Bay Area Agriculture Land Conservation Agencies
- Not time on the 14th for the presentation
 - Dorsey asked Garnetta if recommendations could go on OSA website and Patrick said he would check with the Board. Eric stated that since it was a public document it should be on the website. Patrick said he would talk with the Board on how to present the report. He said that it would be brought up at the Board meeting the coming Thursday and then he would have a sense of how he should proceed.

7. New Business – Election of Officers was postponed to next time due to the lack of a full quorum.

A. Chairman

- Eric made motion to nominate Dorsey Moore. It was seconded by Kitty Monahan and the vote was unanimous with Dorsey abstaining.

B. Vice-Chairman

- Eric made a motion to nominate David Poeschel. It was seconded by Kitty and the vote was unanimous with David abstaining.

9. Items for next meeting

- A. Next member presentation: Chris Kangas
- B. Patrick will present a summary of the 3/14 meeting
- C. Dorsey trying to reach Rachel O'Malley to speak to group on sustainable agriculture

10. Announcements

A. CAC Members

- Susan:
 1. Passed out schedule cards on two theatrical events coming to the Mexican Heritage Plaza theater: A Rose Among Thorns (Feb 27th and 28th)
 2. Invited us to 3/21 gathering at her home for Jerry McNerney at 1 pm.
The address 3225 Dryden Ave, Gilroy
- Kitty: A wildflower scavenger hunt is planned for 5/16 at Almaden Quicksilver
- Jan: May be a public meeting on Martial Cottle on preferred alternative at the April 1st County Parks Commission meeting that starts at 6:30 pm at 70 West Hedding, San Jose
- Patrick asked group to check the website. Morgan Hill will be presenting its 20% funding project in May or June.
- Dorsey: On 3/5 at Santa Clara University, the Committee on Green Hills will have a speaker, Richard Jackson, who will speak on "urban sprawl". It begins a 6:30 with wine and cheese and his presentation begins at 7pm.

1. **Adjourned** at 8:21 pm

cc: Garnetta Annable, Boardmember Liaison

Meeting summary by Gloria Dirkmaat