

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
Citizens Advisory Committee

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

7:00 PM on Monday, March 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	-	√
Vacant	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	2

Other Attendees:

Board Liaison Present:

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

Staff Present: Rachel Santos,

Public Present: none

Action Items:

Task	Lead	Due Date	✓
From 1. Meeting:			
1. Chris to do Member share at next meeting- Mandy McClellan substituted because Chris could not attend	Mandy McClellan	Mar 23, 2009	
	Patrick Congdon	Mar 23, 2009	
2. Report out on March 14 th community meeting			

1. **Call to Order at 7:05** – David Poeschel, Vice-Chairperson
 - Approved excused absences – Chris Kangas, Dorsey Moore
 - Introduction of Guests – Garnetta Annable, Director, District Four
 Rachel Santos, Staff, Open Space Planner
2. **Public Presentations for Items not Listed on the Agenda (Limit: 3 minutes)**
 No public presentations were made.
3. **Summary Report of February 23, 2009 Meeting Approved**
4. **Member Report** –Mandy McClellan
 - Native of Northern California, originally from Davis
 - Moved to San Jose in 1977
 - Every week she is in one of the OSA areas on horseback, biking or hiking
 - Loves the outdoors and once Casa Loma opened she goes 1-3 times/month

- The OSA lands are beautiful and she appreciates the OSA staff. They are so helpful and responsive. Told story of “the bench”.
- Always thought when she retired she would become involved and volunteer in environmental protection activities, but has decided not to wait and has become involved now.
- She is an attorney who deals with real estate and corporate issues, not court or trials.
- Became involved with the OSA after meeting Kitty.
- Kitty mentioned that she and her husband run the bar one night a month at the Horseman’s Association.

5. Reports

A. Board Liaison Report - Garnetta

- Not at the last board meeting
- Felt the Community meeting went well and that several growers there were excited about keeping agriculture alive. They had a good discussion and referred to the CAC Agriculture Study Report. Noticed a distinction between attitudes of agra-business and small (few acres) farmers. Found their needs to be very different.
- General Manager has been approached by Ca Fish and Game requesting assistance to manage the South Valley Ranch, east of Mt. Hamilton. CA Fish and Game purchased the property from the Nature Conservancy. It is approximately 3,000 acres.
- The CAC Ag. Study and recommendations will be on the website and a CAC presentation to the Board is coming up.

B. Authority Staff Report - Rachel Santos

- About 30 people came to the Community meeting on March 14th. Lark is compiling all the comments and Carol has pictures of the event.
- Milpitas – Alviso Adobe project: OSA contributed 20% money to help retrofit it so they agreed to create agriculture and educational activities on the properties. They are working on their CEQA. Access is getting prohibitive so they are looking at a couple of alternatives: 1) going through a court of homes or 2) leasing 20 spaces and using a local church. There are no cost estimates at this time. Coming off Calaveras will require a small bridge over the creek.
- David recalled issues with funding this project. They were going to plant fruit trees and need a lot of money to restore the building.
- Rachel said they will have an estimate which they will be presenting to the Milpitas City Council soon.
- CK mentioned that they should be responsible to give the OSA a report on how they have used the funds and Garnetta said they have provided a couple of reports in the past and that they are not looking for any more money. They are required to give reports to the OSA.
- David asked about the El Toro property in Morgan Hill and Rachel said it is a priority and a lot of people already use the land informally, but that nothing has been submitted to the OSA yet.

C. Members – none

D. CAC Vice-Chairperson – David Poeschel

- Referred to Michael Pollan, author, who had written a letter to President Obama suggesting he use the “bully pulpit” to support the agriculture and food supply issue. The President has planted a vegetable garden at the White House.
- Passed out a handout with two articles: “Obama’s to Plant Vegetable Garden at White House” and “Santa Clara’s burrowing owls may lose home under campus expansion”.
- Eric referred to article: “Where the Obesity Grows” by George Will and David said he will email the link to the CAC members.

6. Unfinished Business

A. May 14th 10am to 1pm Agriculture Today and Tomorrow Meeting

- Eric acknowledged how impressed he was by the quality of the workshop and the array of people who attended and spoke. It was beyond his expectation and a powerful thing for the OSA to have done. It establishes the OSA as a public force in supporting agriculture. It showed that the OSA wants to work on agricultural issues and it began the public dialogue. He was impressed with each board member expressed personal interests and Patrick's public statements. He commented on various speakers: Jan Garrod who stated he understood why cropland on the valley floor is threatened at this time, where cattle lands on the hills are not. California Farmlink that brings people together who have land and those who want to acquire land for agriculture on the central coast and Santa Clara Valley. ALBA which trains field hands on how to manage farms and gets them business training to operate a farm because they are our future farmers. Mr. Santiago spoke from the Healthy Silicon Valley Foundation. This organization represents a collaborative of over 100 agencies and they target obesity by getting more fresh fruits and veggies to our children. He stated that he has contact with foundations with money and Eric suggested that the OSA work with him to look into that funding source. He thought that as a result of this meeting, the OSA got a lot of "raw material" to work with. Patrick had offered the opportunity for written input and Rachel said they have received three or four written responses to date.
- Garnetta said that when she talked about the CAC Ag Study, she was approached by several people who wanted to add their recommendations/comments to it.
- Susan was impressed by the meeting overall. She felt there were opportunities for a lot of verbal input and there was a lot of thoughtful commentary. Personally, she would have liked to have seen a lot more small farmers at the meeting. She would also like to see a lot more schools growing food in their own gardens for students to consume. Eric said that Sonoma and Marin are running whole classes of schools through their farms.
- Eric mentioned Doug Hayden the official from the California Farmer's Markets and their role in making small markets financially successful.
- David was impressed by the diversity of opinion from the various groups represented (Hippies to Agra-business). There was no sense of antagonism at the meeting and many different viewpoints were expressed and shared.
- Garnetta said that part of the Board's goal is to better define agriculture for their policies. The OSA needs to find out what they need to do to build for the next generation of OSA. Agriculture may be of prime value and the OSA is the only public agency for that preservation. She praised the pacing and the speakers and felt that the community felt heard. The meeting validated that agriculture is still valuable to our community and must be preserved. Now we must decide on next steps.
- David stated that people there were looking for leadership.

B. Bay Area Agriculture Land Conservation Agencies Report

- The CAC presentation on their recommendations will be soon at an upcoming meeting.
- Eric suggested it be scheduled when Dorsey is in town and can be there.
- Garnetta said Patrick and Dorsey are collaborating on the date.

C. 2008-09 CAC Work plan

- David distributed a copy of the work plan
- 1.a. no comment
- 1.b. in progress – starting with this meeting
- 1.c. no comment
- 2. a. we should all make an effort to attend
- 2.b. we all need to look for needed community members for vacant positions: Districts 2 (Milpitas area), 6(Central San Jose/downtown area), and 7(Evergreen)

Agriculture (we should look at attendees at meeting on 3/14), and Civic (business representative)

- 2.c. no comments
- 2d. this is a huge task and very complex – needs further discussion
- 2.e. group would like Patrick to set up tours to properties like we did last year.
- 3.a. Patrick had mentioned that the Morgan Hill El Toro project coming soon.
- 4. Eric – as the San Jose General Plan comes to a certain point, the Coyote Valley Specific Plan will be reviewed – it is still down the road.
- 5. Talked about wanting to go out in pairs to neighborhood groups in possibly the summer or fall. Eric suggested that we might want to let the lawsuit settle down so the Board would be in a position to decide on what they want us to do.
- 6. a & b – Done
- 7. Derek is in charge of volunteers and the contact person
- 8. Interpretive Program will be training more docents. OSA would like to do more tours at Doan, Pallassou and Blair in the future. If interested, contact Teri

Rachel was asked if we were to document our volunteer time as part of the budgeting process (a form of “in kind donations”). She will find out and report back.

7. New Business – none

9. Items for next meeting

- A. Next member presentation: Chris Kangas
- B. Update on work plan by David
- C. Ask Lark to present information on the outreach program

10. Announcements

A. CAC Members

- Kitty: Last Friday she was at the Santa Clara Archives and wondered if OSA wanted to get some space to store items. People go there to work on books, papers and dissertations. She thought the OSA would be advised to get some space reserved.
- Eric: May will be the Annual Bay Area Open Space Conference at the Presidio. He will get us information and highly recommended the event. Lark did a booth there last year.
- CK asked a question: Will CAC have an opportunity to review the OSA budget? All agreed that would be appropriate. Garnetta said they will be starting that process in the near future as it must be completed by June. It is typically reviewed in April and May. It is folded into the engineer’s report. She suggested that we be invited to the OSA meetings when the budget is a topic. CK stated that in the past a joint meeting was held with the OSA and the CAC. He recalled that in the past there was a presentation given prior to the budget adoption. Garnetta said she would get a budget timeline to the CAC before the next meeting. CAC members wanted a joint meeting scheduled.
- Jan: The 1st Wednesday of April at 70 West Hedding at 6:30pm the Parks and Rec department commission will be reviewing the Martial Cottle plan. The agenda is on the parks website. The plan contains a lot of agriculture.

Adjourned at 8:40 pm

cc: Garnetta Annable, Boardmember Liaison

Meeting summary by Gloria Dirkmaat