

TRI-CITY and COUNTY COOPERATIVE PLANNING GROUP
Cities of Benicia, Fairfield, and Vallejo * County of Solano
675 Texas St., Suite 5500, Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 784-6765

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

February 17, 2010

1. Roll Call

Citizen's Advisory Committee: Bob Berman, Teri Booth, Eugene Doherty, Harry Englebright, Karlyn Lewis, Mark Morris, Alice Plutchok, Jim Syar, Brian Travis, Bob Webb and Dan Smith

Staff Present: Brian Miller, City of Fairfield; Bill Tuikka, City of Vallejo; Lisa Porras, City of Benicia,

Others Present: Sue Wickham (Solano Land Trust); Dan Sykes (Solano County Parks Manager), Scott Shepherd (Benicia Sky Valley Committee)

2. Introductions

Members of the Tri-City CAC and other meeting attendees introduced themselves.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Approval of Minutes of December 14, 2009 and December 14, 2009 Joint Meeting

Dan Smith had submitted several minor typographical corrections. He also noted the correction to Teri Booth's name. Finally, he requested that the language be corrected to reference support by the public for a Park District. With these corrections, the minutes were approved.

5. Update from the regional Park Subcommittee

Bob Berman reported that Harry Englebright, Eugene Doherty, Bob Webb, Linda Seifert, and Teri Booth met as a Regional Park Subcommittee to discuss how to move the open space agenda forward. The general consensus was that the Committee members should become more active in terms of public outreach and awareness, as both are key to developing more support for open space preservation-and funding. He noted the importance of reaching out to the broader open space community and the various interest and user groups active in the Bay

Area. Eugene Doherty attended the recent Flyways Festival representing the Cooperative Planning Group.

Harry Englebright noted that he located one copy of the "Sky Valley-Cordelia Hills" brochure prepared several years ago. He suggested the Tri-City Group republish and update these brochures and use them for publicizing open space issues. The brochure could tie the planning area to Lynch Canyon and the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

Eugene Doherty agreed, suggesting that regional residents should be able to Google "Sky Valley Cordelia Hills" and receive an update on activities and resources. He informed the Tri-City CAC that he would like to develop a website, an e-newsletter with a suggested name of "S.C.O.R.E" (Solano County Outdoor Recreation Events), and a mailing list. Several people signed up for the mailing list at the Flyway Festival. His intent is for the website to serve as a clearinghouse for information about open space resources and events in the area.

Teri Booth noted the proximity of Lynch Canyon to Bay Area residents. A website would help Solano County to capture this market.

Sue Wickham asked if the focus was on the west area of the county. She noted that there are other open space resources in other parts of the county and it is important to bring other cities into the discussion. Dan Smith responded that the general informal consensus has been to focus on the west area of the county. Brian Miller noted that the Cooperative Planning Group is charged with planning for the Cooperative Planning Area. The County should take the lead on countywide efforts. Sue Wickham expressed concern about an "east county-west county" divide. Gene Doherty noted that the proposed website would provide a link to the County website and that his hope is that the website will be a countywide resource.

Gene then described the proposed website and master email list that he is developing. The goal is to develop a base of support for open space issues in Solano County. The idea for the first "e-newsletter," Solano County Outdoor Recreation Events (SCORE) is to provide a list of contacts, resources, and web links, along with volunteering opportunities.

Harry Englebright then suggested that dedications are another way of publicizing open space events. The Cooperative Planning Group should be present at the McGary Road opening.

Dan Sykes, Solano County Parks Manager, then reported on the effort to obtain freeway signage for Lynch Canyon. He noted that CALTRANS staff helped prepare sign concept drawings but that the County will need to fund the formal review process (as well as fabrication and installation). It was noted that the County does not have funding to pursue the sign at this time. Dan Sykes agreed to talk with the East Bay Regional Park District to get a better estimate on costs. The Citizens Advisory Committee will work with Dan on this issue.

6. Update on SLT Projects, Efforts and Events

Sue Wickham noted that Saturday, Sunday, and Monday are loaded with events, including monthly tours, docent training, a special "Artists Day" open to local and regional artists, poets, writers, a September Harvest Festival, the June 5 Trail Run, a Furlough Friday Fun Day, a

Raptor Tour, and a Farm Fresh Feast at Lester Orchards in Winters.

The Land Trust is currently working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to integrate habitat and resource conservation and public access planning. The Cooperative Planning Area is very important for the Callipe Silverspot Butterfly (as is McIntyre Ranch). Key concerns include addressing habitat issues before trail layouts are finalized and ensuring that public access is carefully monitored and supervised.

Dan Sykes provided an overview of the Lynch Canyon "Success Criteria" for 2009-2010. The goal is to add new user groups. Bob Berman suggested that a key "success criteria" or goal should be maintaining public access to Lynch Canyon-and expanding the number of days open to the public. The consensus was to add this language to the introductory paragraphs in the Success Criteria document.

Sue Wickham then provided an update on land acquisitions funded by the Congressman George Miller earmark. The Solano Land Trust has identified four properties, including one in Sky Valley (aka Signature Property) that will be protected through a conservation easement and three fee title acquisitions along Interstate 80 adjacent to Lynch Canyon. The Solano Land Trust Board will review the acquisitions on March 3, with the Solano County Board of Supervisors acting on the recommendation the following week (March 8). Solano County will then complete the CEQA process for the acquisition.

7. Update on Sky Valley Open Space Committee Activities

Gene Doherty introduced Mr. Shepherd, who had served on the Sky Valley Open Space Committee for four years. Mr. Shepherd noted that the Signature Property acquisition represents a breakthrough in the work of the committee's efforts to preserve Sky Valley. He noted that the Committee has always been discussing funding opportunities with the Rangeland Trust.

8. Update on McIntyre Ranch Plan

Bill Tuikka, staff person from Vallejo, provided the update. He noted that this project is currently not a priority for GVRD. Vallejo Public Works has met with the neighboring property owners who now do not appear to be interested in taking on the maintenance of St. Johns Mine Road. It is likely the road will remain public. The planning for the USGS project is continuing, although the City of Vallejo has seen no applications or details.

Bill then noted that the City of Vallejo is severely cutting functions and costs. There is a good chance the City will elect to withdraw from the Cooperative Planning Group. He will report on any decisions at future meetings.

9. Overview of Solano County Outdoor Recreation Events

This item was covered in the discussions above.

10. Discussion of Combining Board and CAC meetings more often

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that a spring meeting will be a combined meeting. This will enable the full CAC/Governing Board to discuss the work of the subcommittee. The CAC directed staff to coordinate the upcoming meeting schedules.

11. Future Agenda Topics

The group agreed that Kathy Hoffman should be recognized for her decade of service to the Cooperative Planning Group.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

The next regular Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Group Citizens Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, 2010.



TRI-CITY AND COUNTY COOPERATIVE PLANNING GROUP
 Cities of Benicia, Fairfield, and Vallejo ★ County of Solano

Citizens Advisory Committee
2010 Attendance Record
 X = Attendance at meeting

TRI-CITY AND COUNTY COOPERATIVE PLANNING GROUP							
	2/17/10	5/19/10	8/18/10	11/17/10			
Bob Berman	X						
Teri Booth	X						
Eugene Doherty	X						
Harry Englebright	X						
Karlyn Lewis	X						
Mark Morris	X						
Alice Plutchok	X						
Dan Smith	X						
Brian Travis	X						
Jim Syar	X						
Bob Webb	X						
Vacant							