



SOLANO OPEN SPACE

JOINT GOVERNING BOARD/ CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 12, 2011

1. Roll Call

Governing Board Members:

Supervisor Seifert, Councilpersons Moy,
Campbell, Hannigan

Citizen's Advisory Committee:

Bob Berman, Eugene Doherty, Harry Englebright,
Elizabeth Moses, Alice Plutchok, Brian Travis,
and Dan Smith

Staff Present:

Brian Miller, City of Fairfield; Bill Tuikka, City of
Vallejo; Matt Walsh, Solano County

Others Present:

Sue Wickham, Solano Land Trust

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Introductions

Introductions were waived as those present knew each other.

4. Public Comment

Eugene Doherty stated that he wanted to encourage the City of Benicia as well as the non-profit(s) to promote and enter into an agreement with the State to keep the Benicia State Recreation Area and the Benicia Capital State Historic Park open. Harry Englebright commented that the Bay Ridge Trail Association also sent a letter to the State offering any assistance they could provide to help keep trails open. Dan Smith noted that Henry Coe State Park in the South Bay area could be taken off the park closure list.

5. Approval of Minutes of June 13, 2011 and September 12, 2011

The minutes of June 13, 2011 and September 12, 2011 were approved.

6. Adoption of 2011-2012 Budget

Brian Miller noted that line items included (1) capital improvement projects primarily going to the Solano Land Trust for Lynch Canyon and other properties; (2) acquisition planning and (3) open space outreach. Staff recommended that additional money be put towards funding the sign for Lynch Canyon. Chair Seifert asked if there were any further comments. There being none she asked the Governing Board if there was a motion. Councilperson Hannigan made a motion to approve the 2011-12 Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Campbell. The motion was approved unanimously by the Governing Board.

7. Approval of Lynch Canyon Success Criteria

Sue Wickham, Solano Land Trust (SLT), stated that the success criteria for Lynch Canyon had been met. Some of their main objectives were to (1) promote visitors to Lynch Canyon through a variety of activities such as hikes, trail runs, biking, horseback riding; (2) docent training for volunteers and (3) development of educational programs for adults and children. In the past year approximately 3,100 people visited Lynch Canyon. This number of visitors reflects a sustained interest in the park despite its operating hours being reduced 60% from Year 3 due to funding constraints. Councilperson Moy motioned to approve the success criteria of Lynch Canyon. Dan Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Update on Solano Land Trust

Sue Wickham, Solano Land Trust, summarized upcoming events and distributed flyers for events in January and February. She noted that several artists are creating a body of work called Seeing Solano: Solano Land Trust Through the Eyes of Artists which is being exhibited at the Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum through December. The paintings and photographs in the collection are inspired by protected lands in Solano County. Ms. Wickham added that Rush Ranch will host a Raptor Workshop and Tour in December. Ms Wickham reported that the SLT has raised 9 million dollars so far for the purchase of the Rockville Trails property. They are continuing their campaign to raise an additional 5 million dollars. Chair Seifert suggested that SLT give a presentation on the status of the Rockville Trails purchase to the Solano Open Space Group in March.

9. Regional Park Issues: Report/Discussion (Subcommittee)

Ms. Wickham reported that she had spoken with Jim Syar regarding the signage for Lynch Canyon. He has assigned the work to one of his employees. They continue to work with Caltrans towards completion of the project.

a. Website Report

This item was postponed to a future agenda.

b. Open Space Management and Funding Options:

Eugene Doherty gave a brief status report on the two State parks in Benicia.

The City of Benicia and the Benicia State Park Association have submitted letters of intent to assume operations of the Benicia State Recreation Area and the Benicia

Capital State Historic Park. Mr. Berman noted that the City of Benicia was proposing to do some outdoor maintenance at both the State Recreation Area and the Benicia Capital State Historic Park through an interim memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the State of California. Chair Seifert noted that representatives from the City of Benicia and State legislators had met to discuss the MOU.

c. Open Space Access

Matt Walsh reported that the Signature property is off the table for utilizing the George Miller earmarked funds for open space acquisition because the environmental consultants were not provided access to the property. Efforts for the Souza and Brown properties are moving fairly well. After the CEQA work is completed, County Public Works will be able to begin the land acquisition negotiation process with the land owners.

10. Future Agenda Items Closing/Remarks

Mr. Miller asked if there was any interest in holding a Spring Event for next year. Mr. Berman suggested that a work plan be developed to help the group focus on what they want to accomplish in the next few years. Mr. Smith suggested that SLT give a presentation on the status of the Rockville Trails purchase. Chair Seifert added that she would like to see a presentation on the status of the State parks. Councilperson Hannigan suggested a workshop to identify goals for an SOS work plan as suggested by Mr. Berman above. Councilperson Moy suggested meeting with the public on a Saturday morning to generate ideas for public outreach for open space. Mr. Smith recommended an update on the quarry expansion as a future agenda item.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to the next Joint Governing Board/Citizens Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, March 12, 2012.