



**Napa County Regional Park
and Open Space District**

Karen Turjanis
Director, Ward One

Tony Norris
Director, Ward Two

Michael Haley
Director, Ward Three

Dave Finigan
Director, Ward Four

Barry Christian
Director, Ward Five

AGENDA

PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 1:00 P.M.
City Hall, 955 School Street, Napa, CA 94559

General Information

Agenda items will generally be considered in the order indicated below, except for Set Matters, which will be considered at the time indicated. Agenda items may from time to time be taken out of order at the discretion of the President.

The meeting room is wheelchair accessible. Assistive listening devices and interpreters are available through the District Secretary. Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations, aids, or services may be made to the Secretary's office no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting date by contacting 707.259.8603.

Any member of the audience desiring to address the District on a matter on the Agenda, please proceed to the rostrum and, after receiving recognition from the President, give your name, address, and your comments or questions. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit you comments to the specific subject under discussion. Time limitations shall be at the discretion of the President.

State law requires agency officers (Directors and Officers) to disclose, and then be disqualified from participation in, any proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use, if the officer has received from any participant in the proceeding an amount exceeding \$250 within the prior 12 month period. State law also requires any participant in a proceeding to disclose on the record any such contributions to an agency officer.

All materials relating to an agenda item for an open session of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors which are provided to a majority or all of the members of the Board by Board members, staff or the public within 72 hours of but prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection, on and after at the time of such distribution, in the NCRPOSD Office at 1195 Third Street, Suite 210, Napa, California 94559, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., except for County holidays. Materials distributed to a majority or all of the members of the Board at the meeting will be available for public inspection at the public meeting if prepared by the members of the Board or County staff and after the public meeting if prepared by some other person. Availability of materials related to agenda items for public inspection does not include materials which are exempt from public disclosure under Government Code §§6253.5, 6254, 6254.3, 6254.7, 6254.15, 6254.16, or 6254.22.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Public Comment

In this time period, anyone may address the Board of Directors regarding any subject over which the Board has jurisdiction but which is not on today's posted agenda. In order to provide all interested parties an opportunity to speak, time limitations shall be at the discretion of the President. As required by Government Code, no action or discussion will be undertaken on any item raised during this Public Comment period.

3. Administrative Items

- a. Follow up questions and discussion for the meeting of February 5, 2015, and consideration and potential approval of minutes of February 5, 2015.
- b. Presentation by Steve Palmer, Director of Public Works and Jim Haller, Parks Supervisor, on the City of St. Helena's recreation and open space programs and projects.
- c. Presentation by Rick Thomasser, Watershed and Flood Control Operations Manager, Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, about the current status and future needs for flood control and riparian restoration projects and needs.
- d. Review of the questions that the Advisory Committee is charged with addressing, observations about what has been learned to date, and identification of additional information the Advisory Committee needs to complete its deliberations. (materials to be distributed and discussed at meeting)

4. Announcements by Board and Staff

In this time period, members of the Advisory Committee, District staff and District Directors may announce meetings, events, and other matters of interest. No action will be taken by the Committee on any announcements.

5. Adjournment



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MINUTES

PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 2:00 P.M.

City Hall, 955 School Street, Napa, CA 94559

General Information

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1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Howard Siegel

Committee members in attendance: Stu Williams, Sandy Fagan, Roberta Oswald, Jeff Dodd, Karen Chang, Howard Siegel, Richard Seiferheld, Denice Britton Smith, John Glaser

Committee members absent: Mike Stanfield, Richard Niemann, Bob Russell, Phill Blake, Brad Simpkins, Samantha Holland

2. Public Comment

In this time period, anyone may address the Board of Directors regarding any subject over which the Board has jurisdiction but which is not on today's posted agenda. In order to provide all interested parties an opportunity to speak, time limitations shall be at the discretion of the President. As required by Government Code, no action or discussion will be undertaken on any item raised during this Public Comment period.

None.

3. Administrative Items

- a. Consideration and potential approval of minutes of February 5, 2015.

*Minutes of February 5, 2015 approved.
SF-SW-RO-JD-KC,HW,RS,DBS,JG*

- b. Presentation by Andrea McKenzie, General Manager of the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority on Santa Clara County Open Space Authority and Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District funding strategies and experiences.

Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (SCAPOS) was approved by the voters in 1990 along with a ¼% sales tax for 20 years. The measure was renewed by the voters in 2008. This is now generating about \$18 - \$20 million per year. It was important to update the district master plan before going to the voters for the renewal. The focus initially was on purchase of agricultural and open space easements. Due to popular request, the measure when renewed was modified to put more emphasis on acquiring fee title to open space lands and providing public access to protected lands. SCAPOS is a dependent special district (a separate legal entity, but governed by the County Board of Supervisors).

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority was formed in 1993, along with \$12/parcel benefit assessment district. The benefit assessment district was challenged legally, and the State Supreme Court determined that benefit assessment districts could not be used for purposes that provided general public benefit; rather, the assessment per parcel must be directly related to a benefit provided to that parcel. In 2014 the voters approved by \$24 per parcel tax, with 25% of the revenues available as grants to cities, non-profits and school districts to fund urban open space projects. The ballot measure requires an independent citizens oversight committee and

annual audits. The measure received the strongest support from the urbanized parts of the county, and from Hispanics and other smaller ethnic groups.

- c. Presentation by City Manager Richard Spitler on the City of Calistoga's park, recreation and open space programs.

The City of Calistoga operates a variety of recreation facilities and programs, including their relatively new municipal swimming pool. They have several modest projects for improvements at city parks including plans for a new bocce ball court, a restored teen center. The City is working with the Vine Trail on constructing the trail through the city from the Oat Hill Mine Trail to Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, and has worked with the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District on opening and improving the Oat Hill Mine Trail. Calistoga sees this regional trail system as important to the economic health of the City, since tourism is the major source of revenue and jobs for the City.

- d. Presentation by Creighton Wright, Park and Recreation Director, on the City of American Canyon's park, recreation and open space programs.

The City of American Canyon has placed considerable emphasis on recreation and parks, including greenways, trails and access to both the hills (Newell Preserve) and the Napa River. They have about 60 acres of vacant land that the City is looking at for park and greenway potential. The City has built several miles of the San Francisco Bay Trail, and is now seeking approval to extend the trail from American Canyon to Vallejo, as well as supporting Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District efforts to continue the trail north to the City of Napa. About one-third of the City's park and recreation budget comes from user fees. The budget has been flat in the past few years; a new dedicated revenue stream will be needed for the city to implement its goals for parks and recreation. These goals include an expanded aquatics center, potentially a new community center, renovation of older parks including the Little League complex, an environmentally oriented park at Clarke Ranch, a river to ridge trail, more wetlands trails, and new senior programs.

4. Announcements by Board and Staff

In this time period, members of the Advisory Committee, District staff and District Directors may announce meetings, events, and other matters of interest. No action will be taken by the Committee on any announcements.

There was a consensus of the committee to see if the meetings could be started 1 pm so there would be more time to delve into the issues and complete the committee's tasks.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent on a motion by Stu Williams.

Park and Open Space District Advisory Committee

March 5, 2015

Questions to Consider

1. Park District track record:

- a. Has the District adopted clear goals and objectives?
- b. Do the District's goals and objectives reflect the needs of our county?
- c. Rate the District's performance regarding:
 - i. Taking advantage of opportunities
 - ii. Completing projects
 - iii. Public outreach

2. Is enough being done, or is more needed?

- a. Between the Park District and others (the cities within the county, the Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the Land Trust of Napa County and other non-profit organizations) are the important park, recreation, and conservation needs of the county being met?
- b. Do the efforts complement, supplement or duplicate each other?
- c. Are there significant gaps in what has been/is being provided? Are there areas where more is needed?

Indicate which statement(s) you agree/disagree with (score 1-5):

- (a) The District's track record doesn't justify its continued existence as an independent special district, and should be dissolved and its assets distributed to other agencies/organizations that could do it better.
- (b) The District has proven its worth, but there really isn't any compelling need to do more; it should shift to a maintenance mode and live within its current financial means.
- (c) More is needed to preserve special places and land/water resources, provide nature-based recreation, and/or environmental education, but expanding the role of the District is not the best method for doing this.
- (d) The District has proven to be effective in addressing important needs, and merits additional funding.

3. If more is needed, how should those increased efforts be funded?

- (a) Increase user fees (requires shift in District priorities to those which have greatest revenue generation potential)
- (b) Increase private donations (potential competition with other non-profit purposes)
- (c) Encourage the County to increase its support using existing General Fund revenues (competition with other County priorities)
- (d) Encourage city water agencies to increase water rates to fund municipal water supply watershed protection (could support some District goals, but not the District itself)
- (e) Encourage the flood district to increase its parcel assessment to fund continued “living river” projects (could support some District goals, but not the District itself)
- (f) Encourage school districts to increase funding for environmental education (would reduce funds available to other education purposes, or require voter approval for a new parcel tax)
- (g) Seek voter approval to increase the Transient Occupancy Tax to support District (requires County cooperation, and potentially City cooperation)(could fund capital or operating purposes)
- (h) Seek voter approval for a parcel tax (could fund capital or operating purposes)
- (i) Seek voter approval for a property (ad valorem) tax so District can sell bonds (only for capital projects--land and facilities—not maintenance and operation)
- (j) Seek voter approval for a sales tax (requires County cooperation; could fund capital or operating purposes)
- (k) Seek property owner approval for a benefit assessment district (can only fund projects that did not have general public benefit—eg, possibly a neighborhood pocket park)
- (l) Other: _____

4. Should the Park District seek to partner with other agencies in Napa County on a combined funding measure (either as a formula distribution, or competitive grants):

- Cities to fund city-sponsored recreation projects
- Cities to fund city park maintenance responsibilities
- Flood District to continue “living river” flood control and restoration projects and maintenance
- Resource Conservation District to fund habitat restoration and water quality projects
- Land Trusts to fund open space preservation and restoration projects/programs