

Geyserville Planning Committee Monthly Meeting

Minutes of October 28, 2020 Meeting

The meeting of the Geyserville Planning Committee, held by Zoom, was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Daisy Damskey.

Members Present: Daisey Damskey, President, Paul Connors, Vice President, John Cash, Secretary, Ryan Petersen, Treasurer, Walter Kieser, Art Torano

1. Review and Approval of September 22, 2020 GPC Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2020, meeting was made by Walter Kieser. Daisy Damskey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
2. Greeting and President's Update: President Damskey welcomed Steve Sachs to the meeting and noted that he would be introduced by Paul Connors later in the agenda.
3. Comments from the Public on Items not on the Agenda: There were no outside comments.
4. Committee members correspondence and communications report: Secretary John Cash asked for approval of the letter drafted to PRMD on behalf of Blair Church & Flynn to support the PG&E project. After discussion the letter was approved without vote. President Damskey will send the letter.

Mr. Cash asked that when he sends correspondence or other materials out to the Committee for comment that all comments be circulated back to Committee members. In this way, revised drafts can better reflect the sense of the whole Committee. He also pointed out that he is using a set of templates provided by his predecessor as Secretary, Walter Kieser. If there are objections to these templates, he asked that members of the Committee let him know so that he can make revisions and bring them forward for approval.

5. Financial Report: Treasurer Ryan Petersen reported that there was no change since the last meeting in the CGPC reserves of \$387.80.
6. Steve Sachs – Introduction by Paul Connors: Vice President Connors introduced Steve Sachs, who has applied to be an appointed member of the Geyserville Planning Committee. This appointment will take the place of Ryan Petersen, who has asked to resign. Mr. Sachs spoke briefly to the Committee to elaborate on his application email. He stated his strong commitment to the Geyserville community and his desire to raise its visibility. He discussed his extensive experience over many years with the federal government in community and economic development.

There was broad praise for Mr. Sachs experience and its relevance to the work of the GPC. Questions were posed by John Cash, Walter Kieser, and Hal Hinkle, a Geyserville resident. There

was further discussion about how best to engage the Hispanic population in the work of community development so that the GPC can better represent the interests of this important element of our community.

Ryan Petersen acknowledged Mr. Sachs valuable experience but he questioned President Damskey and Vice President Connors about the procedures for selecting GPC members. He was concerned over what he perceived as a lack of transparency around procedures and process. He is concerned that the Committee has been geographically and socioeconomically out of balance.

Vice President Connors said that he feels demographic representation is less important than interest and experience. John Cash expressed his concern that the GPC lacked diversity. Art Torano then pointed out that he speaks Spanish and that he feels he has a strong understanding of the local Hispanic community.

Ryan Petersen said he knows of two individuals that have expressed interest in joining the Committee. President Damskey asked that they contact her directly to express their interest in hopes that the GPC will have two candidates to interview at the January meeting for the remaining open slot.

Paul Connors moved that Steve Sachs be appointed to the Geyserville Planning Committee to succeed Ryan Petersen. John Cash seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The Committee thanked Ryan Petersen for his lengthy service and Mr. Sachs replaced him at the meeting.

7. Update on Park Committee – a Joint Venture of MAC and GPC Members: President Damskey said that there has been no response from the owners of the property at the north end of town that was discussed at the last GPC meeting. The County, however, has been responsive to a discussion of the property adjacent to the Park and Ride. She said there is positive energy from the community including the casino for a park on this location.

Adrian Garayalde, a Geyserville resident, said that the site is slightly under two acres including the parking area. She agreed to investigate the adjacent undeveloped area for its possible availability.

Steve Sachs asked if this would present an opportunity to engage the Hispanic community in the planning. Paul Connors said that there are few children in the community and that the park should be designed to appeal to outside visitors. This prompted some discussion around the importance of a park for families in the Hispanic community. Hal Hinkle, a Geyserville resident, raised questions around alcohol consumption in the park as well as the need for restroom facilities. Adrian Garayalde said the Park Committee is working on all of these issues

8. December Blackout for GPC Meeting: President Damskey asked if the Committee should skip December and hold its next meeting in January, as is customary. John Cash moved and Paul Connors seconded this motion. The next GPC meeting will be held on November 24 and there will be no December meeting.

9. Discussion of appointment of two new Committee members: This agenda item was already covered.

10. GPC's land use/development purview, beyond responding to discretionary permit referrals from PRMD: Walter Kieser stated that the GPC has no responsibility for non-discretionary permits. It is not our job to deal with them. The Committee responds to referrals from Permit Sonoma. As a committee, we should not be involved in code enforcement activities although it is the right of any individual Committee member *in their personal capacity* to raise potential code violations with the County. We must not represent the GPC in this way at any time.

Paul Connors said that we all agree with this definition of our proper roles and responsibilities and commit to ensuring that there will be no further incidents.

11. Art-update on building and corner lot temporary *Locals* tasting: Art Torano informed the Committee that he has offered his lot on the corner of Geyserville Avenue and Route 128 to the *Locals* tasting room to be used as a tasting area for ten local wineries. He has received a temporary permit for this purpose and is working with *Locals* on a month-to-month lease. He is charging \$1/month and built the space for the tasting area for free. He is doing this to support the community and to help keep *Locals* afloat as a business.

After discussion, the Committee thanked Art for his support for the Geyserville community and local business.

12. Appointment of Treasurer: Paul Connors agreed to take on the responsibility of Treasurer for the Geyserville Planning Committee following Ryan Petersen's resignation. John Cash moved that he be appointed to this position and Art Torano seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

President Damskey thanked Paul Connors for all his work managing the PG&E approval process for the Committee.

Adjourn: Paul Connors moved that the meeting of the Geyserville Planning Committee be adjourned. Art Torano seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.