

# Geyserville Planning Committee Monthly Meeting

## Minutes of April 27, 2021 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 and Treasurer, John Cash, Secretary, Walter Kieser, Art Torano, and Steven Sachs.

1. Greeting and President's Update: President Damskey welcomed everyone to the meeting. She pointed out that we now had access to a professional Zoom account and could add up to 100 attendees.
2. Review and Approval of March 23, 2021, GPC Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2021, meeting was made by Steve Sachs. Art Torano seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
3. Comments from the Public on Items not on the Agenda: Paul Connors reminded the Committee that we agreed to send a letter to representatives of the Geyserville Community Foundation thanking them for the recent barrel painting event. He asked if this had been done and John Cash replied that he had drafted an email for President Damskey to forward to Victoria Heiges and Bryce Jones. She could not recall if the email had been sent but promised to check her files. Paul Connors then asked when the barrels would be removed. John Cash agreed to ask Victoria Heiges and to report back to the Committee.
4. Correspondence and Member Communications: Daisy Damskey and Paul Connors brought up the recent letter sent to the GPC from the Greenbelt Alliance opposing the recent EIR regarding changes in residential zoning. The new head of PRMD is willing to come before the Committee to present on the EIR. Steve Sachs suggested that we not get into the details of the document but be prepared as a committee to comment on the whole project. For the next meeting, President Damskey asked that we read the EIR and discuss whether or not a formal letter should be drafted in response.
5. Finance Update: Paul Connors reported that the Committee currently had \$102.80 in the account. The Committee is obligated to pay Jose Diaz \$150 quarterly for his support of the website. Daisy Damskey reported that she had secured \$300 in new donations.
6. Completed Agreement with Geyserville Community Foundation: President Damskey reported that the Geyserville Community Foundation has agreed to receive contributions in support of the GPC and to receipt them. She said that we will now put the GCF logo on our website as well as a donation tab. She said she would contact the Foundation to see if any further documents are needed for signature. Steve Sachs asked if there was a formal accounting process and Paul Connors said the GCF is too small to have a formal audit. Daisy wondered about possible support from the County and our guest, Vice Mayor of Cloverdale Marta Cruz, said that she was confident there are funds we can claim to support the work of the Committee.

7. North Sonoma County Update: Guest, Marta Cruz, Vice Mayor of Cloverdale: Steve Sachs introduced Marta Cruz-Conception, who was then serving as Vice Mayor of Cloverdale. She has been in Cloverdale for five years and became politically active because of concern over the absence of Latino representation in local government. She sees Geyserville as an integral part of Cloverdale and created La Familia Sana to help both communities with a focus on agricultural workers. She cited its success with the vaccination program

The Vice Mayor said that State government is expecting a regional approach to issues and that we should collaborate with Cloverdale and with Healdsburg on common issues, such as the Russian River. She suggested that a Cloverdale/Geyserville alliance could secure additional funding for various projects including river issues, homelessness, food insecurity, and senior services. She singled out Catelli's in thanks for their donations of food during the pandemic. She also suggested that the Cloverdale library could potentially support senior services in Geyserville.

Marta reported that she is actively involved with Zero Waste, an organization that she chairs. She suggested that they could work with Geyserville to partner on hazardous waste recycling. Walter Kieser thanked Marta for her presentation and suggested that the GPC consider additional ways to work with Cloverdale going forward. He also would like the Committee to work with the Vice Mayor on efforts to increase Latin X representation on the Geyserville Planning Committee.

8. Update on the Geyserville/Alexander Valley MAC: Walter Kieser reported that there would be a meeting of the GAV/MAC tomorrow evening at 5:30. He said there had been significant progress in recent weeks. The Board of Supervisors approved allocating funds for the projects put forward by the MAC including the Alexander Valley Fire Station study, a digital map of the Geyserville streetscape, a design study for the Alexander Valley bridge, a design study for the Alexander Valley School, and a design study for the Geyserville park/plaza. In addition, FEMA has allocated funding for a drainage study in Geyserville and Marshall Turbeville has already used his \$100,000 allocation for vegetation management. There are also plans for a Russian River Management Plan summit to be held following harvest this year.

President Damskey asked about the Odd Fellows Hall and Walter replied that it was not on the list for funding for this year. He also reported that he is approaching Supervisor Gore to establish a separate conduit to create a policy-level solution that allows for funding these planning committee projects across the county. He complained about the slowness and bureaucratic challenges of the existing process and believes it is important to implement a more streamlined way to access funds.

9. Recommendations for GPC election cycle/annual meeting: Paul Connors referenced a handout that had been sent out earlier describing the proposed plan (enclosed). Walter Kieser asked to know who are currently elected members and who are appointed. Specifically, Art Torano is an elected and not an appointed member. There was discussion about whether to do a mailer for the proposed September Town Hall meeting. John Cash asked what would be the terms of service for any GPC members elected in September since they would be out of synch with the regular term process for members elected in April. Paul Connors said that he would come back

to the Committee with some suggestions about how best to resolve this issue as well as ideas about how the Town Hall Meeting and election could be promoted.

Walter Kieser moved that the proposal for a September Town Hall meeting with election for the seats currently held by appointment by John Cash and Steve Sachs as well as a third open seat be approved. John Cash seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

10. Torano corner lot update and revised building plans: Steve Sachs described some proposed changes to the approved construction project of GPC member, Art Torano, located on Geyserville Avenue at Route 128. There was discussion about the details of the project but the Committee agreed that since this project was already approved by the GPC and the County, we had no role to play at this time. Should the County request further input from the GPC on changes to the project, they would be considered at that time. The Committee also agreed that individual members would avoid any independent conversations about business that might come before the GPC so as to be in compliance with the regulations of the Brown Act.

Adjourn: John Cash moved that the meeting of the Geyserville Planning Committee be adjourned. Paul Connors seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.