

Geyserville Planning Committee Monthly Meeting

Minutes of July 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, Walter Kieser, Secretary, Ryan Petersen, Treasurer, John Cash and Art Torano

1. Greeting and President's Update: President Damskey announced that Walter Kieser would be stepping down as Secretary of the Geyserville Planning Committee and that she had asked John Cash to assume the responsibility. Walter Keiser moved that John Cash be appointed Secretary of the GPC. Ryan Petersen seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.
2. Review and Approval of June 30, 2020 GPC Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the June 30, 2020, meeting was made by John Cash and seconded by Ryan Petersen. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Comments from the Public on Items not on the Agenda: Hal Hinkle, a Geyserville resident, requested that he be included on a standard distribution list for upcoming meetings of the GPC.
4. Committee members correspondence and communications report: GPC President Damskey reported that in response to a request from representatives of the Vineyard Valley View Property Owners Board, an HOA representing the Vineyard development, she has asked Permit Sonoma (PRMD) to provide the GPC with all permit requests within the Geyserville Unified School District. She announced that they had agreed to do this.

In order to formalize the conversation between President Damskey and Permit Sonoma, the Committee asked that Walter Kieser write a letter formally requesting that information on building, zoning, and other discretionary permits be provided to the GPC as is consistent with the GPC bylaws. Mr. Kieser agreed to write the letter

5. Consent Calendar Items: No consent items were presented.
6. Financial Report: Treasurer Ryan Petersen reported that the CGPC currently held \$387.80 in reserves.
7. Development Project Reports Review and Comment:

Update regarding PG&E Yard Improvements:

Vice President Paul Connors discussed the state of correspondence between Zachary Hockett, Project Engineer with Blair, Church & Flynn, the firm conducting the yard improvements for

PG&E, and residents of Walden Street, the street adjacent to the yard. He reported that neither he nor the Committee had received any further correspondence about design for the project between the last meeting of the GPC and the current meeting.

Mr. Hockett reported to the Committee and Ms. Melinda Rivera also participated as a representative of PG&E. Mr. Hockett reviewed the original project presented at the June meeting of the GPC for the residents of Walden Street who were not present at that time. He understood at that meeting that there was a clear message that the plans were not acceptable to the community and that changes needed to be made.

He announced that the new focus would be on the perimeter fence only. PG&E's standard requires that there be a 15-foot clearance around the fence to clear vegetation, trim trees, etc. so that there would not be places where people could hide before accessing the property illegally.

In reviewing the design concept for the fence, Mr. Hockett started by considering Geyserville as a Northern California vineyard town that required design elements reflective of local agricultural designs. He also reviewed the history of the PG&E yard and its original plans, which were designed to blend into the community.

As a consequence, his firm has developed a new design concept that eliminates the chain link fence and replaces it with new design elements aimed at better blending into the community. The fence itself will be significantly different and it will be lighter in color. Design prototypes were shown.

The frontage on Walden Street will be articulated in a way that will allow for more vegetation to be maintained. Fencing on Geyserville Avenue will be a lighter color and, following a question by Walter Kieser, will follow existing fence lines.

President Damskey suggested that Mr. Hockett look at the Park-and-Ride site in Geyserville, which uses similar fencing in a manner that is well integrated to the historic Bosworth House, which sits next door.

Mr. Hockett reported that the original Walden Street frontage would take out significant vegetation and increase the presence of the yard to area residents. He made it clear that the designers and PG&E understood that this is a considerable concern for the residents. His firm is requesting that PG&E corporate security approve the elimination of the requirement of removing 15 feet of vegetation around the fence line. He is waiting their response but his current design concept does not remove any trees from the area.

Instead, the new design is looking to provide some draw back on the fence line to create an overall softer frontage to the street. He presented a concept sketch for the Walden Street frontage. He also said that they were considering redesigning the PG&E sign to be more reflective of community design elements, particular wineries. He wants the signage and the fence to mimic the aesthetic of the town.

Walter Kieser thanked Mr. Hockett for his presentation and for listening to the concerns of the GPC as expressed during the last meeting.

At this point, discussion was opened to the community and residents of Walden Street discussed their concerns. Stefanie Freele, a Walden Street resident, said that she was glad that trees will remain and that the addition proposed by Mr. Hockett would look more garden-like. She asked about the entrance gate and pointed out that trucks turning into the yard typically used their back-up sirens rather than wait for the gate to open fully.

John Cash suggested that this is a responsibility of the corporation to ensure that their drivers adhere to community noise standards and do not use back-up sirens precipitously out of impatience. PG&E representative Melinda Rivera said she would take this issue up with the corporation.

William Green, a Walden Street resident, thanked Mr. Hockett for listening to the concerns of the neighbors and for his spirit of cooperation. He raised various issues that had occurred between PG&E and the neighbors in recent years. GPC Vice President, Paul Connors, pointed out that these issues were not relevant to the current discussion around security improvements and therefore outside the provenance of the Geyserville Planning Committee.

President Damskey reminded the Walden Street residents and the GPC that there would be another presentation to the GPC by Mr. Hockett and his firm and a final plan would be presented for GPC review and approval.

William Green raised the issue of traffic and suggested that PG&E provide signage to indicate there are children in the neighborhood and people, including PG&E trucks, need to slow down. Mr. Hockett said he would take this request back to the corporation.

This led to a further discussion of traffic and speeding on Walden Avenue and other Geyserville side streets. As a representative of the Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC), Walter Kieser said he would take this issue up in that organization's traffic subcommittee for further discussion.

Vice President Paul Connors asked Mr. Hockett about the timeline for completion. Mr. Hockett said they hoped to have a final design for presentation at the next GPC meeting that could then be submitted to Permit Sonoma (PRMD).

Mr. Connors asked if Mr. Hockett would do a presentation to the neighbors on the plans and he agreed to do so by Zoom format. The date of August 15 at 11:00 a.m. was tentatively agreed upon. At Mr. Green's suggestion, families from Bosch Avenue would be invited to participate.

8. Committee Reports:

- A. Parks and Recreation Committee: President Damskey said there is discussion with the MAC about the lot at the north end of town as the possible site for a park. Walter Kieser said that the MAC was looking at several different options including the possibility of a river park.
- B. Lighting and Sidewalks Committee: Art Torano reported that he is working with Adriane Garayalde to seek outside funding for lighting and sidewalks. He said there may be a need to get Cal Trans involved for the portions on Route 128 through town. Walter Kieser offered to help in these discussions as he has experience working with Cal Trans on similar issues. Adriane Garayalde said she was working with Cal Trans to repaint red curbing.

- C. Communication and Outreach Committee: John Cash pointed out that there are currently multiple Facebook pages affiliated with Geyserville and he suggested that the GPC work with the MAC on a joint communication strategy. President Damskey pointed out that the most popular of the Facebook pages are commercial in nature and take advertisements. Walter Kieser said that he feels there is potential funding and we should look at a joint approach for the GPC and the MAC. He said he would discuss this offline with Mr. Cash and the two would return to the GPC with a plan at a future meeting. Art Torano informed the committee that the existing GPC Facebook page had not been used for a year. President Damskey asked that future meetings be announced on the GPC Facebook page.
- D. Drainage and Public Works Committee: Ryan Petersen said there was nothing new to report since the last meeting. Adriane Garayalde informed the committee that she had rewritten the grant proposal for drainage remediation and was awaiting a decision on funding. Walter Kieser told the members that this is also a MAC committee and believes there is County interest in the drainage issue and potential funding through the MAC.

Walter Kieser further reported that the MAC had requested \$100,000 from the County to be transferred to the fire district to continue removing vegetation. The MAC is currently awaiting County approval of this request.

9. 2020 Meeting Schedule:

The Committee agreed that monthly meetings would be scheduled for the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All meetings will be via Zoom for the foreseeable future.

A discussion followed concerning the deferred annual Geyserville Town Meeting, which had been scheduled for April before the onset of the pandemic. Adriane Gayaralde pointed out that there are many examples currently of large Zoom meetings that could make the annual Town Meeting possible.

Ryan Petersen said that if we can pull off a Town Meeting on Zoom, we have an obligation to do it. President Damskey said she would work with John Cash and Art Torano to see how we might have a virtual Town Meeting in November.

Ryan Petersen said that the GPC needs to develop/recruit candidates for election. Paul Connors said there are currently four seats up for election.

Vice President Paul Connors moved that the Town Meeting be scheduled for November 10. Ryan Petersen seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Adjourn: John Cash moved that the meeting of the Geyserville Planning Committee be adjourned. Ryan Petersen seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.