

Geyserville Planning Committee Monthly Meeting

Minutes of September 22, 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

Members Not Present: Art Torano

1. Review and Approval of July 28, 2020 GPC Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2020, meeting was made by Walter Kieser. Paul Connors seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
2. Greeting and President's Update: President Damskey announced that she had sent a letter on behalf of the Committee to Permit Sonoma requesting that information on building, zoning, and other discretionary permits be provided to the GPC as is consistent with the GPC bylaws. She has not heard back, and Walter Kieser pointed out that they are significantly behind in their work due to increased responsibilities. He does not expect that we will hear back from them for some time if at all.
3. Comments from the Public on Items not on the Agenda: Adrian Garayalde, a Geyserville resident, reported that she had attended a "listening session" for SMART Train focused on extending the service to Cloverdale. The issue of having a possible stop in Geyserville was brought up but it was pointed out that there was no designated Geyserville stop in the enabling legislation. If the Geyserville Planning Committee wished to raise the issue, it would require a change in the legislation. Adrian suggested that representatives from SMART Train attend a GPC meeting to discuss the issue.

Adrian further reported to the Committee that the restoration project currently underway at Rancheria Creek held the possibility for a public river park. President Damskey reported that she was in discussions with Karen Welde, a Geyserville resident and local realtor, about the possibility of a park on land at the north end of town. She said they are also looking at land adjacent to the Park & Ride lot and were meeting with County representatives to discuss ADA compliance at the site. Zachary Hockett, from Blair Church & Flynn, offered to send contacts to the GPC of firms that specialize in park development.

4. Committee members correspondence and communications report: No correspondence was presented to the Committee.
5. Financial Report: Treasurer Ryan Petersen reported that there was no change since the last meeting in the CGPC reserves of \$387.80.

6. Funding MAC to GPC for Annual Meeting Communication: It was agreed to move this item to the discussion concerning the Annual Meeting, which follows below.
7. Update on Park Developments for Geyserville: This topic was covered under Public Items above.
8. Update on PG&E Fence Project:

Vice President Connors introduced Zachary Hockett, Project Engineer for Blair Church & Flynn to present the final proposed plan to the GPC. He quickly recapped the history of the project and its review process, emphasizing the extensive engagement of the Walden Street residents in the review.

Mr. Hockett asked to make sure that all attendees to the meeting were aware of the project's history. There was agreement and he moved on to his presentation, which emphasized the following:

1. The fence will be painted pine green. It will be 10 feet tall with a curved top.
2. PG&E has agreed to enhance the landscaping at the corner of Walden Street and Geyserville Avenue.
3. The planting plan at the fence line along Walden Street will try to keep as much of the existing planting as possible. They will plant additional shrubs up to 8-10 feet tall and 8 feet wide. All trees will be retained, and a new irrigation system will be put in place for all planting.
4. Mr. Hockett said the fence will be set back 26 feet from the property line.

Bill Green, a resident of Walden Street, pointed out that this must be an error because the existing fence is closer to the street than what was being presented to the Committee. Mr. Hockett acknowledged the mistake and apologized. He stated clearly, however, that PG&E is not willing to set the fence farther back from the property line, which would require changing the existing parking lot.

Several residents of Walden Street were present, and they posed a number of questions to Mr. Hockett about the project. These included

1. Does PG&E have responsibility for the drainage ditch on Walden? It does not; that responsibility lies with the County.
2. Will there be any changes in lighting? Lighting is not included in Mr. Hockett's set of responsibilities and it was suggested that PG&E be contacted directly. No representative of PG&E was present at this meeting.
3. It was requested that a drawing of the new gate be shown. Mr. Hockett said it will match the new fencing.
4. Will the training structure be retained? Mr. Hockett said he had no information on PG&E's future plans for that building.
5. How high will the oaks be trimmed? Mr. Hockett said he was not an arborist but that he anticipated branches would be trimmed well above 15 feet or higher than the top of the fence.

6. What will happen to the existing trees on the section of the street where the fence line is 7 ½ feet back from the drainage ditch? Mr. Hockett said they will keep all trees more than six inches in diameter.

The discussion then moved into a series of complaints and concerns about the activities and purpose of the PG&E facility in general, which were not relevant to the work of Mr. Hockett and his firm. While sympathetic to the Walden Street residents' concerns, the Committee stated repeatedly that it is not our responsibility to review PG&E's activities at the facility. That is a County responsibility. The GPC exists to review specific projects being presented to Permit Sonoma and to provide feedback from the community on those projects. The Committee urged the residents to contact PG&E directly and to alert Superintendent Gore about their concerns. Mr. Hockett agreed to reach out to his contact at PG&E, Melinda Rivera, to present the concerns of the residents.

The Committee agreed to append a recommendation to its letter approving the fencing project requesting that Superintendent Gore or his representatives and Melinda Rivera from PG&E meet with the Walden Street residents to discuss their concerns.

Paul Connors moved that the Committee approve the proposal presented by Mr. Hockett. John Cash seconded. The proposal was approved unanimously

9. Discussion of distance voting and appointments for Geyserville Planning Committee, 2020/2021

President Damskey expressed her concern about holding the annual meeting in November. Vice President Connors agreed. He cannot see how we can hold a Zoom meeting and have voting for new GPC members. He suggested that we accept Ryan Petersen's resignation and take applications for interim appointments until an annual meeting with voting can be held safely.

In further discussion, Adrian Garayalde said she had been in Zoom meetings where voting has taken place. She agreed to work with Ryan Petersen to investigate how we might hold an annual meeting and take a vote on Committee membership.

The Committee agreed to publicize the openings on the GPC and to send prospective members to the Committee website and to President Damskey for further information about the organization, the composition of the Committee, and the process for election. Ryan Petersen agreed to stay as a member until someone is found to take his spot.

John Cash moved that the annual meeting be postponed again until after January 1. President Damskey seconded and the motion passed 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.