

# Geyserville Planning Committee Monthly Meeting

## Minutes of February 22, 2022 Meeting

The meeting of the Geyserville Planning Committee was called to order at the Geyserville Fire Station at 6:05 p.m. by Daisy Damskey, President.

Members Present: Daisy Damskey, President, Paul Connors, Vice President and Treasurer, John Cash, Secretary, Steven Sachs.

1. Greeting and President's Update: President Damskey reported that she had spoken to representatives from Burbank Housing and they will come to a future meeting to discuss their activities in Sonoma County. They have been active in Geyserville having built homes behind the post office area and elsewhere. They are a non-profit organization that works on housing development. She reported that we have 340 email addresses and she will mail out invitations to the next meeting.
2. Review and Approval of January 25, 2022, GPC Minutes: Steve Sachs moved to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2022 meeting. John Cash seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
3. Comments from the public/community. Vice President Paul Connors asked if anyone has seen activity in the former Meeker Winery tasting room in Geyserville. He questioned why the development had not come to the Planning Committee. John Cash said that he heard that Bannister Winery would be taking over the space. President Damskey said she would contact them to find out their plans. Steve Sachs suggested that we write to Permit Sonoma requesting that they be more diligent in alerting the Geyserville Planning Committee of new applications like the Bannister project. Secretary John Cash was requested to draft a letter on behalf of the Committee.
4. Request for GPC related correspondence. Secretary John Cash asked if there had been any correspondence. Daisy Damskey reported that she had email correspondence with Permit Sonoma, and the high school. She also reported that she was involved with the survey for the proposed Geyserville Plaza/Park.
5. Financial Report: Daisy Damskey reported that there is currently \$560 in the Geyserville Community Foundation account, an increase of \$20 from last month. She also reported that Exchange Bank had agreed to drop/refund charges on our account.
6. Update and Overview of Housing Advisory Committee: John Cash reported on his involvement with the advisory committee to Permit Sonoma on the County housing plan for unincorporated areas. He noted that there has been an extensive community survey with more than 1,500 responses as well as two public meetings. There has been extensive input and he shared the Geyserville survey with the County as part of his involvement. Responses to the Permit Sonoma survey were similar to the Geyserville survey. Most saw housing availability and affordability as the most important issues and most wanted to maintain the rural character of their

communities as a top priority. A draft report will be delivered by June of 2022 and adoption of a final report is required by January of 2023.

7. Updates on PG&E Landscaping and Fencing and Winery Production Facility: Paul Connors said there is nothing to report on the Winery at this time. He has tried to get a start date for the PG&E construction but has not heard from the contracting firm. He suggests that it will likely start later in the spring. Paul will alert the Walden Street residents when a date is set to begin the project.
8. Annual Town Meeting: Daisy Damskey reported that she had met with the superintendent of schools and they have agreed to host the town meeting on April 22 (date subsequently was changed to April 21). She reported on recent activities at the school, which will be of interest to the town. The school leadership has agreed to tag a school open house onto the town meeting, which will help to increase Latinx participation.

Daisy further announced that we will partner with the Chamber to send out a flyer to announce the meeting and she called on all members of the GPC to reach out and get as many people as possible to attend. In response to concerns about ballot counting for election of GPC members, she suggested, and the committee agreed, that using student representatives to count the ballots would instill confidence in the process.

After discussion on how to build participation, John Cash suggested that the event be labelled as a “town celebration” of the end of the pandemic. This followed on an earlier idea of Paul Connors when we tried to have a town meeting in September.

There was further discussion around the nominations process for GPC membership and it was determined that there would be an announcement on the flyer, on our web page, and on our Facebook page of a date certain for nominations along with a description of responsibilities. It was further agreed that nominations would be accepted from the floor during the town meeting.

Paul Connors agreed to draft a press release and Daisy Damskey will send out an announcement to our email list. Paul and Daisy will also compose a list of public officials to invite to the meeting.

9. Bryce Jones request: Bryce Jones requested that he be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Geyserville Planning Committee for a presentation.
10. Adjourn: John Cash moved that the meeting be adjourned and Paul Connors seconded the motion. The meeting of the Geyserville Planning Committee was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.