

# Geyserville Planning Committee Geyserville Fire Department Minutes for March 20, 2024 Meeting

## Call to Order

President Paul Connors called the meeting to order at 7:08

## Members present:

Paul Connors, Jo Diez, Bryce Jones, Ceci Muela and Daisy Damskey

## Approval of the minutes

Approval of the minutes for the February meeting was delayed to the May meeting to make corrections noted by committee members.

## Any Business or public comments on items not on this agenda

There were no comments

## Agenda items

**Doralice Handal's discussion about ADA-friendly sidewalks and streets in Geyserville.** Daisy Damskey invited Doralice to speak with the group from the perspective of someone who is disabled and has a business in Geyserville. The GPC has been focused on long-range street planning in response to feedback from the two community-wide surveys generated by the GPC. Doralice prefaced her comments by saying that the unincorporated area of Geyserville has great charm because it is an old community with historic roots.

A discussion ensued on how to make the town safer and more accessible while honoring the business owners and maintaining the integrity of historic buildings.

Paul Connors suggested that the GPC could do a community outreach campaign focusing on painting yellow/white stripes where the sidewalk transitions. Daisy mentioned several sets of steps being a hazard, and Paul suggested that would be a place to put painted markers. The consensus was that lighting, railing, and marking transitions in the sidewalk would go a long way in making the sidewalks safer.

Caltrans is in charge of construction immediately on Geyserville Ave, leading to a discussion about who is responsible for funding and implementing improvements in town.

Bryce Jones said 13.5 million dollars are being targeted to improve Geyserville's roads and sidewalks. Bryce serves on the MAC streetscape committee and reported that MAC has already started schematics on lighting and sidewalk irregularities as part of that funding. The discussion led to the fact that the GPC has long been addressing the concerns shared in the GPC Community Survey, and all new plans have included mandated access. Daisy used the Corner property belonging to Art Torano as an example of parking and sidewalk requirements. Bryce gave examples of road humps and road crossing dangers that need to be of concern and the need to be aware of Sonoma County's positions of who is responsible for roads. He gave the example of Geyserville Ave being a part CalTrans and part county road.

Daisy suggested a letter to MAC and PRMD supporting improvements from a planning perspective and encouraging painting warning stripes when feasible. Ceci questioned what county rules and state regulations exist regarding stripes and other safety recommendations. She volunteered to reach out to local and state government officials and will report back in May.

Dorlice Handal ended her discussion by emphasizing that preserving historical buildings and protecting local businesses from increased expenses should be foremost in everyone's minds when planning future sidewalk and roadway improvements. Ceci Muela informed the GPC that buildings erected before 1962 are grandfathered in as long as they retain their original use and design.

The committee agreed to table the discussion until more information is available. Ceci is the MAC representative for the GPC and communicates to MAC on behalf of GPC; she will report back in May regarding funding status and MAC goals regarding their plans. It was agreed that historic buildings are a valuable part of Geyserville's charm, the sidewalks need to be safer, and when plans are submitted for future development, roads and sidewalks will be considered. It was agreed that the local agencies and community organizations must coordinate efforts to improve pedestrian and driver safety in Geyserville.

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**Town meeting and elections:** The annual Town meeting will be coordinated with the Geyserville School District's annual open house.

Paul Connors and Jo Diez presented the GPC with an Annual Meeting Program that highlighted its accomplishments, provided an agenda, and offered a snapshot bio on featured speakers. The committee enthusiastically welcomed this addition to the annual meeting presentations. There are currently five candidates for five positions on the GPC.

Paul Connors is finalizing the presenters and will report to the members as soon as possible. The lineup of speakers will be finalized by the first week of April and will be publicized through e-blasts, flyers, and the website.

Ceci Muela showed a flyer she created for community outreach and plans to go "door to door" to increase community engagement. She is also making a banner for fence posting and is working with Paul to expand outreach efforts over the next month. One of the main goals

stated by the GPC Communication plan is increased public exposure and a concerted effort to listen to marginalized/non-engaged community members. This Annual GPC meeting outreach campaign is part of that effort.

Bryce Jones offered to count the ballots for the election of GPC members. Marshall Kilduff is responsible for creating ballots and overseeing the distribution and collection of votes. Paul Connors acknowledged a special thanks to Dino from Diavola for the donation of his culinary skills and pizza before the start of the Annual GPC meeting. The meeting was called to close at 8:30 pm.