

Geyserville Planning Committee
Minutes of the Meeting, Northern Sonoma Fire District Headquarters
Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 7 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Interim President Cecilia Muela called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Interim President Muela, treasurer Steve Sachs, secretary Marshall Kilduff and members Bryce Jones, Ana Duran, Stephanie Freele, and Benny Allen.

2. Approval of Agenda

Without objection, the agenda was approved.

3. Business or Public Comments not on the Agenda

There were none.

4. New Business

Three new committee members were introduced and welcomed. Each of the seven committee members gave brief remarks mentioning their local backgrounds and connections.

Interim President Muela explained the duties and responsibilities of the committee and its officers.

She emphasized the need to post an agenda 72 hours in advance of a meeting both online and in public places. The agendas should be in Spanish and English.

There was a general discussion of using the GPC website now managed by Jose Diaz in the widest way possible. Suggestions included a 30 second video by each member giving his or her background and outlook, a photo strip of the annual meeting, and updates on past projects that involved the GPC.

There followed a question and answer session drawing out the differences between the local Municipal Advisory Council and the GPC. Local MAC members are mostly appointed by county leaders and the council has access to funds provided by the Riverrock Casino. GPC members are elected and provide advice on nearby developments. The GPC was founded some 40 years ago and receives funds through the Geyserville Community Foundation. Bryce Jones said there is a need for the GPC to assert itself in relation to MAC so as not to lose credibility and importance.

4. Election of Officers

Without objection the following members were elected:

Cecilia Muela as President

Marshall Kilduff as Vice President

Steve Sachs as Treasurer

Benny Allen as Secretary.

5. Fundraising

Various ideas to bolster the GPC's finances were brought up. They included a BBQ at the Fall Colors festival, an appeal at the Tractor Parade, and an expanded pitch on Instagram.

6. Goals.

Each of the members was invited to express goals and concerns for the future.

Steve Saches urged more community involvement, noting the small turnout for most meetings. He also wanted to focus on making the Russian River more accessible.

Bryce Jones sounded the same theme on river access and recalled the process that began five years ago to open access to the Syar property at the Highway 28 bridge. He also emphasized concern over parking in the downtown area and attention to the county's General Plan that includes more housing in Geyserville.

Marshall Kilduff wanted to study ways to win access to the river, invigorate business in the downtown area, and improve the appearance of street fronts.

Jones had further thoughts on possible directions. Maybe an economic survey would point up public and business concerns. The committee should make an effort to support projects and not oppose them.

Ana Duran said in her experience in working in a Geyserville business, visitors wanted a public restroom that was convenient and well marked.

Stephanie Freele said trash cans were important, noting her involvement with litter cleanup work.

Benny Allen added his support for the ideas voiced and asked numerous questions about the committee's past work.

7. Future Meeting Date

Next meeting dates were discussed with the eventual time set for Tuesday, June 25, at 6 p.m.

8. Adjournment

President Muela adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.