

Geyserville Planning Committee
Meeting Minutes

Northern Sonoma Fire District Headquarters
Tuesday, August 27, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER.

President Ceci Muela called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT.

- a. Overgrown Trees.** Trees bordering the east side of US-101, directly behind the homes on School House Lane, are overgrown and a fire hazard. The GPC will contact Caltrans to address the matter.
- b. Parking.** The lack of street parking on School House Lane is an issue for residents. When the Old School House Property Owners Association (Association) stopped leasing a portion of the parking lot to these residents, the problem was exacerbated. The GPC will contact the appropriate government agency about striping or marking parking spaces on School House Lane and approach the Association to renew the lease of the parking lot.
- c. Lack Of Street Patrol.** The area around School House Lane has experienced a rise in crime, specifically motorcycle and bike theft. Having law enforcement regularly patrolling the neighborhood will mitigate crime. The GPC will contact Sonoma County's Sheriff's Office to increase patrolling of Geyserville streets.
- d. Unsafe Sidewalks.** Portions of sidewalks along Geyserville Avenue, specifically adjacent to the Hope Merrill House, are uneven and unlit, posing a danger to residents walking in the evening. Improved sidewalks and street lighting are part of a long-term Geyserville improvement project. The GPC will investigate short-term solutions.

3. OLD BUSINESS.

a. River Status Update.

- i. The 38th Annual Russian River Watershed Cleanup is on Saturday, September 21, 2024, from 9 to 11 am. Meet at Highway 128 at the Geyserville Bridge. Free shirts are provided to volunteers who register prior to the event. Ceci Muela will compile a list of volunteers to forward to Russian River Keeper to assist in registering volunteers.
- ii. Adrian Garayalde, Executive Director of Russian River Confluence, met with Sheriff Engram to request additional law enforcement (beyond the two deputies assigned) for Labor Day Weekend to curb trespassing, vandalism, and trash at the Russian River.

- b. Fundraising Update.** The GPC earned \$75 from selling Geyserville branded water bottles at the Gin'gilli's Flea Market event on August 17, 2024. Additional Geyserville-branded items will be ordered by the GPC and sold at future events.

- c. **Speaker Update.** Benny Allen has secured commitments from COPE N. Sonoma County, California American Water, and Sonoma Clean Power. Dates to be finalized.

4. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- a. **Redwood Empire Food Bank Presentation.** Katie Karns, Volunteer Coordinator, discussed the organization and services provided. Geyserville food distribution is every first and third Wednesday from 4-5 pm at Geyserville Elementary School. Volunteers are needed and can sign up at the website <https://refb.org/ways-to-give/volunteer.html> or contact a GPC member to sign up.
- b. **Geyserville Mural.** Bryce Jones discussed the new mural replacing the existing mural located at the corner of Geyserville Avenue and Highway 128. The new mural will highlight the agricultural heritage of Geyserville in a vintage fruit crate label design.
- c. **Geyserville Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead Festival.** The GPC will sponsor this first annual Geyserville event on Saturday, November 2, 2024. Ceci Muela has spoken with Geyserville schools for student participation and will secure a commercial kitchen. Merchants will be invited to participate.
- d. **Geyserville Tractor Parade.** The GPC will reach out to the community and high school for volunteer Parade Ambassadors to assist with the parade.
- e. **Grant Applications.** Benny Allen will meet with the Geyserville Unified School District to discuss courses and programs eligible for community grants and draft applications.

5. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS TERMS OF SERVICE.** Committee Members discussed positions that will be reelected for the 2025-2026 term.

6. **Adjournment.**

President Ceci Muela adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm.