

TRI-CITY and COUNTY COOPERATIVE PLANNING GROUP
Cities of Benicia, Fairfield, and Vallejo * County of Solano
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**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

November 15, 2006

1. Roll Call

Citizen's Advisory Committee Members Present: Bob Berman, Kathy Hoffman, Eva Laevastu, Karlyn Lewis, Mike Palmaffy, Alice Plutchok, and Jim Syar

Citizens' Advisory Committee Members Absent: J.B. Davis, Linda Schrupp and Bob Webb

Tri-City and County Staff in Attendance: Matt Walsh, Solano County; Brian Miller, City of Fairfield; Bill Tuikka, City of Vallejo; Laura Karaboghosian, City of Benicia, Sue Wickham, Solano Land Trust (SLT), Jim Fiack, Solano County

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

The August 16, 2006 minutes were approved.

With the committee's approval Kathy Hoffman changed item 9 of the agenda to 9a and 9b.

4. Update on Proposed School at Orchard Site – Mel Jordan (Information Item)

Mr. Jordan reported that the project is now in the construction phase and work continues on mitigation issues. An application has been submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. U.S. Fish and Wildlife will also comment and review the application.

There is approximately 43 acres that need to be mitigated. The City of Vallejo will provide the school district with 32 acres of mitigation property. That leaves approximately 11 acres on the school site that will be addressed for mitigation. Kathy Hoffman asked Mr. Jordan to provide the CAC with more detailed information on the mitigation process for the site.

Vallejo Fire requires that there be a means to control traffic at the site. Fire regulations will require a one way road to be developed around the entire site. Sue Wickham stated that an emergency access road must also be provided before the Eastern Swett property can be opened to the public. Mr. Jordan believed that there will be a 12' access road from the school site to Eastern Swett. Mr. Jordan was asked to meet

with the Cordelia Fire Protection District and the SLT as soon as possible to discuss the requirements for an emergency access road. Bob Berman suggested that the CAC request that the JPA have its attorneys make sure what is being proposed is consistent with the Development Agreement and the Conservation Easement. The CAC unanimously agreed with Mr. Berman's suggestion. Brian Miller will report back to the CAC with the attorney's findings.

5. Lynch Canyon MOU Status (Information Item)

Jim Fiack, Solano County, gave a status report on the Lynch Canyon MOU. He stated that Solano County and the SLT have reached an agreement on the MOU. There are still two rounds of approvals that are necessary with the Solano County Board of Supervisors and the SLT Board. Lynch Canyon will be open 5 days/week from Wednesday thru Sunday. There will be two county staff assigned to the area. The SLT will provide a volunteer coordinator. The County has agreed to a three year funding commitment. Lynch Canyon is planned to open to the public in the spring of 2007. The State is now satisfied with improvements the SLT has done on the earthen dam. User fees will be collected thru a self pay system. Matt Walsh will write a letter for Ms. Hoffman's signature expressing the CAC's support of the agreement between the County and the SLT on the Lynch Canyon MOU.

6. Update on Resource Management/Public Access Plan (SLT)

Sue Wickham reported that the Resource Management/Public Access Plan is going thru internal review with the SLT. The final draft of the Biological Report is anticipated to be ready by December.

7. Countywide Park System Status (Informational Item)

Mr. Fiack stated that opening Lynch Canyon to the public is a first step and that at this point the county is not in a position to talk about a countywide park system until it is seen how the public supports Lynch Canyon. The establishment of a countywide park system will be an expensive, long term process. The participation of other jurisdictions including the cities will be needed to help expand recreation areas and create and sustain a funding mechanism for a countywide park system. CAC members were concerned that if there wasn't a funding mechanism in place to help sustain the parks before the County's three year commitment is up the County may not agree to continue to fund the project. Efforts to create a funding mechanism need to start now. Mr. Fiack stated that the County looks at the success of Lynch Canyon as the lynch pin for whatever expansion there may be for a countywide park system. Another member stated that the success of Lynch Canyon was dependent upon getting the message out to the public that the park is now accessible and open to the public. There also needs to be a status report on these efforts at every CAC meeting. Another member stated that now since open space land has been acquired by the SLT the Tri-City Governing Board should be taking the lead on deciding what the next step should be to sustain these areas for public use. Should there be an independent countywide park district or should the land become an extension of the Solano County park system. Eva Laevastu made a motion to ask the Governing Board to take the lead on deciding what the next step should be to sustain the open space areas for public use. Alice Plutchok seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Federal Gas Tax Appropriation (Informational Item)

a. Santa Clara Property Acquisition (SLT)

The SLT and Solano County have been meeting with the City of Santa Clara. The City of Santa Clara has hired a consultant to evaluate the property in terms of its mitigation potential, accessibility and suitability for wind power production. There is the potential the SLT and Solano County working with the City of Santa Clara would be able to trade the land to generate wind power somewhere else. In that event the Santa Clara property could become available to the SLT.

b. McGary Road Project (City of Fairfield)

The City of Fairfield is working with the County to appropriate Federal Gas Tax funds for the McGary Road Project.

9a. GVRD Master Plan Update

GVRD is in the process of updating its Master Plan and Tri-City is mentioned in several areas of the draft Master Plan (see handout distributed to CAC 11/15/06). Ms. Hoffman asked for input from the cities and other members on the Plan.

9b. Status of Filling Vacant Position(s) in CAC (Informational Item)

The City of Fairfield has appointed Monica Brown to be their representative on the Tri-City CAC. She will attend the February meeting. The Solano County position is still vacant. It was clarified that Matt Walsh is staff to the CAC and Brian Miller is staff to the Governing Board. Mr. Berman stated that the CAC needs more staff support to communicate to the CAC on pending matters such as the GVRD update of its Master Plan and the need for staff input. There was also frustration that the Tri-City Governing Board can make recommendations to the Cities and County but must rely on those jurisdictions to take action on its recommendations. It was decided to continue the discussion at the Governing Board meeting in December.

10. Future Agenda Items (Informational Item)

It was suggested to have a brain storming session to create a work plan to increase park usage. Staff will provide a list of possible activities and tasks to be discussed at a joint Board and CAC meeting.

11. Adjournment

The next regular Citizens Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2007 in the Multi-Purpose Room, County Administrative Center, 675 Texas St., First Floor, Fairfield, CA 94533.

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Attendance 2004 - 2006

	3/29/04	5/19/04	8/18/04	11/17/04	10/12/05	5/17/06	8/16/06	11/15/06
Bob Berman	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
J.B. Davis	x	x	x		x	x	x	
Kathy Hoffman	x	x				x	x	x
Eva Laevastu	x	x		x		x	x	x
Karlyn Lewis		x	x		x	x	x	x
Mike Palmaffy					x	x		x
Alice Plutchok	x	x		x			x	x
Linda Schrupp			x				x	
Jim Syar	x	x		x	x			x
Bob Webb	x		x			x	x	

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