

Geyserville Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2018
7:00-9:00 PM

Present: Paul Connors, David Luebkehan, Ryan Petersen, Daisy Damskey, Okaya Tatsuo and Hal Hinkle

Absent: none

Public Meeting:

Teri Shore, the Regional Director of Greenbelt Alliance was to be the scheduled speaker for the evening. Teri was not able to attend and has been rescheduled for March 27, 2018.

President David Luebkehan gave an overview of the progress and 2018 plans for the Geyserville Planning Committee. David explained that the GPC now meets twice a month in order to be more proactive in planning and in providing the community with a visioning and planning platform for public discussion and engagement. Since last years election the GPC has made huge strides in communication with the community. Part of that change has been moving to the Geyserville Firehouse where a public GPC planning meeting is held from 4-6:00PM every third Tuesday and a large pubic meeting is held the fourth Tuesday of every month. Sonoma County Counsel has decided that because the GPC has decision making powers and is in a binding agreement with the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, the GPC is now obligated to function under the Brown Act. The Brown Act is designed to assure that all political matters that impact a community are done with full disclosure and transparency.

In order to meet the standards of the Brown Act the Geyserville Planning Committee (GPC) will now post all agendas and minutes in three locations: The Geyserville Post Office, and the GPC website. (www.geyservilleplanningcommittee.Com.)

Secretary Daisy Damskey pointed out that the GPC is committed to following the spirit and law of the Brown Act and must always avoid any conflict or appearance of conflict that would financially benefit a member of the committee. At the last working meeting Daisy proposed that anyone who would benefit by/from a planning decision must recuse him/herself from discussion and the vote regarding that decision. The committee voted in favor of adopting that provision and applying it to all GPC governance.

David spoke about the support PRMD has given to the goals of the GPC and the help of Supervisor James Gore's team in helping the GPC develop a vision for the future of the area the GPC represents which includes all the residences and land within the Geyserville School District Boundaries of 1983. David provided a background to the Articles of Association of the town of Geyserville. This agreement gives members of the Geyserville Planning Committee the authority to represent the region of

Geyserville in county matters. David pointed out that the Articles of Association are published on the GPC website and are available to the community.

Article 3. Purposes

“To consider and deal by all lawful means with common problems involving in securing land use planning and other municipal services and to secure cooperative action in advancing common civic purposes of the members of the association”

“To act as an advisory body, providing input to County agencies on matters concerning the community”

“Act as a coordinating body in matters relating to community development”

“Initiate and carry out local improvement projects such as beautification, recreation, etc., and receive and disperse funds therefore”

David asked Paul Connors and Hal Hinkle to report on the Farmworker Housing being constructed within the governance area of the GPC. Paul reported that he was impressed by the thoughtful planning and work of the developers and explained to the attendees that he and Hal could see a tremendous need for Farmworker Housing throughout Sonoma County if the life style and industries that Sonoma depends on are to continue into the future. Ryan Petersen agreed, stating that this housing is a huge financial commitment from growers and that there are very strict guidelines to the care, maintain and oversee of these houses.

Tom Adamian, currently working on developing a beer and BBQ garden on Geyserville Ave., introduced himself and asked for community input into design and possible places to make his beer in the future. In the beginning the beers sold will be from local brewers but later, Tom hopes to make their own beer for sale.

David reminded everyone attending that, unlike other Sonoma County Supervisors various appointed advisory councils; Geyserville is unique because the stakeholders of Geyserville actually vote for the representing members of the Geyserville Planning Committee. David also pointed out that the GPC has the ability create and generate plans for the community in addition to responding to previous applications to PRMD.

David complemented PRMD and their efforts to keep the GPC informed at the early stages of submittal for development. David pointed out that there are four seats available and invited the community members attending to think about running for a position of the GPC in April for the general election. The Annual Town Meeting is taking place on April 24th at the Geyserville Tech Academy. David and Hal Hinkle reported that the Community Survey, designed and distributed by the GPC and funded by the Geyserville Community Foundation, would be released at the April 24th town meeting. The GPC has already received more than a 10% response, making this survey a benchmark in future planning for design and planning. Hal

Hinkle reported he is compiling the data from Survey Monkey and is working with Daisy Damskey to create a report for the community.

Bryce Jones, who owns the property at the south freeway off ramp into Geyserville, introduced himself to the community members in attendance and give an overview of his plans for the two lots he purchased a few years ago. The larger lot now holds the Sculpture Collection of the Geyserville Community Foundation. In May, there will be an unveiling of a very large horse statue, becoming a permanent instillation of the GCF.

Bryce reported that the property is zoned for agriculture production and his intent is to maintain that status while enhancing and developing his land in accordance with that zoning status. Bryce asked the attendees to offer suggestions and ideas about what they would like to see developed that could both make money and fit the agriculture desires of Bryce and the zoning of the location. Bryce is already improving the property through a large planting of fall color trees and 45% of the property is slated for planting this fall. The intent is to create a visually stunning spot to later develop agriculturally based business. Bryce invited locals to use his fence to post information about town happenings and to consider the developing of an attractive area for town signage. Bryce said his interest is the continued beautification and enhancement of the south area of Geyserville and he encouraged others to work with him to that end. David thanked Bryce for his presentation and reminded the attendees to participate in the planning process by completing the survey.

New Items: The Geyserville Market completed their research into developing a gas station and they have decided not to go ahead at this time.

David took questions from the audience. A member of the community who recently bought a house in the area asked about the Survey and what design review would be put in place for the town. Daisy responded that the Geyserville Community Planning Survey is designed to provide guidance in the future decision making of the GPC. David has been working with Sonoma State to look into facilitating part of the visioning for the Sonoma County General Plan slated to be completed by 2020 (two years from now) The plan is for 20 years and is titled: ***Sonoma County General Plan 2040***. In addition, James Gore has provided support and offered funding for a design plan that provides guidelines and expectations for the look and future development of Geyserville. PRMD favors this approach and is providing informational resources and coaching for the GPC. The GPC guest speaker for May is Jennifer Barrett from PRMD. Jennifer will give the public an update on the General Plan revamp and answer planning questions. Jennifer is the leading expert on planning in Sonoma County.

Next planning meeting is scheduled at 4:00pm, March 20th at the Geyserville Fire Department-public encouraged to attend. All meetings held by GPC are open to the public

