

Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council

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Regular Meeting Minutes

7 PM, Wednesday, May 8, 2013
Santa Margarita Elementary School, Room 8

Members Present: Wade Cromley (alternate for Mike Cole), John Beccia (alternate for John Reed), Sue Christian, Dana Tryde, George Sullivan, Mike Whiteford, Su Andros, Jeremy Burns, David Blakely, Bob Righetti, Joe Patterson, Sophie Treder.

1. **Call to order – 7:06 p.m.**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting** Two corrections made—bullet two and four. Other changes tabled until Butch Pope could be present.
4. **Approval of the agenda –** Motion to approve by George Sullivan, 2nd by David Blakely. MPU.
5. **Meeting Structure –** Joe Patterson presented a brief overview of how he would like to see the agenda run.
 - a. Agenda structure and time limits – designed to get us out of here by 9:30 pm, since the Council members are all volunteers and most work.
 - b. Audio/Video Recorders – Recording devices at meeting are not initiated by or for use by SMAAC or its members.
 - c. SMAAC meeting procedure for project review – overview of the rules as printed at the bottom of each agenda.
 - d. Rules for presenting testimony – overview of the rules as printed at the bottom of each agenda.
 - e. Agenda item requests – Joe suggested that submit requests no later than ten days prior to meeting. Requests to be submitted through representatives to Chairman. Late requests must be submitted in writing and may be included in the agenda at the Chairman's discretion. David noted that this may conflict with the bylaws under Section 4. There was some discussion, no action taken.

6. Open comment

- a. **Public announcements and comments regarding items not on the agenda –** Jarro Nelson, Garden Farms. Has been trying to get a bus stop for Garden Farms, but RTA doesn't want to spend the money. He will be bringing back a proposal for neighbors to build a bus shelter. George Sullivan noted that there was a public transit meeting going on in Atascadero, and another one happening next week. Call SLOCOG at 781-4219. Sue Christiansen noted that her kids use the stop on San Antonio and it works great as far as a shelter.

Tamara Kleemann. Had received the website email, asked who made the decision that emails of the agenda/minutes would no longer be sent out. The Chair explained that he made that decision because he did not want to create a location for spam, and he didn't want to be in charge of maintaining an email list, as it cuts down on volunteer time. Instead, the website would be updated regularly. Tamara asked if he could use Mail Chimp. Joe said he would pass this issue on to the public information committee.

Charlie Kleeman made additional comments on the meeting structure and emails.

Rayleen White from Parkhill asked about the election, and it was confirmed that is on the agenda.

- b. **Council announcements and comments regarding items not on the agenda.** David Blakely noted that tomorrow in Santa Margarita is the free garbage pickup for extra garbage. George Sullivan noted that Keith Patterson passed away—he was a former Cal Poly viticulture professor who lived in Tassajara. Memorial service at the Ranch on Thursday May 11 at 1 pm.

7. Public Safety – None.

- a. Cal Fire / County Fire Department
- b. Sheriff's Department
- c. Highway Patrol
- d. Other Agencies

8. CSA 23 Update – David Blakely noted that there was no quorum at the last meeting and they focused on their comments on the DEIR. Joe Patterson noted that he had exchanged emails with Sharon, the Chair of CSA 23, regarding ongoing updates/communications.

9. Treasurer's Report – Charlie Whitney was not present. Joe Patterson said he had received an email with the balance - \$218.64, no recent transactions.

10. SMAAC Organization Items – Led by Chairman Patterson.

- a. **Website published / Community Notification –** www.smaaonline.org
- b. **Officially record area alternates and provide contact information for each:**
 - Bob Righetti – waiting for confirmation from Alternate.
 - David Blakely – in negotiations
 - Jeremy Burns – Not sure yet.
 - Su Andros- - Chris Volbrecht
 - Mike Whiteford – no alternate yet
 - Joe Patterson – Tara Lancaster
 - George Sullivan- Bill Borgsmiller
 - Dana Tryde – Eric Michielssen
 - Sue Christensen – Keith Wales
 - Sophie Treder – Stacey Phillips
 - Mike Cole – Wade Cromley
 - John Reid – John Beccia

A list was passed around to record alternates' contact info.

- c. **Nametags –** Sue C. put together nametags. David Blakely suggested giving them back to Sue at the end of each meeting.

11. New Business

- a. **Salinas River Trail Master Plan –** Geiska Velasquez, a Planner with SLOCOG, gave the presentation. Had some handouts. SLOCOG effort to connect communities from San Miguel to Santa Margarita – 35 mile plan. Launched a website, there is a link from the SMAAC website under the special projects section. There is a survey to take on the website. One more meeting on July 15th in Paso Robles. Looking at trail alignment- looking at aerial info, topography, and getting public input to figure out the best alignment locations.

Council questions: Joe P. asked a question clarifying the lines of the proposed corridor on the map and about the subject of July meeting. Ms. Velasquez stated that it's a workshop, not just informational. Dana Tryde asked how far along they are – Ms. Velasquez explained that SLOCOG sets the foundation for the plan, then it will be up to individual agencies to implement. They are halfway through putting together the plan and the guidelines. There is no funding program now, but having a document like this might allow some funding to be secured. Sophie Treder asked how many of the planned segments cross private property and whether there is the possibility that local agencies would require a right-of-way as a condition of granting a permit. Ms. Velasquez clarified that at every point along the way there is a possible route along a public right of way, whether a road or otherwise, and then a feasibility and opportunity map.

Public Comment: Yaro Nelson asked if there was a way to make public comment outside of the meetings. Send comments either to Geiska's email address, gvelasquez@slocog.com, or do it through the website.

12. Unfinished Business – 8:12pm (40 min)

- a. **DRC 2009-00025 Mining/Reclamation Project – DEIR Review. DEIR Review Sub-Committee presentation, discussion, and public comment. Council discussion and recommendations related to DEIR review.** Applicant Ken Johnson, Las Pilitas Resources, thanked the Council and subcommittee members for their work on the report on the DEIR. Chairman Patterson passed out the subcommittee report to the Council. Su Andros, subcommittee member, reviewed the findings of the report, stating the subcommittee had divided the findings into 4 categories, Aesthetics and Visual Resources, Transportation and Circulation, Noise, and Air Quality. Chairman Patterson stated Murry Wilson from County Planning requested the council submit their comments as a whole. After much discussion, Council members stated different items of concern and suggested possible changes. Chairman Patterson reaffirmed that the response to the DEIR needed to be submitted to the County by June 5th. Discussion on the procedure to allow the public to address changes to the Council's DEIR comments followed. Mr. Blakely stated he wanted to hear the public comments before the Council took action to modify the DEIR Response.

Public comments:

Mr. Charlie Kleemann stated his concern for page 2, item #4 regarding staging of 20 trucks on the 10 % grade that is 700 feet long and winding. He stated that off tracking addressed on page 2, item #2, is a simple geometric that can't be overcome. Mr. Clemman also asked the question as to the meaning of the Cal Trans sign stating that HWY 58 is not advisable for trucks. He stated that the Cal Trans legal advisory states the advisory begins at J Street. Yaro Nelson stated the subcommittee put together a nice summary but has concern about safety that is not addressed in the response. Public comment closed at 8:38 p.m. back to Council.

Mrs. Andros stated that item #5 on page 1 under Aesthetics and Visual Resources and #7 on page 2 under Transportation and Circulation could be deleted and she would submit them personally.

Chairman Patterson stated that the Council would review the DEIR committee report item by item. The Council discussed each item.

Aesthetics and Visual Resources: Addition to item #1 to read ...re-vegetation **and continued maintenance**. The addition of the word **against** glare was added to item #3 as a grammatical clarification. Item #5 was removed.

Transportation and Circulation items 1 through 6 were approved. Discussion followed on item #7.

Motion made to strike item # 7 of the SMAAC DEIR Response Report (Sullivan/Patterson) 6/5/1 Motion carried.

Discussion followed. Mr. Blakely stated that this was something that affected the community and the community should get something out of it. Mr. Beccia stated that mitigations are called for.

Motion was made to rewrite item #7 as follows: The DEIR should investigate the following mitigations, 1. Establishing a quiet zone with the railroad, 2. Building a new bus shelter on ECR by Ancient Peaks, 3. Improving the Park and Ride, 4. Some subsidized bus passes 5.Improvement of bike lanes and or any other needs of offset that the community desires.

(Blakely/Beccia) 9/1/0 motion carried

Discussion on Air Quality item #2. The words **SMACC requests further** were added to the beginning of the item. Item #3 was discussed with Mr. Whiteford stating that he would hate to see a business get penalized on things that they had no control over and Mr. Blakely stating that there are impacts that need to be mitigated.

Motion to leave item #3 under Air Quality as written. Blakely/Dana 5/7/0. Motion failed. Motion to strike item #3 under Air Quality. Whiteford/Burns 7/5/0. Motion passed.

Discussion on Noise item #2 and the addition of **blasting** prior to sirens. Discussion to strike item #5. Item #5 was removed.

Motion unanimously passed to support the subcommittee report as amended. Blakely/Sullivan 12/0/0.

13. New Business – 8:52pm (25 min) (Sophie Treder rejoins the Committee)

- a. **By-Laws** – Sue Andros and Sophie Treder present by-laws with changes approved in 2011. There was some Council discussion; David Blakely raised the issue of whether all the changes approved in 2006 had been implemented. Sophie Treder explained that this update concerned only inputting the changes that were approved in 2011, but it appears that the updates in 2006 were not as thorough as they could have been and some things were missed that the next round of revisions should clean up. It was confirmed that the updated bylaws conformed to the 2011 approvals and no unapproved changes were made. Bylaws can now be posted/circulated.
- b. **By-Laws and Vacancy Procedures** – David Blakely request for discussion. David felt that there was a wrong that was done at the last meeting, wanted to see if we can right the wrong. He noted that it was an election for one representative, Dana Tryde was the winner. At the last meeting, it was announced that Elizabeth Beeman had dropped out, so there is a vacancy, and the bylaws are clear what happens when there is a vacancy. The process is articulated in Section 1-C. David Blakely said he wanted to take public comment then possibly take action. Sophie Treder raised the spectre of a problem with opening this item to public comment, since it was a carryover from the previous agenda that had not been agendized for public comment. George Sullivan raised Section 3-A of the bylaws, and expressed discomfort with addressing this without Charlie present. Some members asked about verifying Elizabeth’s resignation, and John Reed confirmed that she has moved, and now lives in the Highway 58 area. Mike Whiteford saw all sides, but noted that the previous Council made a decision, and hopefully we will not be faced with these issues again. Dana Tryde asked why the two letters sent to the Council by the public weren’t being addressed. Sophie Treder commented that this is a difference of opinion in bylaws interpretation, not a violation of the bylaws, and that if the discussion were going to get any deeper, it was suggested that Dana maybe should recuse herself. Mike Whiteford agreed that this is an interpretation issue, we move on, not that it was clean. David questioned whether Elizabeth’s vacancy had been properly announced and ratified. Sophie added that Charlie had announced it in his capacity as chair at the last meeting. Joe compared and contrasted the Supervisor’s resolution goals. David claimed that elections participation changes when there are two candidates. Sophie pointed out why it’s not clear that Section 1-C applies instead of 1-B. Beccia said the whole thing was messy. Su noted that eggs sometimes can’t be unscrambled, you just do the best you can moving forward to tighten things up. David talked about public confidence in SMAAC. Joe said this would be carried forward as unfinished business next month.

14. **5th District Supervisor’s Report** – Supervisor Arnold gave the report. An ordinance was passed to ban sky lanterns (floating candles) because of fire danger, which will go into effect in 30 days. The Board of Supervisors adopted the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee regarding the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin. Supervisor Arnold’s office received some letters about the current SMAAC meeting room being less comfortable than the library. She explained that the school district has tripled price for renting the library—that was the need to move to this room (a large bill had been run up that has since been dealt with)—but perhaps the SMAAC budget committee can address this.

David Blakely asked about the status of the K street project, and Supervisor Arnold gave an update- it is currently being dealt with by public works.

- 15. Chairman's report – 9:25pm (5 min)** Chairman Patterson explained he had compared some prices and pros and cons on this room versus the community center. If meetings were at the community center the date would have to be changed. The next meeting will be at Room 8 at the school (same), but the Council will discuss the location further further.
 - a. Appoint committees** – Chairman Patterson appointed the following committees: Elections (2) Su Andros, Doug Filippini, Steve Rossi, and Mike Cole. By-Laws (3) Su Andros, Sophie Treder, Butch Pope. Public Information (2) Dana Tryde, Sue Christensen. SMR-County Liaisons (3) vacant pending further discussion. Finance/Audit (Treasurer + 3) Charlie Whitney, George Sullivan, Glenn Sparks, David Blakely. Special Events (3) Mike Whiteford, Sophie Treder, David Blakely, Sue Christensen.
- 16. Adjournment – 9:56 pm.**