

Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council

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Regular Meeting Minutes

7 PM, Wednesday, June 12, 2013
Santa Margarita Elementary School, Room 8

Members Present: Su Andros, Dana Tryde, Robert Stockel (alternate for David Blakely), Steve Rossi, Glenn Sparks, Keith Wales, Mike Cole, Charlie Whitney, Bob Righetti, Butch Pope, Mike Whiteford, Joe Patterson, Sophie Treder, Jeremy Burns.

1. **Call to order – 7:05 pm**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance –**
3. **Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting.**

The Council discussed the two remaining suggested corrections from the April minutes- Butch Pope confirmed that no changes were needed to his statements. Motion to approve the April minutes by Bob Righetti, 2nd by Dana Tryde, MPU (Motion Passed Unanimously). Glenn Sparks moved to approve the May minutes with some minor spelling corrections. 2nd by Bob Righetti, MP with Keith Wales, Charlie Whitney, and Steve Rossi abstained.

4. **Approval of the agenda – MPU.**
5. **Meeting Structure –**
 - a. **Audio/Video Recorders – Recording devices at meeting are not initiated by or for use by SMAAC or its members.**
 - b. **SMAAC meeting procedure for project review**
 - c. **Rules for presenting testimony**
 - d. **Agenda item requests – 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.**
6. **Open comment – 7:12pm (10 min)**

- a. **Public announcements and comments regarding items not on the agenda.**

Tamara Kleemann was curious about why the SMAAC agenda was now including a statement regarding video and audio recordings. The Chair responded it was so that people would know that SMAAC is not officially recording the meetings, though people are free to videotape since it is a public meeting, and the Secretary added that it helps clarify that any audio/video recordings are not the official record of the meeting. Roy Reeves asked whether the Council would be discussing the carryover item from April regarding the Parkhill seat and whether there would be public comment. The Chair responded that that was on the agenda for council discussion only, and described the reasons why public comment had been limited to advance in writing, but that the council could override that with a 2/3 vote. Tamara Kleemann asked about the procedure for replacing a member who could no longer serve, and it was stated that the bylaws would govern.

- b. **Council announcements and comments regarding items not on the agenda.**

George Sullivan announced that the District 5 Caltrans director would be on the Dave Congalton show (543-8830) on Friday, June 14, to discuss current projects in the area. Dana Tryde said that a member had emailed her and asked that the Council consider doing a group training that is being offered by the County. There was some confusion over which training this was—the CAC training is already over for this year, there is a separate one for Chairs. Dana said she would look into when the training is and the Chair would send out an email to get the names of any interested attendees. On 6/18 @ 7 pm City of Atascadero is going to talk about the Housing Element Code implementation and policy updates, as well as proposed zoning updates. Charlie Whitney noted that there would not be much that would affect our area, but people would likely be interested in Eagle Ranch. The Chair noted that was already posted on the website.

7. **Public Safety – None.**
 - a. **Cal Fire / County Fire Department**

- b. Sheriff's Department
- c. Highway Patrol
- d. Other Agencies

8. CSA 23 Update –

Sharon Marini, CSA 23, gave the update. They had special meeting at end of May because there was not a quorum at the regular May meeting. They created comments on the LPR DEIR and submitted to the County. One member resigned. Santa Margarita was not chosen for a state grant for a tie-in to the State Water Project.

9. Treasurer's Report – Charlie Whitney gave the report. Went to the bank, and the change of signers form requires a copy of the meeting minutes to the Bank, with the account number written on it, signed by the Secretary, and the bank will draw up a new signature card. Ok to have two signers on the account. Secretary will also need to sign the new resolution provided by the bank (see handout).

- a. Change of Signer's Form
- b. Bank Statement—Discussed recent changes to the balance, which gives us a total of \$1518.64
- c. Invoices—Some invoices still outstanding from the school for the use of the library. Dana Tryde clarified that we are funded by a grant from our Supervisor, and asked how that varies from year to year. Charlie Whitney responded that we are funded according to what our bills are, it's not a set amount each year. Typically the grants are \$1,000, but this year extra money came in to pay the past due bills. District 5 funds two CACs. It was agreed to table the decision on the signers until the Chair's report at the end. Butch Pope moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Keith Wales seconded, MPU.

10. New Business – 7:38pm (22 min)

- a. **Santa Margarita to Garden Farms Trail Easement – Shaun Cooper with County Parks Dept. presentation, discussion, and public comment regarding the proposed trail easement.**

Curtis Blank from County Parks started the presentation. They are going to take SMAAC's comments and then share them with the Parks Commission and the BOS as this goes forward. Shaun Cooper gave overview of how County acquires trail easements. This new trail easement was donated by Rob Rossi as a condition of development. Maps of the proposed alignment were passed around. It was first proposed in 2006, and at that time SMAAC unanimously supported the project. In 2011, the Parks Commission recommended formally accepting the easements. This kicked off a legal survey and legal agreement. SLOPOST (SLO Parks & Open Space) has been paying for the surveys that will be part of the offer and acceptance. Mr. Blank gave an overview of how they would take down Council comments, and then it was opened to the Council for discussion. Joe Patterson asked whether the parking area was necessary. Answer: it is not a requirement but is a nice amenity. Joe Patterson noted that they might see some resistance from Garden Farms on the location on the parking area. Majority of residents want the trail, but he wasn't so sure how they would feel about the parking area. Curtis noted there would be two public hearings where they could voice their input. Dana Tryde asked whether the trail would be for equestrians (Answer: yes) and Sophie Treder asked if the parking area would be large enough stage horse trailers (Answer: that is the idea). George Sullivan and Su Andros asked about impacts to residents along F Street and options for folding in old abandonments. Answer: they will be discussing that with other departments. Butch Pope asked if there was a time and day regulation for when it would be open. Answer: the timing of opening is dependent on funding, and then they have to go through the environmental review and design process first. Butch Pope clarified that he meant hours of operation. Answer: it is normally dawn to dusk, but they can set different hours for sensitive areas. Su Andros asked whether County Park Rangers would be enforcers. Answer: generally yes, and the Sheriff also has some jurisdiction. Curtis Blank noted that many local residents may be interested in volunteering for litter patrol, etc., weed abatement, but the ultimate responsibility for maintenance falls to County Parks. Robert Stockel recommended limiting the hours of operation along F Street. Charlie Whitney asked if the only access along F Street would be Yerba Buena. Answer: there will also be access off Encina. Joe Patterson asked about fencing. Answer: There will likely be fenced on the ranch side, and likely a fence on the residence sides; they will work with the residents to determine what type of fencing. Joe Patterson noted needing to look into residence impacts at the end of Walnut regarding a private driveway that is down there. George Sullivan queried whether activities and access should be squelched during high fire season, in order to reduce risk to

property owners along the trail. Mr. Blank noted that was typically done in extreme wet conditions, but that Parks would be responsible for maintaining the right of way per CalFire standards.

Opened to public comment: Rob Rossi noted that the process for identifying a connection to the existing trail began in 1998, and the Walnut Street section was finalized in 2004, and then now this segment. There is a parking area at the end of Walnut that was already dedicated. This new one could be in addition to or instead of the existing parking area dedication. Keith Wales asked about the surfacing. Answer: this would initially this will be soft surface, but there's enough room to pave the bike lane if needed in the future. Dana Tryde asked about horse fencing standards. Answer: the standards are in the parks element. Sharon Marini asked about the difference between this and the Salinas River Trail Master Plan. Answer: This is all of the above—it is Anza, and part of SLOCOG's Salinas River Plan, even though this isn't literally on the Salinas River. She noted concerns with the access on Yerba Buena, traffic, safety issues, etc. during events at the Ranch, having more individuals 20 feet from the homes on F Street, staging, etc. Believed the plan to be totally inappropriate. Mr. Blank noted that anyone can park on a public street. Joe Patterson asked the Parks Department to remind people about ways to submit written comments. Robert Stockel suggested that Parks work with CSA 23 and get on their agenda. Dorothy Jennings commented that she is co-chair of the trails advisory committee and former parks commissioner. She can recall a very impassioned young man making a passionate plea for a safe route from Garden Farms to Santa Margarita to get to town and get to school. In her view, Mr. Rossi is giving a gift to the community. George Sullivan raised the potential of buying the railroad property for parking. Item closed for discussion.

11. Unfinished Business – 8:00pm (30 min)

a. DRC 2011-00098 and DRC 2011-00099 – Hanson Quarry Expansion, CUP, Mining/Reclamation Plan – Cindy Chambers, Planning Consultant with Wallace Group to present quarry expansion plans, public comment, and council comment.

Xandrea Fowler from the County Planning introduced herself. The BOS approved an EIR contract with Aspen on June 4th. June 26th is first public scoping meeting at the Elementary School from 6-8 pm, notice to go out this week. Terry Marshall introduced himself on behalf of the applicant. Rick Sanford, Plant Manager, and Ryan Jacoby, VP GM for Hanson Central Coast were also present. They have 12-15 full time employees, and have been operating since 1920's. Some are multi-generational employees. These are full time, permanent positions. The quarry supplies building materials for the community. They are asking for an extension with no changes in production. Cindy Chambers with Wallace Group gave the detailed presentation. Discussed the location of the expansion area and mine phasing plan, phased reclamation, and changes in the visual experience from Highway 58 and El Camino Real. Securing these additional reserves will also Hanson to upgrade its equipment.

Council comment: George Sullivan asked about the stair step face, and whether it was possible to recontour it to promote revegetation. Answer: MSHA requires the benching for slope stability—basically 1.5 to 1 benches. It also prevents erosion.

Public comment: Roy Reeves asked where Hanson was going next, in the next 50-100 years. Terry Marshall answered that this permit will carry them for the next 59 years, and they are not looking beyond that. Roy Reeves asked if there were options on land outside of this current site, on the other side of the river. Mr. Marshall answered no. Cindy Chambers clarified that was buffer land, and crossing the Salinas would be a challenge. Tamara Kleemann asked how long the entrance road is. Answer: 1.8 miles, approximately.

Back to Council: Joe Patterson asked if operations would change at all. A: no, this is business as usual—their 700,000 tons per year allotment won't change, and truck trips won't change. It is securing additional reserves to justify further capital investment by the company. Use of explosives would continue on the same schedule, etc. Joe Patterson asked about timing of reclamation. Answer: that is all in the reclamation plan, available through the County. There was some discussion of reclamation phasing. Ms. Fowler clarified where more information could be found on the County's website. Item closed for discussion, no action taken.

12. Unfinished Business – 8:30pm (45 min)

a. By-Laws and Vacancy Procedures – Discuss Parkhill Seat, review written public comment, council discussion and take action towards resolution.

The Chair did not receive any written public comment on this item, neither did anyone on the Council. At the Chair's request, the Secretary recapped the minutes from the April meeting. Council discussion ensued regarding the action that was taken by the previous Council and the various options available to the current Council. Robert Stockel made a motion to rescind the previous council's action—motion died for lack of a second. Item closed for discussion, no action taken.

13. 5th District Supervisor's Report – 9:15pm (6 min)

Supervisor Arnold gave the report. The BOS just finished budget hearings. The County has a half a billion dollar budget, and is in pretty good shape.

14. Chairman's report – 9:21pm (8 min)

- a. Committee adjustments- The Chair announced the following adjustments to the standing committee assignments: Doug Filippone is added to Special Events, David Blakely is removed from Finance. Sophie Treder asked if the Chair was aware of any Council seat vacancies that he needed to announce and he said no.
- b. Santa Margarita Community Room – change of location and time. Charlie Whitney went over the history of the August dinner meeting, and the Chair asked for public input. It was agreed that the Tavern might be the best place in order to have seating arrangements that would not feel exclusive to the public. Charlie Whitney agreed to organize the August dinner meeting. Discussion continued regarding the pros and cons of changing the regular meeting location to the Community Center, and the days of the week that might be considered. Charlie Whitney moved that the regular SMAAC meetings be held at the Community Center beginning in September. Su Andros seconded, MP with Sophie Treder and Butch Pope abstained. Su Andros moved that the meetings be held on the 1st Wednesday of every month, starting in September. Butch Pope seconded, MP with George Sullivan abstained. The Council then discussed changes to the signers on the bank account. Sophie Treder moved that the signers be the Treasurer and Vice Chair; Butch Pope seconded. MPU.
- c. Alternates: The following alternates were announced: Charlie Whitney: Chad Pankey. Jeremy Burns: John Jamrog. Bob Righetti: Stacey Phillips. Butch Pope: Lori Mitchell. Mike Whiteford: Mike Wagster. Su Andros: Chris Volbrecht. Sue Christian to make name signs for the alternates.

15. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 9:29pm.

- a. **Next Meeting** – August 14th, 7 pm, Santa Margarita Tavern (dinner meeting).