

Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council

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MINUTES

7 PM, Wednesday, March 5, 2014
Santa Margarita Community Hall
22501 I Street, Santa Margarita, CA 93453

Members Present:

1. **Call to order – 7:11 pm**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting.** Minutes from November 2013 were presented for approval. Secretary Treder recapped the minutes, and the Council reviewed. MTA the November 2013 minutes by John Reed, 2nd by George Sullivan, MP with Joe Patterson abstaining. Minutes from December 2013 were presented for approval with a recap by the Secretary. Approval of the December 2013 minutes was tabled due to question from Guy Rathbun regarding whether Eric Cleveland had comment on the railroad lot line adjustment item which was not mentioned in the draft minutes. Guy Rathbun agreed to follow up with Mr. Cleveland to determine whether a comment was made that should be included in the official minutes. The February minutes were presented for approval, with a recap by the Secretary. MTA by George Sullivan, 2nd by Guy Rathbun, MP with Charlie Whitney and Jeremy Burns abstaining.
4. **Approval of the agenda –** The Council discussed moved item six to the end of the meeting, as the bylaws allow declarations of candidacy to take place until the end of the March meeting. Joe Patterson moved to approve the agenda with item 6 moved to just before item 15. 2nd by Charlie Whitney, MPU.
5. **Review of Meeting Structure**
6. **(Moved to end)**
7. **Open comment**
 - a. Public announcements and comments regarding items not on the agenda – Darryl Nelson commented regarding conservation of water. He is trying to work on some sort of subsidy program so that people could install a low flow toilet for free. Low flow showers are also an idea. He is working to try to get the water companies to support this program.

Joe Patterson, speaking as a member of the public, announced that his family is working with the community to put together a BBQ fundraiser for Jack's Helping Hand to raise awareness for food-borne illness on May 17, 2014, in the Santa Margarita Community Park. He will have more information and flyers at the next meeting, but the intent is to get local food producers and regulators together with the community to promote food safety issues. Jack's Helping Hand's goal is to raise enough money for the Reach for the Stars camp, which is a camp for children affected by cancer, which the American Cancer Society has had to stop funding. Charlie Whitney suggested contacting the Farm Bureau, since food safety is such a big issue for farmers in California, and the local FB Board has discussed the issue multiple times. Dana Tryde suggested contacting California Certified Organic Farmers as well. Anyone interested in sponsorship or more information can talk to Joe outside of SMAAC.

- b. Council announcements and comments regarding items not on the agenda – None.

8. Public Safety

- a. Cal Fire / County Fire Department—Joe Wagner, Cal Fire. Due to the recent rains, they are now going to wait until March 17th to bring in extra staffing for fire season. For now, they are still at minimum staffing. Backyard burning has been opened temporarily because of the rain, but you need an APCD permit and a Cal Fire permit. The burn period will likely be a small window because of the weather. APCD permits are available online, and Cal Fire permits can be obtained at any station. The permits are good for the burn window, however long that lasts. There is a charge of about \$50 for the APCD permit, but no charge for the Cal Fire permit. Council discussion: Bob Righetti suggested that if people don't like paying \$50 to APCD that they send a letter to Assemblyman Achadjian, and then he gave some history on burn permits. Additional Council and public comment ensued. Sophie Treder suggested that since there was such interest in this item that the Council ask a representative from APCD to come and make a presentation at a future meeting. George Sullivan moved that the Council approach APCD and request their presence at the next meeting, 2nd by Charlie Whitney, MPU. It was agreed that the Chair will send an email to Supervisor Arnold's office making our request for her to pass on to APCD.
- b. Sheriff's Department – none.
- c. Highway Patrol – none.
- d. Other Agencies – none.

9. CSA 23 Update – Jenn Caffee offered a report as an observer at the last CSA 23 meeting. There was a request to replace the beacon light at H Street and 58; it is on order and should be replaced in the next 3 weeks. The light standard at Murphy & K Streets has been replaced recently. There were concerns about safety at Highway 58 crossings. The CSA is also pursuing underground utilities along El Camino Real through downtown, and a presentation was given by Diana Haines of Public Works.

10. Treasurer's Report – Charlie Whitney gave report. The balance remains unchanged at \$640.33. However, he needs to write a check for the Community Hall rent: it will be for 4 months at \$30 per month, so \$120, to the Lion's Club. Butch Pope moved that we pay the rent. 2nd by Guy Rathbun. MPU. Treasurer Whitney noted that the bank has a lengthy process due to the Patriot Act for non-profits to change the signatures on the checking account, so we need to keep that in mind as our officers change with each election.

11. Public Information Committee Report – Dana Tryde gave the report. She noted that there have been some difficulties getting the materials in a timely manner to get the website updated and maintained regularly. At least one individual has also commented to the public information committee members that the old website still comes up in a search. Following some discussion on that point, Dana Tryde volunteered to contact Elizabeth Beeman and see if Elizabeth could take down the old website to avoid confusion, but it was noted that that might not solve the problem. One member of the public noted that the County sometimes promotes the community advisory council meetings and links on Facebook, so perhaps those avenues could be used to promote SMAAC. Dana Tryde then asked for additional comments from the public on how to make the website more user friendly or make it a better resource for the Community. No additional comments other than the timeliness concern. Chairman Patterson agreed to commit to getting the agenda out 10 days before, and Secretary Treder agreed to get a rough copy of the minutes up on the website within 3 days after the meeting, as long as people understand that it is a rough draft, and that it will require some cleanup before being finalized. There will also be a new secretary in April, as she does not intend to run for secretary again, so there will also be an opportunity to implement a new policy with a new secretary, depending on how they take minutes. The Chair thanked the Public Information Committee for all their work.

12. New Business

- a. None

13. Continued Business

- a. None

14. 5th District Supervisor's Report – Jenn Caffee gave the report for Supervisor Arnold. The Energy Challenge was tonight at Santa Margarita Elementary School. People who were not able to make it can get information on the ongoing programs at www.sloenergyalliance.org. Supervisor Arnold's office asked for an update from County Staff on the Las Pilitas Resources project: Murry Wilson with County Planning indicated that they are still preparing responses to comments on the DEIR that were submitted. The applicant is also working with APCD regarding mitigation measures. There is currently no date for the planning commission hearing. The County received a complaint regarding the Salinas River Trail maps that were approved as part of the master plan process, so that is being looked into. Council discussion: Dana Tryde wanted to know if there was anything else that the Council could focus on in this community, since our agendas have been relatively light lately. Joe Patterson concurred. George Sullivan raised the issue of water, and noting that although we are not inside the PRGWB, we are part of the same watershed. Jenn Caffee noted that the Supervisors had just recently considered a countywide conservation program and gave direction to staff to come back with more specifics, and so that is something for the Council to keep an eye on regarding groundwater.

6. Council Elections –

- a. Notification of Candidacy and review of incumbent candidates – Charlie Whitney announced that he is not running again, Butch Pope and Jeremy Burns, who were incumbents not present at the February meeting, announced that they will be running again. The Chair asked for any non-incumbent declarations of candidacy from the following areas in turn: Pozo- none. Garden Farms- none. Santa Margarita—Robert Stockel's representative submitted a letter declaring candidacy. Highway 58—Tamara Kleemann submitted a declaration of candidacy. Rinconada—None. Las Pilitas—two individuals submitted declarations, Joseph Fariss and Richard Gayou. South Atascadero—none. Parkhill—Josh Fernandez submitted a declaration, as did JoAnn Head. Tassajara Canyon—none.

Accordingly, the March election will consist of the following candidates: Pozo: Garden Farms: Stuart Souza (unopposed). Highway 58: Tamara Kleemann (unopposed); Las Pilitas: Joseph Fariss (unopposed) and Richard Gayou (unopposed). Parkhill Road: Josh Fernandez and JoAnn Head (contested). Pozo: Sophie Treder (unopposed). Rinconada: Butch Pope (unopposed). Santa Margarita: Robert Stockel (unopposed). South Atascadero: Jeremy Burns (unopposed). Tassajara Canyon: George Sullivan (unopposed).

- b. Review of By-Laws pertaining to elections – Chairman Patterson reviewed the bylaws sections pertaining to elections. Public Comment: Roy Reeves asked whether write-in candidates were allowed. Following some discussion and review of the bylaws, it was determined that write-in candidates were not allowed.

15. Chairman's report – The Chair checked and reported that he had no new emails concerning the election. Therefore, the candidate list was declared closed. A review of the elections process and willing and able bodies to help with the polls ensued. In addition to those already listed, Charlie Whitney agreed to help at the polls as well. Public comment: Charlie Kleemann asked for clarification on the representation areas—it was noted that the narrative descriptions are now part of the bylaws, but that a map had just proved too difficult to generate. Following Council discussion regarding the hours that the polls would be open, Joe Patterson moved, and Charlie Whitney 2nded, that the hours of the polls will be 10 am to 7 pm on March 25, 2014 in front of the Santa Margarita Post Office. MPU.

16. Adjournment – 8:34 pm. There was a seconded motion to adjourn, but prior to adjournment Cal Fire made an announcement they had forgotten earlier regarding a grant. Thereafter the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:34 pm.

c. Next Meeting – April 2, 2014 at 7:00pm

DRAFT