

City of Santa Rosa
Board of Community Services Meeting
Minutes – May 28, 2008

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chairperson Lawson at the Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa, California.
2. Roll Call
Present: Regalia, Martell, Lawson, Costa, Richardson, Bañuelos, Schwinn
Absent: Brown
3. Public comments on items not on this agenda – None.
4. Approval of Minutes
Regalia made a motion, which was seconded by Martell, to approve the minutes of April 23, 2008, with an amendment to section 7.2, to clarify that the Planning Commission will consider the General Plan Amendment (GPA) in June and could report back to the City Council in late summer. Vote to approve was unanimous.
5. Approval of Agenda
Bañuelos requested updates on the Business and Strategic Action Plan (BSAP) and the Roseland Community Park process be added to the Staff Report section of the agenda. Martell made a motion, which was seconded by Regalia, to approve the agenda with the additions. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.
6. Scheduled Items
 - 6.1 Youth Community Park
John Dolzadell, Parks Supervisor, updated the Board as to the recent challenges and successes at Youth Community Park. Homeless individuals, truancy and other undesirable activities in the large wooded area in the undeveloped area of the park have increased over the years. Recently, a successful partnership between the Police department and Parks staff has resulted in regular park sweeps, five felony arrests and the park returned to being a safe place for recreation.

It was noted that the Redwood Empire Steamers group successfully operates trains at the park on the first weekend of each month. It has become a very popular attraction as well as a successful partnership with the City.
 - 6.2 Santa Rosa 2035: General Plan Housing Revision Status
Troy Eggleston, Advanced Planning and Public Policy, shared a brief background concerning the housing element update to the existing Santa Rosa 2020 General Plan which included a directive from Council to incorporate various concepts, policies and documents. The Recreation and Parks Business and Strategic Action Plan, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and climate protection policies will also be included. Significant changes will include land use and livability, transportation, public services and facilities and economic vitality. Staff is hopeful the draft will be released in December, 2008 with public input taken during the first six months of 2009. It is hoped the General Plan will be adopted next June.

Schwinn requested more detail as to what is being considered in regard to climate protection. Research is being done to find what policies and goals can be incorporated. Schwinn requested green building

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

standards be created as part of the plan and more information as to the changes in percentage and location of high, medium and low housing levels. Staff is currently looking at various revision options, including a 20/20/60 plan – 20% to very low/low, 20% to moderate and 60% to above moderate income households. Mixed use project planning would also be encouraged.

Costa questioned whether there will be changes as to how the quadrants are divided so they are uniform throughout City departments. Staff does not anticipate any changes at this time.

Regalia inquired as to the transportation portion of the plan and whether there will be a free shuttle throughout the City. The focus of the transportation section will be incorporation of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master plan. No free shuttle is planned at this time.

Lawson requested information on the state mandated housing revision, the specific areas in which the City is not currently compliant and the dates and locations of the community workshops. Numbers are being provided for allocation by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and will be adjusted every five years. Santa Rosa is not compliant in the very low income category. Information will be posted on the City's website concerning the workshops to be held later this year.

It was noted that the city's Climate Protection Committee meets a few hours prior to the Board of Community Services meeting. Board members should contact the Community Development department staff for the exact meeting time and location.

6.3 Hoag House Relocation

Dick Carlile gave a brief history of the project and expressed the hope that the house could be moved near to its original location and have a small commercial business operate out of the facility. Blaine Lemmon, architect, shared the details of the architecture and siting of the building. Steve Rabinowitsh has been in contact with various local vendors but no formal proposals have been suggested or received. Rich Hovden, Park Planning and Development Manager, reported the well has been relocated.

Board expressed support for the project and suggested the picket fence end at the front entrance so as not to create a barrier for mothers watching their children at play. Schwinn questioned whether the facility could be a visitor's center and offer bike path maps for bike enthusiasts. The need for community involvement was also mentioned.

6.4 Measure O Update

Copies of the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force Strategic Work Plan 2008-2012 were distributed to each Board member. Lt. Ernesto Olivares, Manager of the department's Gang Prevention and Intervention Services, gave a brief report on how the plan was developed and how it will serve as a road map for Santa Rosa as well as other cities faced with gang violence. The plan covers five critical areas: community awareness, prevention, intervention, enforcement and measuring successes. Currently thirteen programs are funded through Measure O grants. A Request for Qualification process has been finalized and forty-five programs have been selected to provide services for the next three years. Program needs will be defined annually and task force members will choose the best match from these programs. The ten funded agencies providing programs in the coming year will be presented to the Board at a future meeting.

Richardson applauded Lt. Olivares' efforts for the 24+ months he's been working on this program and highlighted several aspects of the report, including the circle of support and how the community has come together with a variety of different organizations to tackle this problem.

Bañuelos commended staff for work that has been done but expressed concern about the lack of community input. Olivares explained that public forums, seminars, conferences and surveys will be provided as an outreach to have public input fill in the gaps. Bañuelos also requested clarification of the number of funded agencies. Olivares explained that thirteen agencies are currently funded through Measure O grants. New agencies have been chosen for the coming year but have not been finalized. It is anticipated that twelve programs will be funded through ten agencies in the coming year, with a total of forty-five programs qualified to work with staff over the next 3 years.

Schwinn inquired about other Measure O accomplishments. Olivares noted the success of the ‘May I’ martial arts program, Double Punches Boxing Club and “Hope Works Santa Rosa, a job training and placement program that works with former gang members who have made the decision to leave the gang lifestyle and start over.

Schwinn also inquired about partnering with Measure O at-risk youth to solve the park maintenance staffing shortage in Recreation and Parks to give youth a chance to earn money by caring for their community. Olivares expressed that the idea is in line with the expectations they have of youth giving back to the community.

Lawson questioned the impact on Measure O receipts due to the decline in sales. Adjustments have been made and Olivares noted the importance of shopping locally. Some reserve funds are able to be rolled over from year to year. Partnerships are also very important in moving forward as are new funding sources. Copies of the report will be available on the department’s website as well as on the participating agencies’ websites.

The Board commended Olivares for his efforts.

6.5 Staff Reports

A. Prince Gateway Park

The fence around the park has been removed and the sculpture has been completed. Various artists and ArtStart staff were commended for their efforts. It is hoped that the dedication will occur on Friday, August 1st. The Board will be updated as more information is available concerning the dedication.

B. De Turk Round Barn

Hovden reported the contract with TLCD Architecture is in place and a kick off meeting will be held on Thursday, June 5 at 10am. A Board member is needed to serve on the task force committee, which will meet once a week for a number of months and will assist with the design of the Round Barn, public participation and goals and objectives. Costa will represent the Board. It was noted that Regalia and Lawson would also be willing to serve as alternates.

C. A Place To Play Newsletter

Hovden noted the contract with Argonaut Constructors is wrapping up. There will be one million dollars in Capital Improvement Project money available on July 1st to continue the effort towards the construction of soccer fields.

Lawson inquired as to whether staff had been successful in contacting Paul Coussen’s family in regard to dedicating the senior baseball field in honor of Coussen’s. The family has yet to

respond to staff so no date has been set. It is hoped the dedication might occur later this summer. Costa distributed pamphlets concerning purchase of bricks and stars at AP2P.

The latest newsletter highlights the Peggy Sue's All American Cruise vintage car show being held on June 14th and 15th.

D. Senior Center Addition at the Finley Center

Fundraising efforts continue and other grant opportunities are being pursued.

E. Business and Strategic Action Plan Update

Next steps include making a presentation to the Planning Commission on June 26th in regard to the General Plan Amendment (GPA) and pursuing an additional funding mechanism to assist with the overall financial stabilization program of the department. It is anticipated that a polling of the community will take place to determine what type of options residents would be inclined to support. A community education program will follow the polling process.

Board members inquired whether they should attend the Planning Commission meeting in June. Yes, the meeting will start at 4pm. Staff will make a presentation concerning the findings of the Business and Strategic Action Plan and how it led to the request for a General Plan Amendment, results of the public meetings, as well as public comments the department has received. It is hoped the Board could speak concerning (1) realistically funding community expectations, (2) creating flexibility in the system as development proposals are received and (3) the need for a series of park categories in the General Plan Amendment to better reflect reality.

A clarification was made to note the Planning Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, June 26th at 4pm, the dedication of the Boback Emad sculpture will be held on Saturday, June 28th and the dedication of Prince Gateway Park will be held on Friday, August 1st.

Richardson confirmed the proposed future park on Burbank Avenue is now being referred to as the Roseland Community Park. It was also noted that Greg and Trish Tatarian have expressed support and services in favor of this proposed park.

Schwinn inquired as to the next steps in naming the Bayer property. This item will be brought back to the Board later this year and could be part of the Master Planning process.

Richardson reported staff had received a written request for some type of park element on Acacia Lane. The letter was submitted in conjunction with the General Plan hearings that have been held and will be brought up at the Planning Commission meeting next month. Community Development staff is analyzing the options that might be available.

F. Roseland Community Park process

Richardson reported the grant application was submitted to the Open Space District (OSD) earlier this month and has resulted in staff receiving favorable feedback questions from the OSD. There has been a great amount of community support for this project, including a request for staff to meet with Supervisor Reilly early next month. Results of the grant application could be available later this summer. Bañuelos commended staff for their work on the grant process and noted that the grant can be viewed online.

Richardson noted the Open Space District has approved the purchase of the Bayer property and will need final approval from the Board of Supervisors prior to a check being issued. The OSD has also expressed interest in purchasing 153 acres located in the Cloverleaf Ranch area. It is hoped, that if purchased, Nagasawa Community Park at Fountaingrove could be linked via a trail to this proposed acquisition. A partnership with Public Works, Utilities, Sonoma County Regional Parks and the Open Space District could also be formed. The Board will be updated as information becomes available.

8. Chairperson's and Board Members' Reports

Reports were given on the Art in Public Places, Church of One Tree, A Place To Play Task Force, Merit Awards, Play Equipment and Senior Center Addition to the Finley Community Center committees as well as the Mayor's Luncheon.

8.2 Other Reports

Regalia attended the 50th anniversary of Camp WaTam and commended staff for their efforts.

Schwinn commended staff for the wide variety of programs, classes and activities available to the public.

Lawson reported he took part of a walking tour of all roadways, signalization, re-stripping, bike paths and alignment that would take place as part of the Courthouse Square reunification plan and that it was all funded by a grant. He also encouraged Board members to sign up for the Rural Cemetery Lamplight Tours that will take place in September.

Richardson noted Mayor Blanchard's resignation from the City Council effective June 17th and expressed his appreciation for the Mayor's efforts on behalf of the City.

Regalia noted *Legends of Bennett Valley* has begun their "Grill and Chill" event on Thursday evenings.

9. Future Agenda Items

9.1 Tree Grant Update and Policy Change

Schwinn inquired whether City staff will continue to maintain the trees in her planned unit development. Richardson encouraged her to contact Lisa Grant at 543-3774 and noted that due to lack of funding, the department will need to educate the community in how to maintain their own street trees.

Lawson noted the need to re-visit the street tree policy.

10. Written Communications

Board members were reminded of the Annual Boards and Commissions BBQ to be held on June 11th at 5:45 p.m. at the Finley Center. Board members were encouraged to wear theme appropriate clothing if possible.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, June 25, 2008 at 4pm at the Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa, California.

Craig Lawson, Board Chair

Yvonne Earle, Recording Secretary