

City of Santa Rosa
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)
May 25, 2011 – Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Narath at 5:32 p.m. at the Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa, California.

2. Roll Call

Present: Barragan, Buonaccorsi, Chang, Cohn, Dibble, Ebright, Narath, Topper, Lee, Richardson

Absent: Handy, Wang, Barragan, Combs

Sandy Belvedere attended the meeting as a potential future CAB member. Richardson introduced Megan Basinger, the new Administrative Services Officer in Recreation, Parks & Community Services.

3. Public Comments

None

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 20, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved after a motion was made by Lee and seconded by Dibble.

5. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved without objection.

6. Chairperson's and Board Members Reports

Reports were given regarding the following: Construction of Airfield Park has been approved; Public meetings have been held in regard to Roseland Plaza; Bellevue Ranch held a disaster preparedness meeting and will hold a neighborhood park clean up on Saturday; South Park continues to hold neighborhood organization meetings; the JC neighborhood has had land donated for a community garden and is hoping to have at least 10 volunteers donate their time 1 Saturday morning per month; the first public Santa Rosa Stationary Plan process meeting will be held Wed., June 1st at 7pm. Flyers are available for this meeting and everyone is encouraged to attend.

7. Scheduled Items

7.1 Parks Picnic Policies

Lisa Grant, Parks Superintendent, distributed a parks map and guide of department facilities to Board members then gave an overview regarding picnic and special events permits and the commemorative tree and bench programs. She noted some park events, such as for amplified sound, can require issuance of special permits. Grant also reviewed park volunteer opportunities and invited Board members to check out the department website for more information on community and neighborhood parks. She also distributed a list of park ordinances which regulate certain activities when using park facilities.

Board concerns included the impact of budget cuts on parks and the need for community assistance with park maintenance and safety. Grant was thanked for attending and assured that Board members are great resources for needed volunteer efforts.

7.2 Keep Kids Alive

Rob Sprinkle, Public Works Supervising Engineer, shared information regarding this national program which helps bring awareness to drivers in neighborhoods. Signs are available at a cost and should be displayed in neighborhoods on an inconsistent basis and location. It is hoped the Public Works grant writer may be able to find grant opportunities to help finance the cost of the signs which would allow them to be placed at every school.

Board members noted the importance of letting the community know about this program as well as the possibility of selling signs to various neighborhoods.

7.3 2011 Community Improvement Grant (CIG) Program

No grant applications have been received yet. Board members were encouraged to let the community know the availability of these grants as well as about projects for which grant money has been previously awarded. Possible publicity ideas included a “Close To Home” article in the Press Democrat, “The Drive” on KSRO or distributing information at the Wednesday Night Market. Staff will create a flyer concerning the CIG program. The deadline to apply is July 1, 2011.

7.4 Updated Community Advisory Board Goals

Board members simplified their previous Board goals into the following:

1. CAB, with community input, is powerfully and actively advising the City Council, City Manager and City staff on issues affecting the community.
2. CAB will continue to improve the partnerships between neighborhoods, community organizations, businesses and the City to support and promote thriving, diverse neighborhoods.
3. CAB is utilizing the Community Improvement Grants to make positive and measureable changes in the community.

Future agendas will be centered on these three goals. Copies of these goals will be distributed to Board members at their June meeting. Shared working definitions of these goals will be discussed at a future Board meeting.

7.5 CAB Reports, Updates and Announcements

- a. Photos from the I350 Garden Challenge, held on May 14 & May 15, will be available soon. Cohn noted there is a Sonoma County school garden network which is open to everyone. Information is available at <http://www.schoolgardens.org/>
- b. The 45th anniversary of Tzu Chi Foundation was held at City Hall on May 15th and was well organized.
- d. CommUnity was held on May 15th and well attended.
- e. About 800 volunteers helped with Spring Clean on May 14th.
- f. The next ‘Call A CAB’ event is tentatively scheduled for Wed., June 29th at 5:30 p.m. at Pepe’s on Sebastopol Road.

8. Written Communications

- 8.1 Traffic Safety Project – Sonoma Avenue and D Street
- 8.2 Resignation of Chavette Handy from CAB
- 8.3 Minutes of the CAB/BOCS Joint Study Session, April 20, 2011

9. Future Items

- 9.1 2011 Community Improvement Grants – Option of smaller grant awards for year round projects – July
- 9.2 Community Gardens Policy Update - June
- 9.3 Block Party Kits Update - June
- 9.4 Budget updates
- 9.5 Building Department – do’s and don’ts for residents
- 9.6 Public Utilities follow up
- 9.7 Work session on issues that need completion
- 9.8 Need for shared working definitions of CAB goals
- 9.9 Neighbor Summit (monthly)
- 9.10 Youth Summit (monthly)
- 9.11 SE Greenway – June

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. at the Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa, California.

Tanya Narath, Chairperson

Yvonne Earle, Recording Secretary