

COMMUNITY SERVICES & ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

City Hall, # 1 The Plaza
Sonoma, CA

May 13, 2015
Regular Meeting
Draft Minutes

Commissioners Present: Comms. Allebach, Blum, Frizzell, Petlock, Piasta, Liddell, Hutzel(Alternate)

Commissioners Absent: Comms. Rateaver, Frizzell, Blattner

Also Present: Associate Planner Atkins, Administrative Assistant Morris

Chair Petlock called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Associate Planner Atkins welcomed new Commissioner Inge Hutzel.

Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda: Lynn Clary, resident/former CSEC member, expressed concern in an increase of some citizens, primarily children, mistreating the Plaza ducks. He recommended more oversight from the Parks department. He is opposed to allowing leashed dogs on the Montini Trail and encouraged the Committee to comment about an alternate place for dogs which is a County proposal for a Dog park at Maxwell Park.

Chair Petlock responded that the Commission has been working on the duck issues.

Associate Planner Atkins asked Lynn Clary to forward her a copy of his letter about the use of the Montini Trail.

1. Guest Speaker: Lisa Michelli, PhD, Pepperwood Preserve

Lisa Michelli made a presentation about studies conducted on Habitat and watershed systems at the Pepperwood Preserve, a foundation for conservation science, focused on long-term planning. She invited the Commissioners to visit the Pepperwood Preserve.

2. 2015 Event Reviews

2.1 City Party

Associate Planner Atkins summarized the City Party conditions of approval recommended by the SEC committee for this recurring event.

Comm. Allebach commended Mary Catherine Cutcliffe for a successful event on the Plaza.

The Commissioners appreciated the dedicated Sonoma Community Center staff and Grant funding from the City of Sonoma.

Comm. Piasta confirmed with Mary Catherine Cutcliffe that they expect approximately 3,000 attendees.

Comm. Blum made a motion to approve the application. Comm. Piasta seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2.2 An Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration

Associate Planner Atkins summarized the conditions of approval recommended by the SEC committee.

Chair Petlock is concerned with tents blocking views of the parade.

Comm. Piasta made a motion to approve the application as submitted with exception to place the Rotary Hot Dog Booth and the rock climbing wall in the horseshoe area and the customary conditions of approval from prior years will be followed. Comm. Blum seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

2.3 Sonoma Plein Air

Associate Planner Atkins summarized the post event review comments from Staff.

Comm. Allebach is impressed by the funding and impact of the Artists in the community.

Chair Petlock recommended that the Sonoma Plein Air application be on the new streamlined process for next year since there are no issues.

Comm. Blum made a motion to approve the application with the following conditions of approval; No meeting required with the Streets Supervisor, Police, or Fire. The applicants will meet with the Parks Supervisor two weeks prior to the event. Comm. Piasta seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

2.4 Valley of the Moon Vintage Festival

Associate Planner Atkins summarized the conditions of approval recommended by the Special Event Committee (SEC) committee on April 1, 2015.

The event organizer explained the reason for the request to relocate the Friday night Gala dinner event from the Sonoma Barracks to the Northwest quadrant of the Historic Plaza. There would be lower costs since the delivery truck will already be setting up for the weekend event on the Plaza.

A discussion ensued about the pros and cons of changing the venue for the Friday night Gala. The majority of Commissioners opposed using the Plaza Park for the Gala since it would represent "exclusivity" in the public park since a temporary 40 inch high fence would be constructed to section off the area from the public.

Comm. Allebach recommended a “more balanced” slate of ticket price ranges for the Vintage Festival and opposed hosting the Gala dinner in the Park.

Comm. Piasta made a motion approve the application for the Saturday, September 26, 2015 and Sunday, September 27, 2015 events as proposed with the condition that the applicant return to the CSEC with a modified proposal for Friday, September 25, 2015 event, which would not include exclusive use of the Plaza Park. In addition, the following conditions of approval are: Meeting with the Street and Parks Supervisors two weeks before the event. Comm. Blum seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2.5 Hit The Road Jack

Associate Planner Atkins summarized the conditions of approval recommended by the SEC committee. No changes were proposed from last year’s event except that the Fireman’s Association is the new event organizer.

Comm. Piasta made a motion to approve the application as submitted. Comm. Blum seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Subcommittee Reports

Tree Committee (Standing Subcommittee) Participates on Tree Committee as voting member; reviews tree removal requests, Arborist Reports, research special projects. Comms. Blattner, Frizzell, Rateaver.

Sustainability (Ad Hoc)

Commissioners: Allebach, Piasta.

Youth Activity Issues on the Plaza (Ad Hoc)

Commissioners: Comms. Piasta, Petlock.

4. Future Agenda Items

Special Events Policy Update (ABC training)- continued to June 10th meeting.

5. Commissioner and Staff Comments

6. Adjournment

Chair Petlock adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CRISTINA MORRIS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT