

**COMMUNITY SERVICES & ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

City Hall
1 The Plaza
Sonoma, CA
September 11, 2013
Minutes

Commissioners Present: Comms. Blum, Clary, Frizzell, Kelley, Lanusse, Petlock, Rateaer
Wilbanks

Commissioners Absent: Comm. Blattner
Also Present: Management Analyst Rogers
Associate Planner Atkins

Chair Petlock called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Comments from the public: None

1. Welcome New CSEC Member Chris Rateaer

Chair Petlock welcomed new Commissioner Chris Rateaer.

Commissioners introduced themselves.

2. Harry Blum Appointed to CSEC for a Two-Year Term

CSEC Alternate Harry Blum was appointed by the City Council for a two-year term as CSEC Commissioner to fill the vacancy by the resignation of Michael Thomas.

3. Minutes of August 14, 2013

It was moved by Comm. Frizzell, seconded by Comm. Blum, to approve the minutes of August 14, 2013 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Post Event Review

4.1 Pets Lifeline Bark in the Park and Promenade

In staff's report Management Analyst Rogers summarized logistics for the event. The fencing used to delineate the Horseshoe Pavement approved by the CSEC and the agility course picket fence on the Horseshoe lawn granted by the City Council were installed properly and located per the direction of the per-event meeting with the Park's Supervisor. A-Board signs saying "No Dogs Allowed" were placed at all entrances around the Plaza perimeter and pathways entering the Horseshoe. Per the approval of the CSEC for the event, volunteer monitors were to be stationed at each entrance to ensure dogs and owners did not walk through the Plaza Park (per Muni Code). Monitors at times were not at the entrances and dogs with owners occasionally entered and exited on pedestrian pathways through the park.

Event coordinator Marianne Joske the failure was due to insufficient training of volunteers of their important role. She promised this would be corrected at future events.

Comm. Clary asked about the vendors and sales. Joske said they had two vendors and sales were lower than expected. They would like to increase the number of food vendors to offer variety, perhaps using the SE Quadrant for the food booths if approved next year.

Several commissioners suggested that on a hot day, Depot Park would be better suited for shade of the dogs and for people coming to enjoy the event. This would also eliminate need for an exception to use Horseshoe Lawn; plus dogs are allowed to be on leash at Depot Park. The Plaza is the only City Park that does not allow dogs (with the exception that dogs are allowed on the Horseshoe and outer walkways around the Plaza).

Joske said that Depot Park did not work the first year, lacking visibility. The number of registrations for the Promenade increased this year and the number of people watching the parade.

Chair Petlock thanked Joske and said the commission looked forward to the event in 2014.

5. Earth Hour City Challenge: Participating Cities Eligible for Grants

Comms. Petlock and Clary met as a subcommittee (Natural Resources and Sustainability) and briefly discussed the Earth Hour City Challenge. Chair Petlock said their conclusion was big cities were competing for the grant and a city the size of Sonoma would be lost in mix. They questioned if Sonoma would be eligible, also that resources required for the submittal were outside the City's ability at this time.

Comm. Kelley said the City Challenge would be a way to demonstrate the sustainability work done in Sonoma, specifically around energy. She introduced Tom Conlon, President of Geopraxis, energy consulting firm and a part of Transition Sonoma Valley, to further explain the Earth Hour City Challenge and grant application. He indicated that Sonoma County is perceived as a leader in energy efficiency, solar renewables and PACE program success throughout the world. This might be opportunity to position Sonoma County as launching community choice aggregate programs. As part of the application make the argument that the models developed here could be replicated throughout the Country in smaller communities. It could be a challenging grant process; the awards last year went to big cities.

Comm. Kelley said the first step is to register with ICLEI (climate initiatives). Even if we don't pursue Earth Hour Challenge or the grant application, find out if City is up to date with ICLEI membership and implementation progress in greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Chair Petlock thought that the Planning and Building Departments would be overseeing solar development, perhaps not the CSEC.

Comm. Frizzell thought it should be a formal review by the City Council (the last presentation was in February 2010). Staff will enquire as to the status of the Eco Audit and membership with ICLEI.

6. Reports: Subcommittees and Existing Ideas/Initiatives

Chair Petlock discussed the purpose of the subcommittees and how ideas are driven onto the agenda. The Tree Committee meets regularly. Subcommittees meet as often as necessary. He welcomed CSEC members to volunteer.

Transportation: (Walking, Bicycling, Transit, and other vehicle use): Commissioners: Clary Comm. Clary reported he was volunteering to help coordinate the Walk and Roll to school event by contacting elementary schools. Chair Petlock said he would forward information regarding where to collect handouts for the information table on the day of the event for the different locations. Clary has reached out to the previous CSEC coordinator for information. Comm. Blum requested to be added to the Transportation subcommittee.

Natural Resources and Sustainability: (Grey Water Systems, Solar Programs, GHG Reduction, Resource Protection, Water Quality, Conservation, Recycling, Sustainability Day). Commissioners: Clary, Kelley, Petlock.

Comm. Kelley announced the next Transition Sonoma Valley movie on Thursday September 19, "A Fierce Green Fire -The Battle for a Living Planet" at the Sonoma Valley Grange, 7:00 p.m.

Community Health, Recreation and Open Space: (Personal Health, Parks and Recreation). Commissioners: Blum, Clary, Lanusse. Comm. Clary reported the Montini trails would be open in early 2014.

The Tree Committee Meeting: (Participates on Tree Committee as voting member and review tree removal requests; and Tree City USA Certification). Commissioners: Blattner, Frizzell, Lanusse. The Tree Committee did not meet since the last report to CSEC on August 14, 2013.

Farmers' Market and Special Events: (Participants attend VOMCFM Board meetings and review any Plaza event concerns). Comm. Wilbanks attended the last Farmers' Market Board meeting that was moved due to a conflict at the regular meeting location. Lacking a quorum, the meeting was cancelled.

7. Closing Comments/Action Items

Chair Petlock mentioned that in 2012, the CSEC lacked a quorum for the December CSEC meeting due to vacations and the holidays. There was also interest in setting goals and planning for 2014.

8. Adjournment

Chair Petlock adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is Wednesday, October 9, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Rogers, Management Analyst