

COMMUNITY SERVICES & ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

City Hall, # 1 The Plaza
Sonoma, CA

January 14, 2015
Minutes

Commissioners Present: Comms. Allebach, Blattner, Blum, Frizzell, Liddell, Petlock, Piasta, Rateaver

Commissioners Absent: Comm. Kelley

Also Present: David Goodison, Planning Director
Associate Planner Atkins
Management Analyst Rogers
Jennifer Gray, First District Office/ Supervisor Gorin
B.R. Cohn Charity Events: Bruce Cohn,
John Procaccini, Michael Coats

Chair Petlock called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Approval of the Minutes from December 10, 2014

It was moved by Comm. Piasta, seconded by Comm. Blum to approve the minutes of December 10, 2014 as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Special Events Policy

Associate Planner Atkins reported that the New Special Events Policy was adopted by the City Council on January 7, 2015.

3. 2015 Event Reviews

3.1 Sonoma International Film Festival (SIFF) – March 25- March 29, 2015
Management Analyst Rogers summarized the event proposal, including three exceptions requested. With the new Event Policy approved on January 7th by the City Council, these exceptions may now be reviewed, approved or denied by the CSEC (Appendix A, Plaza Park policy): 1) Plaza use for five consecutive days; 2) Sonomawood sign placed on the Horseshoe Lawn; 3) Requesting a VIP Airstream (229.5 square feet) in front of City Hall.

VIP Airstream in-front of City Hall would replace the hospitality at the Maysonnave House. The SEC supported its use, recommending the Plaza Horseshoe be closed on Saturday and Sunday for safety. Staff confirmed that the Sonomawood sign required a building permit through City Hall.

Chair Petlock asked commissioners for discussion on the proposed exceptions, which would be reviewed for first time by the CSEC under the new Event Policy. Regarding music, Executive Director Kevin McNeely said there is a very small stage for acoustic music with PA system (low enough for conversations inside the tent). Mary Catherine Cutcliffe said the Plaza is open to pedestrian access and that ticket holders are allowed in the back-lot tent and Airstream. Staff clarified that food and wine vendors giving free samples did not require a one day business license. Food and wine sales went through SIFF staff for tickets; SIFF would pay the sales tax.

Event Policy: Special Events shall not exclude the public from the general use of any park or public property or charge an entry fee to any City Park or public property during the course of the event. Fees may be charged for event participation.

Comm. Blattner said the application was complete and methodical.

It was moved by Comm. Piasta seconded by Comm. Blattner to approve the Sonoma International Film Festival application for 2015 subject to the Conditions of Approval, including the three exceptions, and detailed tent map to scale to be submitted to the Fire Department and Special Event Coordinator prior to the Fire Marshal inspection. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff recommended the CSEC approve the event for 2016, at the post event review, pending no violations.

3.2 BR Cohn Music Festival

Associate Planner Atkins summarized the new event proposed by B.R. Cohn Charity events. On January 7, 2015, the Council approved the sublease of the property from the Field of Dreams Association, pending the review process by the Special Event Committee (SEC) and CSEC. On January 8th the SEC considered the event application, recommending conditions of approval by City departments of Police, Fire, Parks, Public Works and Planning/Special Event Coordinator.

An exception to the Noise Ordinance is requested for Thursday, October 1 to allow construction of the venue to extend to 8:00 p.m. if needed (day before the venue opens). Regarding the music event, amplified music is proposed Friday and Saturday night until 10:00 p.m., with music on Sunday will end at 7:00 p.m. (within the allowed time frame without an exception from the CSEC); decibel levels are not stipulated for events. By 10:00 p.m. event tear down and lighting should be complete on Sunday. John Procaccini did discuss typical fluctuations in decibel levels, which cannot be avoided for a concert (ranging from 45 to 75 decibels); sound management has developed more sophistication (base sounds still carry). Sound mitigation includes the stage facing towards hills versus Plaza, and use of sound blankets and fencing.

Issues Discussed:

- People entering Montini Open Space to watch the concert (option of closing the park earlier than dusk for safety; limit number of people jumping fences.
- Building out the South Field lawn area; limit peoples access to viewing concert through fencing.
- 7-8 music acts being planned.
- Ticket prices will be affordable for local people, with a local box office and ID's required to verify resident address.
- Local volunteers are needed for various jobs, and can enjoy the concert without a ticket.

Comm. Blum asked if they would be promoting cycling or other types of transportation. He recommended the organizers connect with the Bicycle Coalition. Organizers indicated they will not organize shuttles other than for VIP tickets (due to the cost of renting school busses). People should be encouraged to walk from the Plaza area, while parking will be available at the Veteran's Administration Building.

Comm. Frizzell supported parking as a fundraiser for local churches or schools (e.g. Sassarini, Sonoma Valley High School, and Saint Francis Solano School) on-site for a \$10 donation which could be listed on the event website as satellite parking.

Comm. Blattner asked which charity organizations would benefit. Bruce Cohn named Veteran's and non-profits for children. Blattner discussed the Sonoma Community Foundation with 22 smaller non-profits that are not always recognized. Cohn said he believed that some on that list would be ones that do receive through B.R. Cohn Charity, and small charities receive throughout the year (rotating recipients on a three year cycle). Blattner will forward the list for his consideration. Michael Coates said over 28 years offering this event, \$230K are raised each year for non-profits. Some goes out of the Valley to support those attending from other counties.

Final details and conditions of approval will be reviewed in a second meeting with the CSEC no later than June 10th, 2015:

- Pictures of proposed fencing.
- Public Safety Plan.
- Solid Waste and Recycling Plan.
- List of charities the event will benefit.
- Project narrative that summarizes the public outreach process and number of portable restrooms and hand washing stations.
- Indicate location of BBQs and generators on site plan.

It was moved by Comm. Blum seconded by Comm. Blattner to approve the 2015 Sonoma Fall Music Festival to be held at the Field of Dreams on October 2-5, subject to the conditions of approval. The motion passed 8-0 (1 commissioner absent).

4. Public Bathroom Conditions

At the December 10 meeting, CSEC suggested the Rotary Club or TID might provide partial funding for some basic improvements including painting the floors and walls, and lighting to improve security to public bathrooms at the Visitors Bureau Carnegie Building. Associate Planner Atkins reported the request was forwarded to the Public Works Department.

5. Informing Plaza Merchants of Plaza Events

Management Analyst Rogers contacted Sonoma Valley Visitor's Bureau regarding ways to notify Plaza merchants of events. The Executive Director offered the City to submit events to their calendar using their website link for events.

6. City Building Energy Usage

Associate Planner Atkins provided reports from 2009 from consultants Natural Logic that completed a study on City Buildings and energy efficiency. Staff reported that Public Works Director was following success in Berkeley, Napa and now San Bruno with a turn-key model using Cree to replace all city street and Plaza lighting, savings of \$150,000 a year (with a six year loan payoff).

Comm. Liddell said LED's Cree color rendering had greatly improved over the years light not lost going up but focused down. LED Life span: 25 years. Comm. Rataever said PG&E partners with cities to help with the funding.

Liddell appreciated the Natural Logic report background and wants to re-offer compiling utility data, to help benchmark City buildings. PG&E will provide 3-5 years historical and every month going forward, which she offered to enter into the system to track usage. The Benchmarking of City Buildings will still be valuable with corresponding energy efficiency ratings.

Comm. Allebach asked if City has a sustainability plan and if there is metric data; the report said the City did not have a sustainability plan 2009. Atkins said she didn't know but would forward comment on to the Building Director.

Chair Petlock said when Natural Logic report was done; there was no cost accounting, just recently incorporated into approach using economic, social and environmental indicators.

Comm. Liddell referred to County/City meeting at the Community Center, about climate and energy reduction with various stakeholders attending. Associate Planner Atkins said she staffed the Climate Action 20/20 project. The goal is to develop a plan to help the community as a whole reduce Green House gas emissions. The first plan should be coming out soon (not specifically City of Sonoma). County speaker that lead the meeting can be invited to speak with the CSEC on those issues. Commissioners supported a future agenda item to be planned.

7. Discussion, Consideration for Standing and Ad Hoc Subcommittees

Subcommittee Reports

7.1 Tree Committee (Standing Subcommittee)

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

Comm. Blattner reported that at the December 18th meeting: 1) one application for tree removal was approved; 2) a larger project was denied asking the applicant to return with recommended solutions using a larger crane to go over the trees rather than removing them (subsequently applicants confirmed that a larger crane would be used to avoid removal of the mature trees); 3) the Master Tree List was finalized and approved. The next scheduled tree committee meeting is January 15, 2015.

Comm. Allebach said he would not able to attend the January 15th Tree Committee meeting, asking if information regarding the Red Oak trees on Broadway. Comm. Frizzell reported the documents submitted by business owners (including Sonoma Court Shops) showing numerous damages to the sidewalk due to roots uplifting sidewalk and requiring repair to the sewer lines. These issues are causing financial hardships to tenants, with the landlord asking tenants to bear the costs. Frizzell suggested ideas should be discussed to keep the trees and maintain the shade canopy.

Comm. Rataever said the arborists would make recommendations on the health of the trees, damage being caused by roots; if trees need to be removed a recommendation for tree replacement is made. The Broadway plan for trees would be looked at, appropriate trees and planting techniques.

Comm. Allebach said that Caitlin Cornwall with the Ecology Center mentioned Urban Forestry and that Arborist John Meserve is knowledgeable on the subject. Comm. Frizzell said Urban Forestry is very different than Tree City USA and a large undertaking, including audit of the city tree canopy. Resources need to be discussed and require the City to be lobby over time and added to the budget.

The plan is a culture of trees in a geographical area measuring what your canopy is in the beginning, and where you want it to be and compare to the "Urban Forestry Plan. Comm. Allebach said he would contact Caitlin Cornwall and invite her to come to the CSEC.

7.2 Sustainability (Ad Hoc)

Commissioners: Allebach, Piasta, Kelley.

Comm. Allebach said the committee did not meet due to the holidays, but he reported that Comm. Piasta will be putting together a legal definition for sustainability in the next few months; he reviewed Comm. Kelley's master thesis on sustainability (including a full cost accounting model); February 19th he will be meeting with UC Davis Agricultural Sustainability Institute – two professors that will meeting together with the SECenter and Sonoma Valley Historical Society to discuss indicators they are working on; attended the Sonoma Valley Ground Water Management Program regarding sustainable ground water. Spoke with Virginia Hubbell with CittaslowSV Sonoma Valley guidelines for sustainability; Transition Sonoma Valley working on their definition of Sustainability; include values and principles to the Public Policy.

7.3 Youth Activity Issues on the Plaza (Ad Hoc)

Commissioners: Comms. Piasta, Petlock.

Comm. Piasta said the subcommittee would meet prior to February 11 and provide a report.

7. Future Agenda Items

- Climate Action 20/20 Sonoma County speaker.
- Urban Forestry Plan for Sonoma (Tree Committee to review first)

8. Adjournment

Chair Petlock adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Rogers, Management Analyst