



**SANTA VENETIA COMMUNITY PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Summary Minutes**

Tuesday, November 10, 2015
7:00-9:00 pm
Marin County Civic Center, Room 315
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

Members Present

Bonnie Monte, Chair
Jane Brand
Russ Greenfield
Mary Hanley
Roger Heller
Gary Robards
Mark Wallace

Staff

Christine Gimmler, Senior Planner

1. Summary Minutes

The Advisory Committee accepted the summary minutes from September 1, 2015 as presented.

2. Review Draft Revisions to Community Plan

Committee members continued discussion of community plan issues, including a review of draft modifications to the community plan prepared by staff.

Acknowledgement of Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association – The committee discussed a suggestion that the community plan should acknowledge the importance of SVNA to the community and the Association’s role in initiating and advocating for preparation of a community plan. Staff agreed that additional information regarding the importance and activities of the SVNA could be incorporated more prominently into the plan. As discussed previously, the SVNA’s mission statement can also be incorporated into the plan.

Flood Protection Goals – Staff noted that Russ Greenfield had been working with Flood Zone 7 staff to develop goals that could be incorporated into the community plan related to flood protection. In response, District staff suggested the following language:

- Work towards 100-year flood protection through evaluation, maintenance, and improvements of the existing system of pumps, drains, channels, and levees. Improvement alternatives and evaluation methods should consider requirements for FEMA certification when feasible. The top priority is to ensure funding is adequate to maintain existing timber-reinforced berm at design elevation.
- Participate in planning to evaluate improvements to the levee to maintain 100-year protection with Sea Level Rise. This planning may be informed by the Marin Bay Waterfront Adaptation Vulnerability Evaluation (BAYWAVE)....

Russ and other committee members indicated that they were supportive of adding the proposed language to the Environmental Hazards Chapter of the community plan.

Draft Modifications to Community Plan – Committee members reviewed draft modifications to the community plan prepared by staff which begin to incorporate input from the committee, including:

- 4 new Land Use and Community Character policies
- 3 new Parks and Open Space Concepts
- 1 new Transportation policy

Staff also presented a draft format for presenting information regarding “key sites” in the community, such as the Oxford Valley and MacPhail’s property. As envisioned in the example, the format would include the following information for each site:

- Brief site description
- Density considerations (such as applicable zoning and land use designations)
- Potential site development constraints
- Key Countywide Plan policies
- Community preferences

Committee members were supportive of the proposed additional policies and concepts as written as well as the sample “key site” layout prepared for Oxford Valley. Committee members concurred that the information provided or displayed for the individual sites may vary depending on the characteristics of each property. For example, mapping of natural resources may not be appropriate for a smaller largely developed site such as the Azari parcel. It will also be important to keep maps clear and legible and avoid overlaying too much information on a single graphic.

The committee also discussed the desirability of including the Boyd Ranch as one of the community’s “key sites”. Although this property had been noted by the Planning Commission, committee members were concerned that identifying the ranch as a “key site” may bring attention to the development potential of the property. Instead, the committee preferred to simply express appreciation for the stewardship of the property provided by the current owners. Staff will consider ways to identify the site in the plan without emphasizing it as a “development site”.

In other comments, committee members noted that the Santa Venetia Market is a valued asset in the community and suggested the concept of promoting an “Adopt a Storm Drain” program similar to that developed in the City of Oakland, where members of the public help to maintain storm drains by volunteering to keep one or more storm drains in their neighborhood free of leaves and trash during the rainy season.

3. Next meeting date

It was agreed that the next meeting Advisory Committee meeting would be held following the holidays on the second Tuesday in January, the 12th.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.