



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

Tuesday, September 10, 2013
7:00-9:00 pm
Marin County Civic Center, Room 315
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

Members Present

Mary Hanley
Roger Heller
Tami Hull
Bonnie Monte
Gary Robards

Staff

Jack Liebster, Planning Manager
Christine Gimmler, Senior Planner
Suzanne Thorsen, Planner

1. Summary Minutes

The Advisory Committee accepted the summary minutes from August 13, 2013 as presented.

2. Community Meeting #1

The Advisory Committee and staff discussed the outcome of the first Santa Venetia Community Plan meeting held on August 29th. There was general agreement that the meeting was successful in generating community interest and ideas and that the turnout had been better than expected (approximately 40 people based on sign-up sheets). Staff noted that, based on submitted evaluations, a majority of attendees considered themselves to be “novices” (58%) or only “somewhat knowledgeable” (33%) regarding understanding the community plan process. However, understanding of the community plan was improved for over 75% of participants as a result of the meeting, and over 85% agreed or strongly agreed that the material was presented clearly and that handouts were informative. Finally, over 90% indicated that the two hour time period allotted for the meeting was appropriate. Regarding meeting location, there was agreement that the Korean Church meeting room was too small to accommodate the number of participants who attended and was not accessible to people with disabilities. Staff confirmed that alternative venues in the vicinity (including meeting rooms in the Marin Center and Jewish Community Center) will be considered for future meetings.

Committee members also reviewed and commented on a compilation of participant feedback prepared by staff from both individual worksheets and group table exercises. In response to questions from staff, various committee members explained several ambiguous comments and provided background information clarifying the meaning of a number of the ideas and suggestions offered by the public. Specific issues discussed by the committee included uncertainty regarding ownership and maintenance of Santa Venetia’s levees,

potential bike and pedestrian improvements in the community, maintenance of North San Pedro Road medians, past efforts to develop a Santa Venetia community center, regulations related to converting garages to living space, current efforts to secure Buck's Launching for community use, and the potential for a community ball field.

The Advisory Committee also continued discussion of their desire to improve outreach to the Spanish-speaking community in Santa Venetia. The committee supported a suggestion that a vacant position on the committee be filled by a resident who could better represent this portion of the community. Gary Robards offered to follow up by contacting residents who might be willing to participate in the community plan process as an advisory committee member.

3. Next Steps

Staff noted that the next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1st. Likely topics for discussion at the next meeting include a review of existing Countywide Plan policies corresponding to the issues identified at the community meeting, and preliminary information regarding development potential in the community.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.