



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

Thursday, June 6, 2013
7:00-9:00 pm
Marin County Civic Center, Room 315
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

Members Present

Jane Brand
Giselle Block
Russ Greenfield
Mary Hanley
Roger Heller
Tami Hull
Bonnie Monte
Gary Robards

Staff

Jack Liebster, Planning Manager
Christine Gimmler, Senior Planner

1. Summary Minutes

The Advisory Committee accepted the minutes from May 2, 2013 with a suggested modification to indicate that Bonnie Monte would post updates regarding the community plan in the SVNA newsletter. In response to a question for the Committee, staff noted that the community plan website is now “live” and can be accessed at www.marincounty.org/SantaVenetia. Community members with questions about the community plan process can be directed to the new site where they will be able to review information about the community plan process and material from advisory committee meetings, sign up for email notifications, connect to the Open Marin online forum, etc.

2. Revised Community Plan Schedule, Outline, and Ground Rules

Staff reviewed updated versions of the community plan schedule, outline, and ground rules distributed at the May 2nd meeting. Committee members suggested minor changes to the outline to correct the spelling of “MacPhail” and clarify that a summary of important community biological resources could be included in the plan. It was noted that the revised schedule was missing references to several SVNA meetings previously shown as opportunities for community engagement. Committee members also discussed and unanimously supported moving regularly scheduled committee meetings from the first Thursday to the first Tuesday of the month in order to avoid conflicts with the Gallinas Watershed Council schedule. Staff will correct and revise the schedule accordingly. No changes were proposed to the ground rules.

3. Community Plan Goals

Staff reviewed material distributed to the committee about the role of community plans in relation to the Countywide Plan and the task of selecting community plan goals. To ensure consistency with the Countywide Plan, staff encouraged the committee to select from existing Countywide Plan goals with the understanding that the policies derived from those goals would be developed to reflect the specific circumstances in Santa Venetia.

To assist in this effort, staff had prepared a compilation of seventy goals from the Built Environment and Natural Systems Elements of the Countywide Plan related to issues of interest in Santa Venetia. After some discussion, each committee member selected the five goals they felt are most important and relevant for Santa Venetia. Those goals selected by three or more committee members (in order of frequency selected) were as follows:

1. Preservation of Open Space (6)
2. Safety from Flooding and Inundation (5)
3. Effective Growth Management (4)
4. Protection of Scenic Resources (4)
5. Healthy Watersheds (4)
6. Preservation of Community Character (3)
7. Protection of Sensitive Biological Resources (3)
8. Adaptation to Climate Change (3)

After further discussion, it was decided that the goals addressing community character, scenic resources, and climate change were closely related to and could be combined with one of “top five” goals. Specifically, community character relates to effective growth management, scenic resources are closely associated with open space preservation, and adaptation to climate change is a component of flood safety. Staff agreed to prepare a draft of the Santa Venetia Community Plan Goals for final review and approval at the next meeting.

4. Open Marin

Staff and committee members discussed the County’s new online forum, Open Marin. There was general agreement that Open Marin would be very useful later on in the process, when, for example, the community could be asked to respond to policy ideas generated by the committee, or comment on solutions to various issues generated at community workshops.

5. Community Meeting #1

Staff sought input from the committee regarding the timing and location of the summer Community Workshop. In order to appear in the July/August SVNA Newsletter, the date, time and location for the workshop should be determined by the end of June. Although tentatively planned for late July, the committee agreed it would be preferable to schedule the meeting in late August when schools are back in session. They also agreed that a week night meeting would likely result in higher attendance than a weekend day. Regarding location, the Korean Presbyterian Church is the best choice for a community meeting due to its familiarity with the residents and its availability for use by the SVNA (when not in use for church events). Staff will identify several alternative dates for consideration by the committee and Bonnie offered to contact the church once potential dates had been selected. The committee also discussed the community workshop format and how to

ensure that it is an informative and productive event. There was support for moving beyond identification of problems and focusing community input on constructive ideas and potential solutions for the various community issues that have already been identified. To that end, the idea of breaking participants into small groups to brainstorm on various issues was proposed. Several committee members expressed a willingness to be facilitators at the workshop. In response, staff offered to explore the possibility of arranging facilitator training for workshop volunteers and report back at the next committee meeting.

6. Next Steps

As noted above, the committee members present unanimously agreed that subsequent committee meetings should be held on the first Tuesday of the month (rather than the first Thursday) to avoid scheduling conflicts with other regularly scheduled community meetings. Under the revised schedule, the next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 6th at the Civic Center.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.