

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

SUNOL CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, October 20, 2021
6:30 p.m.

ALAMEDA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Member DeGrange called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members present: Mary Conant, Paul Dentinger, Gerry Beemiller, Connie DeGrange

Board Members excused: Jordan Franco

Staff present: Bonnie Terra, Alameda County Fire Department; Melissa Rydman, Clerk, Board of Supervisors' Office, Chris Miley, Supervisor Valle's Office, Marc Petrini, Alameda County Sheriff's Office, Shawn Wilson, Supervisor Haubert's Office, Supervisor David Haubert, District 1

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT/OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Henry Baum announced that the Sunol Train of Lights is scheduled for November 19, 2021. Due to COVID, There will be some changes. Masks will be required on the train. This will be the last year of free train of lights for Sunolians. Next year we will discuss how to earn tickets or buy tickets at a discount to the Sunol Train of Lights. There are 350 tickets designated to Sunol.

Chair DeGrange will help with the distribution of the tickets. A postcard will get mailed to the Sunol residents with an email address so residents can reserve tickets. Ticket distribution will occur close to the November 19th date.

Tom Knutsen asked where the distribution will take place for the Sunol Train of Lights tickets. Chair DeGrange replied that Casa Bella Bistro agreed to allow them to set up a table there and distribute the tickets. Since Casa Bella Bistro closes at 2:00 PM, they can move to the train station for ticket distribution.

Melody Davis announced that City of Oakland Mayor, Libby Schaaf, is asking the Cities for Resolution to ask the Board of Supervisors to give money for the ballpark and infrastructure that they want to build at the Howard Terminal in Jack London Square. Melody suggested that the owner can build the infrastructure at the existing site.

Doug Debs asked if he could comment on the Niles Canyon Trail project and the impact of trail on fire safety. Chair DeGrange replied that Item 8 is related to the Tyler Ranch staging area, but the Tyler Ranch project is a separate project from the Niles Canyon Trail project. However, the Council will focus on this item in November and asked if his comments can wait until November. Doug Debs agreed to hold his comments until November.

Kelly suggested that the lessons from USS Bonhomme fire should be applied to banquet halls constructed in Sunol. They are required to have fire extinguishing systems that are supervised by trained fire professionals.

3. **REPORTS/UPDATES – Informational Items:**

Alameda County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. Marc Petrini reported 34 calls for service; three were vehicle thefts; there were a few disturbance/noise complaints; and illegal dumping from a vehicle. We added a Sheriff's Technician to the Tri-Valley Sub-station she is focusing on vehicle abatement (parking enforcement). The Deputies will stop by the train station on the nights of the Train of Lights.

Chair DeGrange invited the Sheriff's Office to the tree lighting ceremony before the Train of Lights at 6 PM at the Sunol Depot Gardens. Coffee, cocoa, and cookies will be served.

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Alameda County Fire Department – Bonnie Terra reported there is rain, which will help reduce the fire risks; there were 45 calls for service received, the majority of the calls were for EMS, and there were a few fire calls. Alameda County Fire Department asked that residents not engage in burning leaves or other debris during fire season and especially without the permit or approval from CalFire.

Public Comment

Jim O’Laughlin suggested that Sunol Citizen Advisory Committee set up a working group with Caltrans to discuss (1) tree planting from Foothill to Union Pacific Railroad; (2) signage plan for Sunol; and (3) the architectural theme at the four corners.

4. PROGRESS REPORTS (AS NECESSARY) – Informational Items:

Regional Priority Plan – Firewise Pilot Program

Rosemary Chang wants to develop a pilot program on Foothill in Sunol and recommends other groups become a Fire Wise community.

[Attachment](#)

Sunol Boundary/Mapping Project – Chris Miley of Supervisor Valle’s office shared the finding of the research that was completed by the interns from Supervisor Valle’s office. Chris provided an update on the Draft Sunol Boundary/Mapping Project.

Public Comments

Kelly Abreu stated that some of the parcels identified as agriculture are being used as industrial stock yards. Kelly suggested that Sunol Citizens’ Advisory Council review the agricultural projects thoroughly.

5. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

None.

6. RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT A RESOLUTION FINDING THAT STATE OR LOCAL MEASURES TO PROMOTE SOCIAL DISTANCING EXIST, TO ENABLE CONTINUED MEETINGS BY TELECONFERENCE AND TO ALIGN WITH THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS’ ADOPTION OF THE HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY DIRECTOR’S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE BOARD IMPLEMENT SOCIAL DISTANCING FOR ITS MEETINGS - ACTION ITEM

[Attachment](#)

Public Comments

None

Motion to adopt a Resolution by Chair DeGrange and seconded by Member Paul Dentinger.

Ayes: Dentinger, Beemiller, DeGrange

Noes: None

Motion passes: 3/0

7. INFORMATIONAL HEARING ON A SUNOL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT FUND APPLICATION FROM THE SUNOL DEPOT GARDEN VOLUNTEERS (FRIENDS OF THE PARK)

[Attachment](#)

Tom Harland presented the application for \$5,206 in funds from the Community Improvement Fund. He stated that the Friends of the Park, an all-volunteer organization) received their 2021 annual budget from the Niles Canyon Railway (no funds were received in 2020 because of COVID) and requests funds to upgrade the pathway, renew bocce ball grass, install landscaping, plant grasses in the berm, and repair the foot bridge. Friends of the Park is requesting approval from Sunol Citizens’ Advisory Council at the next meeting.

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8. UPDATE ON THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT TYLER RANCH STAGING AREA

[Attachment](#)
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[Attachment](#)

Brian Holt and Lisa Goorjin provided an update on the East Bay Regional Park District Tyler Ranch Staging Area. EBRPD is working with Alameda County Public Works on traffic impacts.

Public Comments

Jamie Nagata indicated that EBRPD sent an email with the documents that were requested from the last meeting. Jamie reached out to several representatives, and they did not respond to her concerns.

Lina Owsley suggested that (1) EBRPD notify all the residents in Sunol about the construction at the Tylor Ranch Staging Area; (2) install signs on the road; and install speed humps; (3) she asked why the parking area is so large and what is EBRPD's plan for the parking area; (4) how is EBRPD going to make the road safer and 20 MPH signs should get installed; (5) why is EBRPD allowing camping; (6) what happened to the maintenance facility and ranger station that was originally proposed; and (7) EBRPD needs to be more transparent.

Anna Wang stated that traffic has already increased since construction began. The impacts already exist with just a fraction of the increase that was anticipated because it is just construction vehicles right now. She suggested that Public Works hire traffic experts to identify specific mitigation measures.

Alicia Owsley asked (1) what is EBRPD's policy for alerting residents about breaking ground; (2) who will take responsibility for safety and when will the safety measures get installed (signs, speed humps); (3) when do we break ground on speed humps and stop signs since there is an impact on traffic now; (4) how many phases are planned for this project and what is the timeline for residential security; and (5) are there going to be lights in the parking area and on Foothill.

Jim O'Laughlin suggested that there should not be any access to the parking and staging area from Foothill Road and the entrance should be allowed from Niles Canyon Road at the Old Canyon Road.

Chris Miley replied that the Public Works Director agreed to come back after they assessed EBRPD's documents and will present those finding at a future meeting.

Chair DeGrange requested that the Public Works Director return to the January meeting to present his findings.

9. RECEIVE AN OVERVIEW OF AND PROVIDE INPUT ON PROPOSED TENANT PROTECTIONS FOR THE UNINCORPORATED AREA

[Attachment](#)

Jennifer Pearce, Deputy Housing Director, and Leo from Community Development provided background, Challenge Grant, possible tenant protections, HCD recommendations, community outreach, and next steps related to the Tenant Protections.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

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11. ADJOURN