

TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO
Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Town Council and Open Space Committee
December 7, 1996

Purpose of meeting: To review and discuss the status and plans for the projects and programs of the Open Space Committee in its efforts to fulfill its charge of preserving and protecting open space.

Desired outcome: Status report and planned direction for accomplishing the charge.

1. Welcome/Convene Meeting.

Mayor Breen convened the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Council present: Mayor Breen, Vice Mayor Kroot, Councilmembers Hodgens and Yarish; excused: Councilmember Chignell

Open Space Committee members present: Chairperson Kathleen Sanders, Members George Bean, Jon Braun, Elizabeth Byers, Linda Hoch, Carolyn Kohler, Tamra Peters, and Lise Stampfli Torne. Members excused/not present: Robert Hogan, Leonard Charles, and Paul Colardo.

2. Discussion topics:

A. Bald Hill: Top of the hill and its slopes; development plans in Ross.

The consensus was to establish as the next step finding the best way to approach the owners of the Asia Alliance property to have a meaningful dialogue regarding acquisition.

Councilmember Yarish, and Committee Members Bean and Braun were designated as point persons on the project at this time.

It was the consensus of the Committee and Council that there be a three-month status report regarding an approach to the Asia Alliance property owners.

There is interest by the Committee in pursuing acquisition of the Quilici property. Regarding the Seminary "spring lot" on Bald Hill, the Committee recommended being open to entertaining a proposal for a density swap.

B. Other open space or park acquisitions and/or preservation locations (e.g. Hawthorne Canyon, Marin Town & Country Club).

Hawthorne Canyon: The Committee reported that many neighbors are involved in planning and financing acquisition of this property for open space, and that the acquisition project will entail quite a bit of work.

Marin Town & Country Club: The Council liaisons to the Marin Town & Country Club Working Group - Mayor Breen and Councilmember Yarish - reported that the group is considering conducting a survey on what the community will support for acquisition of the club property. The idea was raised to include this property as part of regional projects identified in an open space/recreational financing measure.

C. Sorich Ranch Park - Implementation of the Master Plan and Grant.

Parks Superintendent Nyberg submitted a written report on the project progress, volunteer workparties, revenues received, and expenditures made. The projected remaining funds needed was \$8,060. Ideas for other donations included:

- San Quentin labor through a special prison project.
- Residents who are required to replace heritage trees that are removed, and are allowed to replace the trees off-site, could make the tree donation to Sorich Park.
- Marin Community Foundation Neighborhood Achievement Award

D. Development of additional trails and trailheads.

Jerry Draper and Rohanna McLaughlin will pursue establishment of a trail on the Subud property adjacent Sorich Park after the first of the year.

The Committee reported that it is exploring establishing a trail from Scenic Avenue to the Fraser open space property. A broom eradication program is being developed for the Fraser property.

E. Modifications to the Tree Ordinance.

The Committee reported that it was drafting proposed changes to the tree ordinance; among the ideas being explored were:

- Establishing a Tree Committee
- Reducing the size of heritage trees that are regulated
- Sending information about trees and regulations to property owners, through the garbage company mailings

Among the issues to be addressed in drafting the changes were:

- Enforcement
- Criteria for hazardous trees
- Fire safety

The Council asked the Committee to include in its deliberations on the draft ordinance:

- Explanation on why the ordinance was coming forward at this time
- Opportunities to be proactive about trees about which neighbors are concerned
- Fire Department to review the draft ordinance, and Committee consider their recommendations regarding fire safety
- Have a publicized public hearing by the Open Space Committee, for community comment and deliberation prior to forwarding it to Council.

F. Communication with the public and public involvement.

The Committee reported that it is:

- Evaluating the effort it takes to put on the Run/Walk fundraiser compared with the revenue raised.
- Developing a reach-out to schools program, whereby students could work on open space activities as part of community service or on school-release time.
- Inquiring about obtaining the lowest cost for mailing its newsletter, whether it is through the Open Space Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation, or a low-rate non-profit status through the Town.

G. San Anselmo Open Space Endowment Fund status and plans.

The Committee submitted a written report on its fundraising activities and results. It had received \$1,167 to date in donations to the Endowment Fund from its recent mailing. It has an endowment fund donor database in place. The Committee expressed its interest in using the endowment funds for a project to acquire land, and conducting a focused fundraising mailing for a specific property, when identified.

H. Other ideas.

The Committee noted that San Anselmo is the only Marin community with an Open Space Committee.

3. Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Pollard
Town Administrator