



**Community Advisory Board
Special Meeting Minutes - Draft**

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

6:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Weeks called the meeting to order at 6:05pm and noted that he was participating remotely under provisions provided by AB2449.

Teresa Stricker, City Attorney, clarified that Chair Weeks was participating under traditional Brown Act remote participation protocols and not under AB2449.

2. REMOTE PARTICIPATION UNDER AB 2449 (IF NEEDED)

NONE

3. ROLL CALL

Present: 9 - Chair Calum Weeks, Board Member Cherie Barnett, Board Member Ana M. Diaz, Board Member Ariana Diaz De Leon, Board Member Miles Horton, Board Member Jorge Inocencio, Board Member Derek Knowles, Vice Chair Andrea Rodriguez, and Board Member Jude Frates

Absent: 1 - Board Member David Chen

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Adina Flores made comments regarding conflicts of interest that exist on the CAB board, her support of community engagement, and requested that the board charter be revised.

Gregory Ferrin made comments regarding the difficulties of serving on a public board, and requested that CAB members use their advocacy to focus upon housing issues in the City.

Eric Fraser made comments regarding the challenges of getting people in the community to serve on boards, troubling trends with conflicts of interest within City boards, and the City's use of

misinformation against short term rental owners.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 Draft Minutes - July 24, 2024

Public Comments:

None

Approved as submitted.

6. SCHEDULED ITEMS

6.1 REPORT - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

BACKGROUND: Per the City Charter Section 15 and Council Policy 000-06, the Mayor appoints the Chair of each body with the approval of the majority of the Council. At the first regular board meeting as is practical after the Mayor's selection of the Chair, the commission, committee or subcommittee select a Vice Chair from among its voting members. The Chair and Vice Chair serve for a period of one year or as otherwise identified in the body bylaws. When an Officer cannot fulfill the full term, the commission, committee, or subcommittee holds a vote to select an Officer from among its members to serve the remainder of the term.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Department that the Community Advisory Board elect a Vice-Chair to serve the remaining term of office commencing on September 18, 2024.

Public Comments:

Adina Flores commended Chair Weeks on his service.

Gregory Ferrin made comments regarding the struggles all boards face when electing officers and recommended choosing a Vice Chair who will regularly attend meetings and is interested in eventually becoming Chair.

Eric Fraser made comments regarding the role of the Vice Chair, how transparency is critical to the board, and the potential for the

CAB.

A motion was made by Member Rodriguez, seconded by Member Diaz, to nominate Member Rodriguez as the Community Advisory Board Vice Chair.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Chair Weeks, Board Member Barnett, Board Member Diaz, Board Member Diaz De Leon, Board Member Horton, Board Member Inocencio, Board Member Knowles, Vice Chair Rodriguez, and Board Member Frates

Absent: 1 - Board Member Chen

6.2 MOTION - COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD GRANTS

Due to an issue with maintaining a quorum at the July 24, 2024, CAB meeting, this item is being returned to the September 18, 2024, agenda for board action.

The Community Advisory Board (CAB) reviews and approves the 2024 Community Improvement Grant Applications. Grant Applications for Quarter 2 closed on June 28, 2024. The CAB received four more applications eligible for funding, totaling \$10,000. The projects are as follows:

- The Vince Harper's South Park Day & Night Festival grant application from EFZM Engage requests funds to host the Vince Harper's South Park Day & Night Festival. The festival is designed to build knowledge through educating the public, bringing resources to the people and community, and celebrating the vibrant neighborhood of South Park. The neighborhood residents, community-based organizations, nonprofits, city, and county come together to strengthen the community and provide opportunities for on-site health and wellness services and to connect to resources for the betterment of the whole family approach.
- The Prince Plaza Mosaic Bench grant application from Friends of Prince Memorial Greenway requests funds to continue the beautification of the Prince Memorial Greenway (PMG) by installing a mosaic tile design bench at the circular plaza behind the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The project is a collaboration among Artstart, Chop's Teen Club, and Friends of PMG. The project will provide artwork experience for

teens, fostering connections and engagement through art.

- The Bags of Love Program grant application from Food for Thought requests funds to provide bags of healthy, shelf-stable, easy-to-eat food to unsheltered/housing insecure people. Each portable bag contains the equivalent of 11 meals. Their Bags of Love Program directly addresses food insecurity and helps alleviate poverty in Santa Rosa by mitigating the rising costs of one of the most essential, yet expensive basic needs-food.
- The We Supply Sonoma grant application from We Supply Sonoma Co. requests funds to service the unhoused community by providing them with food and hygiene products. They are proposing to have a mobile unit that will feed people when other resources may not be available due to time, day, or location.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Department that the Community Advisory Board, by motion, determine the dispersing of Community Advisory Board Q2 2024 Grants.

Ana Horta, Community Engagement Manager, provided information and answered Board Member questions.

Public Comments:

Gregory Ferrin made comments regarding clarification of the process for the community using grant funds, the City being flexible for how the funds are used, and some grant recipients not wanting to have a 501(c)(3) status.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Rodriguez, seconded by Member Diaz De Leon, to approve the recommended dispersing of Community Advisory Board Q2 2024 Grants.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Chair Weeks, Board Member Barnett, Board Member Diaz, Board Member Diaz De Leon, Board Member Horton, Board Member Inocencio, Board Member Knowles, Vice Chair Rodriguez, and Board Member Frates

Absent: 1 - Board Member Chen

7. CAB ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ISSUES OF CONCERN TO CITY RESIDENTS

Member Knowles made comments regarding the Santa Rosa Charter School for the Arts using Community Improvement Grant funds for planting a hedgerow of native plants along their fence.

Member Barnett made comments regarding the Railroad Square Music Festival using Community Improvement Grant funds for their event occurring on September 22, 2024.

Member Knowles made comments regarding the removal of redwood trees in the parking lot of 5th Street and D Street and many of the downtown merchants being upset about not having input or being informed of a restoration plan.

Public Comments:

Gregory Ferrin made comments regarding using the CAB page on the City website to announce how Community Improvement Grants have been utilized, and shared his concern about the protection of local trees.

8. STAFF UPDATES

Ana Horta, Community Engagement Manager, provided information and answered Member questions regarding:

Past Events:

- The Wildfire Ready Resource Fair was a great success, with an estimated 400-500 people and 24 agencies and organizations in attendance.
- SRPD, SRFD, Rec & Parks, CIRO attended South Park Summer Day & Night Festival, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park.
- VPP brought the Marylou to the Fiesta de la Independencia, Luther Burbank Center for the Arts.

Upcoming Events:

- September 26, VPP will be hosting the Gang Awareness Presentation and Resource Fair, Meadow View Elementary School, 2665 Dutton Meadow, at 6 pm. The presentation will be in English with simultaneous Spanish translation available.

- September 28, VPP and CIRO will be tabling at the LandPath Harvest Festival at Bayer Farm, 10 am to 2 pm.
 - October 1, Board, Commissions, and Committees Outreach Information Meeting, SR City Council Chamber, from 5 to 6:30 pm. This meeting will provide information about eligibility, roles and responsibilities for people interested on applying.
 - October 1 to October 31, Pumpkin Hunt. Hunt for pumpkins in our City parks and win a prize when you find one.
 - October 6, CIRO and VPP will be tabling at Stomp the Stigma Health and Wellness Resource Fair organized by Latino Service Providers, Bayer Farms, from 2 to 4 pm.
 - October 10, 13th Annual Violence Prevention Awareness Seminar, Finley Center, from 8 am to 4:30 pm. This all-day professional development seminar will include updates on youth gang and violence trends in Santa Rosa.
 - October 12, Park-A-Month Volunteer at the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery, from 9:00 AM-12:00 pm.
 - October 19, Floating Pumpkin Patch at Ridgeway Swim center from 1:30 to 5:45 pm.
 - October 21, SRPD Trunk or Treat, Veterans Memorial Building, from 4:30 - 7:30 pm.
 - October 26, Halloween at Howarth, from 11:30 AM - 3:00 pm.
- Transit Mall Rehabilitation and Temporary Relocation:
- The City of Santa Rosa began working on a vital infrastructure project designed to revitalize and rehabilitate the deteriorating pavement along the Santa Rosa Downtown Transit Mall. This project started the week of September 3, 2024 and is expected to take two to three months to complete.

Public Comments:

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Weeks recommended information be provided by a City representative regarding City ordinances regarding tree planting and neighborhood plans and policies, and clarification regarding the plans for the parking lot behind Russian River Brewery.

Member Diaz recommended information from local organizations regarding tree planting and restoration.

Vice Chair Rodriguez recommended information be provided by a City representative regarding the water rate study currently underway.

Member Diaz De Leon recommended a presentation regarding how to apply for Community Improvement Grants and their purpose to help new members understand the process.

Member Knowles recommended information be provided regarding the City and County plans for tree protection and preservation and how plans connect to the City's overall climate goals.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, Chair Weeks adjourned the meeting at 7:02pm.

Approved on:

Steven V. Brown, Recording Secretary