



City of Santa Rosa

Communications &
Intergovernmental
Relations Office
637 First Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Community Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

5:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

2. REMOTE PARTICIPATION UNDER THE BROWN ACT (Gov. Code § 54953.8)

NONE

3. ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Chair Andrea Rodriguez, Vice Chair Jude Frates, Board Member Joshua Hamzehee, and Board Member Douglas Mondell

Absent: 3 - Board Member Clay Daulton, Board Member Ana M. Diaz, and Board Member Derek Knowles

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Duane DeWitt thanked the CAB Members for their service to the community and made comments regarding the need for large rocks to be placed at the park across from Roseland Creek Elementary for traffic safety.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Public Comments:
None

5.1 Draft Minutes - November 19, 2025

Approved as submitted.

6. CIG RECIPIENT REPORTS

Chair Rodriguez moved item 6.1 to after item 7.1 to give the presenter more time to arrive at the meeting.

Evette Minor, EFMZ Engage Representative, gave a presentation and answered Member questions.

Public Comments:

None

6.1 PRESENTATION - VINCE HARPER'S SOUTH DAY & NIGHT FESTIVAL

Community Improvement Grant recipients are invited to share highlights from their finalized projects with the Community Advisory Board (CAB). As part of this item, Evette Minor of EFZM Engage will provide a brief presentation of the Vince Harper's South Day & Night Festival, including key outcomes and community impacts.

7. SCHEDULED ITEMS

7.1 PRESENTATION - MEETING PROCEDURES AND STAFFING IMPACTS

CIRO staff will present an impact assessment regarding staff time and estimated costs associated with CAB's meeting frequency, including historical Commission attendance data to provide context regarding member participation, and the CAO will outline key legal requirements and procedural guidelines for conducting public meetings.

Ana Horta (Community Engagement Manager), Misti D. Wood (CIRO Officer), and Autumn Luna (Assistant City Attorney), gave a presentation and answered Member questions.

Public Comments:

David Harris made comments regarding Brown Act rules that limit discussions at board meetings. Additionally, he gave an endorsement of hybrid meetings that help to engage the public.

7.2 MOTION - COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS DETERMINATION

BACKGROUND: The Community Advisory Board (CAB) reviews and approves the Community Improvement Grant Applications. The Board shall award grants to the applicants whose projects best meet the criteria. There are four grants that have been submitted for the January - March 2026 period:

- The Generations in Motion Walk grant application submitted by Council on Aging Services for Seniors requests \$2,500 to support a free, inclusive, all ages community event designed to bring Santa Rosa residents together through movement, connection, and access to community resources. The event aims to promote healthy aging, support family caregivers, and enhance overall community well-being. The proposed event will feature scenic walking routes designed to accommodate a wide range of fitness levels and abilities, along with family-friendly activities and a welcoming outdoor environment. A central component of the event is a Community Resource Fair which will connect attendees with local organizations providing education, services, and support relevant to aging, caregiving, and community health.
- The Mesa Llena (Full Table) grant application submitted by Northern California Center for Well-Being requests \$2,500 to support food security efforts for immigrant communities. The proposal responds to current barriers to accessing public food distribution programs as heightened fear and uncertainty have resulted in reduced participation among many immigrant households. Through this grant, the organization proposes to provide culturally appropriate and nutritious meals to an estimated 20 to 50 households experiencing food insecurity. The project is intended to address immediate nutritional needs while offering an accessible and trusted food distribution option for impacted community members.
- The Eritrean Independence Day grant application submitted by the Eritrean Community of Santa Rosa requests \$2,500 to support the hosting of a community-wide Eritrean Independence Day celebration. The proposed event is intended to provide an opportunity to share Eritrean culture, traditions, food, and music with the broader Santa Rosa community. The celebration is anticipated to attract approximately 150-200 attendees and will be free of charge and open to the public. By offering an inclusive and accessible cultural event, the project aims to promote cultural understanding, community connection, and shared celebration among residents.
- The Earth Day Procession grant application submitted by Santa

Rosa Urban Arts requests \$2,500 for a bike-based community art event celebrating Sonoma County's native plants, animals, and ecosystems while promoting environmental awareness and alternative transportation. The procession will transform Santa Rosa's bike lanes into a vibrant parade featuring decorated bicycles and participants representing local flora and fauna. Free public workshops will create puppets, sculptures, and costumes for the event. Anticipated participation includes 50+ riders and an audience of several hundred to over 1,000. The project aims to raise environmental awareness, foster appreciation for native species, encourage biking, and strengthen community connections through a shared creative experience.

The four grant requests total \$10,000.

The City has received refunds from the following 2024 projects:

- Providing a Third Place for the Underserved Community (Lightning Run Club): \$2,500
- Prince Plaza Mosaic Bench (Friends of Prince Memorial Greenway): \$2,500
- We Supply Sonoma Co. (We Supply Sonoma Co.): \$1,678.80

The total amount refunded is \$6,678.80. When combined with the current available balance of \$24,173.50, total funds available equal \$30,852.30. If all four grants are approved, totaling \$10,000, the remaining balance for the current fiscal year would be \$20,852.30.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Department that the Community Advisory Board, by motion, determine the dispersing of the Community Improvement Grants Application for the January - March 2026 period.

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

Public Comments:

Dehab, Eritrean Community representative, made comments regarding the background of the Eritrean community in Santa Rosa, and thanked the CAB Members for considering their grant

submission.

A motion was made by Board Member Hamzehee, seconded by Chair Rodriguez, to approve the Generations in Motion walk grant application from the Council on Aging Services for Seniors.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Chair Rodriguez, Vice Chair Frates, Board Member Hamzehee, and Board Member Mondell

Absent: 3 - Board Member Daulton, Board Member Diaz, and Board Member Knowles

A motion was made by Vice Chair Frates, seconded by Board Member Hamzehee, to approve the Mesa Llena (Full Table) grant application from the Northern California Center for Well-Being.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Chair Rodriguez, Vice Chair Frates, Board Member Hamzehee, and Board Member Mondell

Absent: 3 - Board Member Daulton, Board Member Diaz, and Board Member Knowles

A motion was made by Board Member Mondell, seconded by Chair Rodriguez, to approve the Eritrean Independence Day grant application from the Eritrean Community of Santa Rosa.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Chair Rodriguez, Vice Chair Frates, Board Member Hamzehee, and Board Member Mondell

Absent: 3 - Board Member Daulton, Board Member Diaz, and Board Member Knowles

A motion was made by Board Member Hamzehee, seconded by Vice Chair Frates, approve as amended the Earth Day Procession grant application from Santa Rosa Urban Arts for \$2000.00.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Chair Rodriguez, Vice Chair Frates, and Board Member Hamzehee

No: 1 - Board Member Mondell

Absent: 3 - Board Member Daulton, Board Member Diaz, and Board Member Knowles

8. CAB ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ISSUES OF CONCERN TO CITY RESIDENTS

Member Hamzehee commented that members of the community in his district are concerned about the possibility of Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity and that he would like further guidance.

Chair Rodriguez recommended that CAB Members stay up to date on resources offered by the City and to pass along this information to members of their communities.

Public Comments:
None

9. STAFF UPDATES

Ana Horta, Community Engagement Manager, provided information and answered Member questions regarding the following events and updates:

January 29, the **Santa Rosa Police Department** will host a community meeting on the military equipment it possesses that falls under **Assembly Bill 481**. The meeting will be held at the Utility Field Operations Building, 35 Stony Point Road, from 5 to 6 p.m. There will be a brief presentation and overview of the report, and staff will be present to answer questions.

February 4, the **City of Santa Rosa** and the local chapter of the **NAACP** will have an informal gathering to celebrate **Transit Equity Day**, at the **Downtown Transit Mall** from 10 to 11 a.m. Transit Equity Day, is a National Day of Action, observed annually on Rosa Parks' birthday to honor the legacy of civil rights transit trailblazers

February 21, the City of Santa Rosa will be hosting the **Dutch Flohr Neighborhood Park Opening Celebration**, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Dutch Flohr Neighborhood Park, 1160 Exeter Drive. The newly renovated park reflects extensive community input and includes engaging new features for all ages. Games and fun activities are planned for the celebration.

March 14, join the **St. Patrick's Day 5K**, presented by Santa Rosa Recreation & Parks and The Race Company, LLC with proceeds benefiting the Recreation & Parks Scholarship Fund. This is an annual themed race open to all ages and abilities. The race is chip-timed and participants receive a commemorative finisher medal and mug. Stick around after the race for the post-run celebration complete with a beer or root beer, giveaways, and music!

March 21, join **Santa Rosa Water** and the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation at **Volunteer Planting Day #3**. Come and help plant thousands of native plants and trees in this newly restored section of **Colgan Creek**, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. To register please visit [SRCity.org/ColganCreek](https://srcity.org/ColganCreek)
<<https://srcity.org/ColganCreek>>

Park-A-Month Volunteer Clean-ups are held on the **second Saturday** of the month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. These family-friendly workdays are a fun and productive way to help beautify a park or community center. Hand tools and gloves will be provided.

Santa Rosa Water hosts bi-monthly volunteer **creek cleanups** on the **first and third Saturday** of each month at the **Prince Memorial Greenway**. All ages are welcome to participate. Volunteers meet at **Olive Park Footbridge**, near 1698 Hazel St at 10 a.m.

The **third Saturday** of each month, the **Rural Cemetery Preservation Committee** hosts their monthly volunteer workday, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Projects include the cemetery beautification efforts such as landscaping projects, painting, and various maintenance work.

The 2026 Recreation & Parks **Spring/Summer Activity Guide** is available in English and Spanish. Registration for popular summer camps will begin on February 3 at 7 a.m. Registration for all other programs begins February 5 at 7 a.m. If you know of locations that could use a copy of the guide, please let us know.

Community Improvement Grant new promotional video is now available for distribution.

Public Comments:

None

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

11. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, Chair Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 7:09PM.

Approved on:

**Steven V. Brown,
Recording Secretary**