

Minutes
Community Outreach Committee Meeting

July 9, 2019

1. Call to Order:

The July 9, 2019 meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Director Cortez. In attendance were:

- Committee members: Director Cortez and Director Zefferman
- Staff: Keith Van Der Maaten and Paula Riso
- Public members: Julie Hoffman, Justina Walsh

2. Public Comments on Any Item Not on the Agenda:

There was no public comment.

3. Approve the Draft Minutes of the May 14, 2019 Meeting:

On motion by Director Zefferman, seconded by Director Cortez, the minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Discuss District Well 11 Site and Landscaping Issues:

Director Zefferman stated that he had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda after he had received comments from the public regarding the Well 11 site. He asked them to come to the meeting to voice their concerns and offer advice in the discussion.

Ms. Hoffman commented that if the site were to be fenced off, there would be a loss of opportunity to use it as an educational site for drought tolerant plants. She noted that in the past the Marina Tree and Garden Club has gone in and cleaned it up and used it as part of their annual Marina Garden Tour and they would be devastated to lose the site. Ms. Hoffman said that they understand that if the District needs the site for District use, they don't really have much say, but they would encourage at least some of the trees to be kept on the site.

Ms. Walsh commented that she had visited the site with Mike Owen, who was an original member of the Marina Tree Committee and has been periodically maintaining the site. She said that Mr. Owen was not able to attend the meeting but told her that the site was an asset to the community the way it is. Ms. Walsh noted that Mr. Owens would like to see the area remain as a demonstration area and not be fenced off from the public. She stated that she understands the District's concern with liability and the fact that they are not in the landscape maintenance business. and that a drought tolerant landscape garden has been set up at the District's Ord office. Ms. Walsh commented that she sees the District's options as 1) fence off the site to limit liability; or, 2) cut everything down so there is no maintenance needed on the site. Discussion followed.

Director Zefferman narrowed it down to four issues: 1) should the District cut down the trees; 2) should the District put a fence up now or in the future; 3) should the sign be removed; and, 4) how much should the District be involved in maintaining the site.

Director Cortez commented that regardless of the route the District selects, the relationship between the District and the Garden Club should remain intact.

Item 4 (continued):

Following discussion, it was agreed that the sign would be removed; only general maintenance would be done but it would not be maintained as a drought tolerant garden; and, put up a no trespassing sign. Director Zefferman asked if staff could bring back an estimate of what it would cost to clean out the site i.e. trim/remove trees and remove shrubs and brush. It was also suggested to contact the City of Marina to see if they are interested in helping.

5. Receive an Update on the Public Education and Outreach Efforts:

Mr. Van Der Maaten gave an update on the status of Public Education and Outreach Efforts:

- MPWSP Outreach – met with three County Supervisors regarding the need for a supplemental EIR. The appeals hearing is scheduled for July 15.
- News Bureau – waiting on a press release following the appeal on the RDP. Working on outreach following the Ord Annexation.
- Outreach Meetings to Other Jurisdictions – continuing outreach with various jurisdictions with the focus on Service Agreements.
- Discussion on Strategy for new Outreach, Education, Lobby, Media Relations Contract – working on revising the current water resource analyst position to be a Public Outreach Coordinator position.
- Outreach Regarding “Drought Tolerant Garden” Complaint (Well 11) – the public expressed an interest to speak about this site. Staff has delayed plans to move ahead on the site pending input from the public.

5. Identify Agenda Items for the Next Committee Meeting:

The same items will be discussed and updated. The next meeting is scheduled for August 14th at 6:30 p.m.

6. Committee Member Comments:

Director Zefferman thanked staff for the information.

7. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.