



SUNOL

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

1221 Oak Street, Suite 536 Oakland, CA 94611 (510) 208-4949 FAX (510) 208-9660

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DRAFT MINUTES
Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Councilmembers: Connie DeGrange, Chair; Benjamin Harrison, Vice-Chair; Mary Conant; Paul Dentinger; Denise Kent Romo

Location: Sunol Glen School Cafeteria
11601 Main Street
Sunol, CA 94586

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Present: Connie DeGrange, Chair, Benjamin Harrison, Vice Chair; Mary Conant; Denise Kent Romo

Excused: Paul Dentinger

Staff Present: Hayly Peacock, Clerk, Board of Supervisors' Office; Sargent Marc Petrini, Alameda County Sherriff's Office; Chief Bonnie Terra, Alameda County Fire Department; Shawn Wilson, Supervisor Haubert's Office

Public Comment/Open Forum/Public Announcements

Andrew Turnbull, 24-year resident of Sunol, expressed that the previous night's School Board Meeting was the most contentious, painful, meeting he'd attended in Sunol and that the community was still being feeling the aftermath. Andrew expressed that he feels the community must remember to be empathetic with neighbors who disagree, have strong feelings, or believe somethings that we might perceive to be hate. Andrew expressed that he has high expectations for those in leadership positions and trust in leadership can be lost overnight.

REGULAR CALENDAR

1. Reports/Updates – Informational Items

Alameda County Sheriff's Office – Monthly Report

Presenter: Sargent Marc Petrini

Chair DeGrange thanked Sargent Petrini and his deputies for managing the difficult situation at the previous evening's school board meeting. Sargent Petrini acknowledged that the circumstances were strenuous for everybody involved and was glad to help.

Sargent Petrini reported 35 calls for service, 22 proactive stops in the Sunol area and 75 stops of "suspicious vehicles, [and] suspicious persons". Sargent Petrini reported an increase in suspicion-based stops since increasing patrol checks.

While Golden Gate Church has been closed “copper miners” gutted walls of valuable copper pipes. There have been several arrests on the property, but they are continuing to monitor as time permits. If citizens see anything in that area, or even their own neighborhoods, please call the Sheriff.

Councilmember Conant expressed concern about the stop sign at the intersection of Foothill and Kilkare Roads. Councilmember Conant reported seeing four cars go through that stop sign at about 25 miles per hour in the last month. Councilmember Conant reported that this was usually midmorning morning, 9:00-11:30AM, and the afternoon, 2:30-4:00PM. Sargent Petrini stated they would patrol there in addition to assisting in front of Sunol Glenn school for school drop-off traffic.

Alameda County Fire Department – Monthly Report

Presenters: Chief Bonnie Terra
Chief Jeff Nichols, CalFire

Chief Terra reported 25 calls for service at a station 14, no fire responses, all calls were emergency medical services, some cancelled in route. Chief Terra requested the community continue to use firesafe practices.

Chief Nichols reported that both engines from Sunol, 1664 and 1684, were sent to Humboldt for two weeks to manage fires there. This negatively impacted the rate or local inspections.

Chief Nichols reported that he confirmed with the Battalion Chief that power droplines from PG&E lines to individual homes are not included in the LE-100 inspections. However, CalFire is asking inspecting personnel to informally inspect the droplines. Chair DeGrange asked how the dropline inspections could be added to the LE-100 inspection form? Chief Nichols explained that this change would expand beyond Sunol and would require regional change, up to Sacramento. This change in practice should be simple, as personnel are already looking at roofs and surrounding areas.

2. Progress Reports (As Necessary) – Informational Items

Regional Priority Plan – Firewise Pilot Program

Presenter: Rosemary Chang

Nothing to report.

Tree Advisory Workgroup

Presenter: Jim O’Laughlin

Nothing to report.

3. Council/Staff Comments

Chair DeGrange announced that she has been notified that Paul Dentinger is resigning. His resignation date is pending.

Chair DeGrange presented the clerk with flowers as thanks for performing excellent tech support under time pressure at the previous meeting.

Chair DeGrange announced that Alex Lee's Assembly Member Office is sponsoring an emergency preparedness workshop on 10/20/23 at 11:00AM. The location is still being confirmed, likely at Sunol Glen School. The event is focused on emergency response concerns of Sunol, resources invited include, California Office Emergency Services, Cal Fire, Alameda County sheriff's Office of Emergency Services, independent living resources with Solano and Contra Costa Counties.

Chair DeGrange reported that she has reached out to Jack Siau, to request he speak about the hydrology report for the area under the Arroyo de Laguna Bridge. Jack expects the report to be ready in October 2023.

Chair DeGrange invited Shawn Wilson, Chief of Staff to Alameda County Supervisor, David Haubert, District One, to make any announcements or reports the office had for the community.

Shawn reminded the community about the upcoming Stroll and Roll on 09/23/23. He announced that Supervisor Haubert's Office is hosting the one-day Stand Down on Saturday, 9/16/23 from 9:00AM-2:00PM at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Stand Down events are a one stop resource event for veterans including dental exams, dental care screening, veteran affairs benefits screening, free men and women's haircuts provided by Livermore Barbershop, etcetera. Unfortunately, the East Bay Stand Down had been indefinitely cancelled. Supervisor Haubert's Office realized a Stand Down was not being planned for this year and opted to organize the event rather than there be no Stand Down for the community.

Shawn announced that two new members will be joining the District One team on Monday, 9/25/23. Supervisor Haubert's, District One, Office has been understaffed since Lawson Bell left for law school. The new staff may be assigned to the Sunol Citizens Advisory Council. The new staff will be introduced at the next meeting.

4. Approve 50% funding request for a replacement clock on Main Street (Action Item)

Neil Davies, Sunol Business Guild

[Attachment](#)

[Attachment](#)

At the 8/16/23 Sunol Citizen Advisory Council Neil Davies requested Community Improvement Funds, reserved for improving the downtown area, on behalf of Sunol Business Guild (SBG)

Chair DeGrange reminded all that the process to approve fund requests is to present the request at the first of two Sunol Citizen Advisory Council meeting. The Council will vote on the request at their following meeting. The original presentation was at the 8/16/23 meeting and the Council will consider the request at this meeting.

The Council and Neil discussed name and plaque options for the clock that would be mutually agreeable to both funders, Sunol Business Guild and the Sunol Advisory Council, per Councilmember Dendinger's questions at the 8/16/23 presentation. Neil indicates that there are several places language could be added to the clock. The letters on the clock face will be gold and "Sunol" can be written on the clock faces.

Councilmember Harrison indicated that there should not be an excessive amount of branding on the clock. Neil shared that Bud Hall, who obtained the original clock, recently died. Neil proposed that the clock honor Bud in some way. Councilmember Harrison suggested that there be a plaque reading something such as “In Honor of Bud Hall” or “Dedicated to Bud Hall” with an additional name plate spelling out both funders, Sunol Citizen Advisory Council and Sunol Business Guild. Plaque text would be black.

Councilmember Harrison motioned to approve the request of \$9,057.50 from the Community Improvement Fund for the project with agreed upon writing. Motion seconded by Chair DeGrange.

Ayes: Councilmembers Conant, Harrison, Kent-Romo, and Chair DeGrange - 4
Noes: None - 0
Excused: Councilmember Dentinger - 1
Motion Passes: 4/0

5. Discuss Emergency Alert System

Alameda County Fire Department

Chief Matt Farruggia, Office of Emergency Services, Alameda County Sheriff's Department

Chair DeGrange reported that this item was added to the agenda to further discuss an emergency alert system. Chief Matt Farruggia stated that he was asked to come to this meeting because the Kilcare Woods area has some concerns about that emergency alerting, and lack of reception. Chief Farruggia explained that the first, and probably simplest, solution is for all homeowners to receive emergency alerts. This requires an active landline phone. Then the residents would get any alert that the Office of Emergency Services sends. However, there are concerns for those without or unable to get a landline. One solution that has previously been discussed is installing sirens in the area.

Chief Farruggia explained there are no sirens that are currently installed in any community within the unincorporated area, but that doesn't prevent Sunol from installing a siren system. Some of the limitations of the sirens are the reach of the siren, geography, terrain and vegetation in the area, environmental factors, and weather. Sirens only make a sound to alert the community but cannot provide additional information. If sirens are overused the community could become desensitized to the sound. If the siren had additional information capabilities limitation factors such as accessibility to language, cultural barriers, or people with disabilities. Installation of sirens may also require an environmental impact report and a noise impact study. Sound parameters for what the sirens sounds mean would need to be established. Finally, sirens are expensive, funding to install and maintain would need to be established and the City Council is handling other tasks currently.

Chief Farruggia announced that on 10/4/23 the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Communications Commission will be conducting a nationwide wireless emergency alert for all cell phones in the country. If a cell phone is turned on, it will receive a wireless alert from the government.

An online survey is available for the community to self-report if they received the alert or not. If you don't have a computer, you call the Office of Emergency Services for

assistance. The test will be a radio frequency, which cell phones also receive. This means that areas that do not receive cell service should still receive the radio service. This data will allow for mapping of the areas receiving and not receiving these alerts and inform actions to work with cellular providers. The test and survey also have limitations. Including that people must be with a phone to receive the alert and where they received the alert may not have been their home. Emergency alerting is not perfect, often social networks spread information faster than officials can. Community word of mouth is one of the fastest, most effective, emergency alert systems.

Chair De Grange expressed concern that the announcement seems to focus on Killkare Woods at the end of Killkare Road and needs to include all areas in Sunol that do not receive cell service. These areas includes most of Killkare Road, which is 3.5 miles long and other canyon areas in Sunol. Chair DeGrange asked Andrew if it is possible that he could get word out via Informed Sunol by 10/4/2023. Andrew responded that he would included it in the Informed Sunol email distribution list.

Chief Farruggia announced that the County has completed it's draft of the Emergency Operation Plan (EOP). Updates include new best practices and lessons learned from previous emergencies. With the modification of the existing document, public comment will be available. Chief Farruggia requested that the link be added to the meeting minutes. Due to the diversity of the counties needs, the EOP is a framework for how the county will deal with various emergencies.

[Attachment](#)

6. Possible Sunol Train of Light on November 24, 2023

Chair Connie DeGrange, Sunol Citizens' Advisory Council

Chair DeGrange reported speaking to Ario Ysit and many others about the annual Niles Canyon Railway (NCR) Train of Lights (TOL) event this year. This year, the date would be Friday, 11/24/23. The cost to charter the train in 2022 was \$12,500. Supervisor Haubert's office chartered the whole train, including the dome cabin 2022.

The TOL event began around 1999. Some people believe that negotiations with NCR at the start included a mitigation agreement that Sunolians could ride the TOL. However, there's no evidence of this and those present at the time do not recall such an agreement.

Henry Baum, President of NCR, reported to Chair DeGrange that a discount could be given to charter the train and, it will not be available for free this year due to limited resources. The Sunol Business Guild also reported to Chair DeGrange that they would not contribute to the event. There are no plans for the TOL to be funded by Supervisor Haubert's office.

With these options unavailable, there are two options to potentially move forward:

1. Have no TOL in 2023;
2. Sunol Citizens' Advisory Council or Sunol Business Guild charters the train and charges riders the going rate of \$35 per ticket;
 - a. The TOL is a beloved community event, it may sell out at \$35 per ticket;
 - i. Need to estimate number of participants to determine likelihood of selling out train;
 - b. Donations could be used to offset the costs per ticket for the public;

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c. If Sunolians do not buy all the tickets for the train, the remaining tickets could be opened to sale to the general public; Shawn proposed that he would attempt to negotiate with NCR and search for a possible original agreement.

7. Approval of Minutes – August 16, 2023

[Attachment](#)

Several amendments: red edit tracking line removed from page two; and on item. 7 Harrison asked how tall the current clock would be, not Dentinger.

Harrison motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Kent-Romo seconded the motion.

Ayes: Councilmembers Conant, Harrison, Kent Romo, and Chair DeGrange - 4
Noes: None - 0
Excused: Councilmember Dentinger - 1
Motion Passes: 4/0

8. Adjourn