



Sonoma Valley Fund
Board Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: May 9, 2019
Meeting Location: SVUSD Office

#	AGENDA ITEM	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION TAKEN	
1.	Call to order and Approval of Minutes	Name	Blattner
<p>Low Perlson moved to approve the March meeting minutes, Art Grandy seconded the motion, and the board voted to approve the minutes.</p>		Time	3:02 pm
2.	Presentation on Sustainable Sonoma	Kimberly Blattner and Ellie Insley	
<p>Kimberly Blattner and Ellie Insley, board member for Sonoma Ecology Center presented on the work of Sustainable Sonoma.</p> <p>Sustainable Sonoma is a coalition effort, focusing on the Economy, Environment and Everyone. It is a cross-Valley collaboration of business, nonprofit, government and community organizations. Over 30 organizations are signed on, right now it's a lot of nonprofit organizations and they hope to get more business members.</p> <p>They began by hosting 20 listening sessions, geographically spread from Schellville to Kenwood. Caitlin Cornwall from the Sonoma Ecology Center came to speak with Sonoma Valley Fund. They asked one primary question, "what's important to you about the future of Sonoma Valley?" and received over 3,000 responses. The summary of responses are available at sustainablesonoma.net</p> <p>The biggest community challenges they identified were housing affordability and transportation. They will be starting with the top challenge of housing ,and working to build momentum for improvements in this area first.</p> <p>They are hosting a series of upcoming events about housing, including:</p> <p>Learning Lab: a housing discussion and panel on May 14, at 6:60 – 8:30 at the Sonoma Charter School.</p> <p>Karin Demarest noted that CFSC has just approved a multi-year grant to support Sustainable Sonoma over the next two year with general operating support to help fund their work on housing.</p>			
3.	CFSC Update	Karin Demarest	

<p>Karin Demarest offered an update about our grantmaking with the Sonoma County Resilience Fund. We recently published a report on our 2018 grants for the Resilience Fund. It has stories on our work from the past year, including how we are helping individuals to recover, and about our healing grants, including a grant to bring in evidence-based mental health programming through the Center for Mind Body Medicine. Right now we're focusing much of our efforts on housing, including supporting cities and homeowners in understanding more about Accessory Dwelling Units, and how we can help to create a public will for housing.</p> <p>There was a question on what housing work we are doing here in Sonoma Valley? One examples of this is a recent grant to SHARE Sonoma County to fund a housing match specialist position focused here in the Valley. This exciting program matches people who are in need of housing with homeowners who have extra space in their homes, creating new rental opportunities very quickly.</p>		
4.	Governance Update	Mollie Collins
<p>We have one board member terming off of the board, Penney Magrane, who we will miss greatly. Mollie asked that any other board members who are either not able to re-commit to a new term or unable to finish their current term to please tell Mollie.</p> <p>While we are not currently recruiting and are awaiting more information about what the board needs will be as we work through the governance structure with CFSC, we are still interested in building a list of potential candidates to vet in the future. People can send recommendations to Mollie.</p> <p>There was a question about the timing of the governance structure with CFSC, and Chip explained that he and Sion are members of a team working on this, the group has met one time already, and has two more meetings to work on discussing governance and creating a new agreement.</p>		
5.	Finance	Lew Perlson
<p>Updated financial information is posted on the website. There has not been much activity, either on the revenue or expenditure side. We have two board members who have made contributions to the operations fund through April.</p>		
6.	Grants Committee	Judy Young and Karin Demarest
<p>Our second capacity building cohort will be run on same timetable as first one, and will start in January of 2020. The grants committee will be planning for the launch of this second cohort over the next months.</p>		

Karin Demarest is honored to put forward for the board's endorsement of a grant for \$700,000 to Sonoma Land Trust (SLT) to preserve open space and maintain the trail system at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC). The grant request was The funds for this grant come from the expendable fund of the Todd Trust. The \$700,000 grant from SVF would be matched by Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District with a \$1M grant, allowing for the purchase of an open space easement that would protect the land in perpetuity. The state of California is interested in making this sale, but wants to see local commitment to the project. This grant is another step in ensuring that this land will be retained in perpetuity.

Karin Demarest commented that the Sonoma Land Trust is in an excellent position to take this project on and that this project is an amazing way to honor the legacy of the Todd's whose bequest to the valley specifically called out open space as a core area. Simon Blattner also spoke to the quality of the staff at the Land Trust.

Lew Perlson moved to approve the grant endorsement, Penney Magrane seconded the motion, and the board voted to approve grant recommendation.

There was a question on how we will publicize the grant? Caitlin Childs answered that the grant will go before the CFSC board in June, with John McCall, Executive Director of Sonoma Land Trust presenting at the meeting. With approval from the CFSC board, we will work with the Land Trust and the Ag and Open Space District to develop a media plan that can maximize press for our announcement.

7.	Development Update	Art Grandy
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The development committee is focusing on fundraising in support of Star Event, and will be looking to generate sponsorships and in-kind donations. The hope is to raise between \$5-10k, from businesses and supporters who are familiar with our event and our work (ie. not cold-calling potential donors, but friend-raising).

8.	Events Update	Penney Magrane
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Star Event: We have a new venue for the Star Event - Hanna Boys Center. We are booking with them for \$2,500. This covers the venue, but does not include much staff support. They have an option to hire the boys for \$10/hour if additional help setting up is needed. Penney has reached out to Park Avenue Catering to get an estimate on catering costs, the initial price is \$20/25 per person, which includes service of bar, hors d'oeuvres etc. Looking at total event costs of about \$15,000.

Fourth of July Parade: We need a chair person to head up the parade efforts if we want to participate.

9.	New Business	Simon Blattner
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<p>Simon is hopeful that the feasibility study and affiliate governance agreements will be completed by the end of Summer. We had our first meeting of the feasibility study task force to discuss the case for support for Sonoma. The conversation went really well, and we're looking forward to the next steps.</p> <p>Nancy Ramsey had an idea for board fundraising: many of our board members support a lot of organizations throughout the year and attend fundraising events. Could our board members total up the support they give to other valley nonprofits and matched their giving to the Sonoma Valley Fund? It was suggested that we discuss this idea at a following board meeting.</p>			
10.	Adjournment	Name Time	Simon Blattner 4:21 pm

Board Members Present: Chip Allen, Simon Blattner, Mollie Collins, Art Grandy, Penney Magrane, Michael Mulcahy, Lew Perlson, Nancy Ramsey, Karen Roche, Judy Young, Laura Zimmerman

Board Members Excused/Absent: Ted Eliot, Priscilla Essert, Katherine Fulton, Ken Stokes, Lucy Weiger, Peg Van Camp

Guests/CFSC Staff Present: Kimberley Blattner, Caitlin Childs, Karin Demarest, Whitney Evans, Ellie Insley, J Mullineaux

Next meeting: July 11, 2019