

# Springs Community Alliance | MINUTES/NOTES

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Meeting date | time *2/11/2016 7:00 PM* | Meeting Location *Sonoma Charter School*

Meeting called by	Rich Lee	Estimated attendees: 32
Type of meeting	Regular, General	
Officers	Rich Lee, President, Ellen Conlan, Vice President, Michael Acker, Treasurer,	Celia Kruse de la Rosa, Secretary Anna Pier, Member At Large

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**Agenda Item:** *Welcome.* | **Presenter** *Rich Lee*

**AGENDA:** Overview provided of the meeting's flow.

**Order of Items:** Introductions & Announcements, Tree Replacement Project, Highway 12 Construction Update, Springs Area Plan – Citizens Advisory Team (Corridor Improvement), Sonoma Plash, Topics for March SCA Meeting 3/10/16, Adjourn

**Guest Speakers**– Caitlin Cornwall, Sonoma Valley Ecology Center, TOPIC: “Trees in the Springs,” and Mary Favaro and Madolyn Agrimonte, “Sonoma Splash”

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Wednesday, 2/17,** 6:30 – 8:30 pm, [Maxwell Farms Regional Park Master Plan Update](#), B&G Club

**Wednesday, 2/24,** 6:00 pm - [Sonoma Splash Town Hall](#), FAHA Community Room

**Monday, 2/29,** 6:00 pm, [Corridor Improvement, C.A.T. - Community Workshop #1](#), Altamira Middle School's MultiPurpose Room. The community is invited to attend the first Community Workshop to be introduced to the project, including an overview of the Specific Plan process and schedule, and to meet the project team. Workshop participants will be asked to participate in activities to assist in developing a vision for the springs area, identifying opportunities and concerns, and identifying key areas with potential for civic improvements and/or private development projects.

**Wednesday, 3/2,** 6:30 – 8:00 pm – Sonoma County Regional Parks Master Plan Community Workshop (Larson Park) Flowery Elementary School's Multi-Purpose Room (nothing posted as of this report).

General Information: [Sonoma Valley Grange's building is available for rent.](#)

**COMING UP** – [County Supervisor Gorin](#) will be hosting Information Meetings with the first to be held at AltaMira Middle School's MultiPurpose Room on March 16. This session plans to focus on housing resources. More details will be forthcoming and will be widely promoted throughout the Springs/Sonoma Valley area. Stay tuned.

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**AGENDA ITEM & GUEST SPEAKER:** *Caitlin Cornwall, [Sonoma Valley Ecology Center](#), TOPIC: “Trees in the Springs,”* |

Caitlin Cornwall from the Ecology Center opened her presentation with an overview of what SEC is and what

they provide. Their programs focus on research, education, restoration, preservation, and data & mapping. An application for a \$15K Impact 100 grant is in process. If awarded the grant will be used to fund a teen internship project in the Springs. The project will revolve around replacing removed trees along Highway 12 with landowners' consent and participation. Some of the major steps include surveying landowners' willingness to participate, identifying best trees to plant, and plant the trees. The process would include an educational component for the landowners and for the community. The trees would be a mix of native, ornamental, and fruit bearing. Short Q&A session followed.

To learn more about tree replacement please contact: [info@springscommunityalliance.org](mailto:info@springscommunityalliance.org)

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#### **AGENDA ITEM - Highway 12 Construction Update – Rich Lee, SCA**

"Over the next few weeks, construction will include grading and pouring curb/gutter & sidewalks south of Depot Road, with continued work on drainage inlets, utility boxes and street lights. All work is weather permitting and completion is expected by July 2016.

Last week, the contractor (OC Jones) was able to pour some curb, gutter and sidewalk. This week and next, OC Jones is working on the storm drain systems at Fetters and Central Avenue. The underground portion of the pedestrian lighting south of Depot Road and modifications to the existing traffic signal at Depot are underway."

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#### **AGENDA ITEM - Springs Area Plan – Citizens Advisory Team (Corridor Improvement), Rich Lee, SCA |**

Rich reported the highlights from the first held C.A.T. meeting. Introductions were made each of the 15 members. A presentation was given explaining the process and the timeline. Rich shared that it was the goal of the Team to "make sense of the Springs as a community and a destination." He went on to add "Challenges are to improve quality of life, mitigate the housing." C.A.T. members that were present and shared their impressions were Teresita Fernandez and Kathy Wade Shepard. Everything communicated will be bilingual – newsletters, website, and other forms of communication. The website is: [thespringspecificplan.org](http://thespringspecificplan.org) The first Community Workshop meeting will be held – Monday, February 29, 2016, starting at 6:00 pm, AltaMira Middle School MultiPurpose Room. The workshop will be bilingual. For more information about C.A.T. you can contact them through their website: <http://thespringspecificplan.org/contact-us/> or reachout to [info@springscommunityalliance.org](mailto:info@springscommunityalliance.org) (your email will be forwarded to Rich Lee).

#### **Members of the C.A.T. are:**

- Mia Cabrera – Parent, Volunteer, Full-time Student
- Richard Dale – Sonoma Ecology Center, Sonoma Valley Health Roundtable
- Teresita Fernandez – Business owner - La Michoacana Ice Cream
- Patricia Galindo – Client Services Coordinator for La Luz
- Maite Iturri – El Verano Elementary School Principal
- Scott Johnson – Director of Housing Development, Midpen Housing
- Rich Lee – Business owner - Arroyo Veterinary Hospital; Chair of Springs Community Alliance
- Ryan Lely – Visual Designer, Sonoma Valley Citizen's Advisory Commission
- Veronica Napoles – Art Consultant, Author, Educator
- Michael Ross – Architect, RossDrulisCusenbery Architecture
- Rick Ruiz – Retired Deputy Public Works Director
- Gary Saperstein – Business owner: Out in the Vineyard; Sonoma Tourism Bureau Board; Sonoma Valley Visitors Bureau Board
- Pedro Napoles Serrano – College Student
- Yuliana Torres – Women's Global Leadership Initiative (WGLI) intern, Education Program Coordinator for La Luz
- Cathy Wade Shepard – Realtor

## OTHER RESOURCES:

For more information about the Planning Grant check out the minutes from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors' Meeting held, November 10. LINK: [http://sonoma-county.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=2&event\\_id=352&meta\\_id=176507](http://sonoma-county.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=2&event_id=352&meta_id=176507) EXCERPT: The Springs Area Plan is intended to provide the foundation for a sustainable community with a vibrant, pedestrian oriented main street, and increased opportunities for walking, bicycling, and active living. The area plan would build on the County's previous efforts to improve conditions in the Springs by facilitating the development of a complete community with a mix of land uses and enhanced multimodal connectivity to promote healthy living and greenhouse gas reduction by encouraging active forms of transportation and increased use of transit.

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**GUEST SPEAKERS:** *Sonoma Splash* | Mary Favaro and Madolyn Agrimonte (Each are members of the Splash Sonoma Board of Directors)

Mary Favaro opened the presentation by stating the over arching vision of Sonoma Splash, "Community Pool – defined as accessible to all community members. Aquatic education, fitness, and recreation." Continuing, Favaro described the components of the aquatic vision what is anticipated to be a part of the six acre complex. The aquatic center is anticipated to use two of the six acres with a competition-sized pool and a smaller pool for recreation and lessons. The additional four acres are being looked at as potential income streams to sustain the aquatic complex including a club house for offices and community meeting spaces and a picnic area. Favaro emphasized the need for economic sustainability in order for the Sonoma Splash concept to thrive and the group is considering commercial development including housing and a new Park Point health club facility.

Relocation of the current Little League is closer to becoming certain, as the baseball group has come to realize the benefits of being in a more open environment. Improvements to sidewalks, cross walks, parking, and bike paths are being examined. Incorporating as part of its design historical features is a part of the mix.

Favaro noted that no exclusive memberships will be required for access. Madolyn Agrimonte added that the City of Sonoma has pledged funds that are to be used as scholarships to cover passes for those in need of financial assistance. When asked about cost of passes, Favaro stated that they would be looking into these fees. It was shared that Calistoga has an entry fee/seasonal pass schedule as does Santa Rosa for their public pools.

A Q&A session followed their presentation During this portion Agrimonte cited a 2010 study that found 60% of Hispanic children have low or no swim ability compared to 40% of Caucasians (SOURCE: University of Memphis, Diversity Study, 2010. Learn more at [USASWIMMING.org](http://www.usaswimming.org)). Agrimonte noted that aquatic education would be a primary focus of Sonoma Splash and the City of Sonoma will be providing funds for scholarships. Other concerns were raised which ranged from affordable housing needs over a public pool to the need of teaching adults how to swim (cited from same 2010 study "If a parent does not know how to swim, there is only a 13 percent chance that a child in that household will learn how to swim. LINK: <http://www.usaswimming.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=1796>

**Sonoma Splash is targeting to be open by 2018.**

No action items. The presentation was an update on their plans. **There will be a Town Hall meeting that the public is invited to attend which will be held Wednesday, 2/24/16 6:00 pm at FAHA (across from Maxwell Park).**

**Resources to check out:**

Sonoma Splash – website: <http://www.sonomasplash.com/home.html>

“Sonoma Splash Presents To Springs Community Alliance,” 2.14.16. LINK: <http://sonomasun.com/2016/02/14/sonoma-splash-presents-plan-to-springs-community-alliance/>

“Sonoma Splash Plays Damage Control Over The M-Word – Membership,” 2.15.16. LINK: <http://www.sonomanews.com/news/5234614-181/sonoma-splash-plays-damage-control>

City of Santa Rosa – Public Aquatic Centers – LINK: <http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/departments/recreationandparks/programs/aquatics/pages/default.aspx>

City of Calistoga – Aquatics. LINK: <http://www.ci.calistoga.ca.us/Index.aspx?page=529>

City of Vacaville – Walter Graham Aquatic Center. LINK: <http://cityofvacaville.com/index.aspx?page=131>

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**AGENDA ITEM: *March SCA General Meeting*** | Rich Lee, President, SCA.

The March meeting will be held, Thursday, March 10, 2016, 7:00 pm at the Charter School’s Multipurpose Room.

**For more information please contact SCA at:**

**Email:** [info@springscommunityalliance.org](mailto:info@springscommunityalliance.org)

**Facebook Group Page -** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/springscommunity>

**Website:** <http://springscommunityalliance.org/>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/SCASonoma>

Submitted by,  
Celia Kruse de la Rosa