



Fire Memorial Task Force Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2024

IN ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Cyndi Foreman, Tammy Sakanashi, Paul Lowenthal, Pamela Van Halsema, Jessica Tunis (virtual)

Staff: Karin Demarest, Bernadette Marko, Samantha Kimpel, Tara Thompson

Absent: Alma Bowen, Margie Maynard

CALL TO ORDER

Karin Demarest welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:06pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Meeting Agenda was approved.

Motion: Cyndi Foreman

Second: Tammy Sakanashi

Vote: Unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Meeting Minutes from December 2023 were approved.

Motion: Paul Lowenthal

Second: Cyndi Foreman

Vote: Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

UPDATES

Going Beyond Land Acknowledgments

Karin Demarest reported that she attended a training with the Redbud Resource Group titled Going Beyond Land Acknowledgments. She explained that our Fire Memorial work will be interwoven with the indigenous communities and land in mind.

Pamela Van Halsema discussed the mission of Redbud Resource Group, a California based nonprofit organization run by Native members of different tribes to educate their own community and outside communities about indigenous practices and history. Van Halsema and Demarest will share a document created by Redbud Resource Group titled the Allyship Spectrum which is a multi-pronged approach to understanding the impact of our actions and decisions on Native communities.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DATE AND PREPARATION

Demarest reported that we are scheduled to present at the March 26, 2024 Board of Supervisors meeting. We will submit a first draft documentation to them for review by February 21, 2024. They will provide feedback on our submitted documentation.

SITE SELECTION PRIORITIZATION

Demarest stated that we will present a prioritized site selection list to the Board of Supervisors at the March 26, 2024 meeting.

Demarest recommended that we remove Los Guilicos from the list, based on limited plot availability and not meeting other criteria.

Tara Thompson spoke with Supervisor Susan Gorin who expressed her appreciation for our consideration of identifying possible sites in/near Sonoma Valley, however, she understands that one of the primary goals of the project is to honor lives lost, which occurred in other areas of Sonoma County. Something to consider for this project or in the future could include a satellite plaque or other memorial in Sonoma Valley.

Demarest distributed a site selection score card to Task Force members and members scored each site in accordance with project goals. The sites were prioritized as follows – from highest ranked to lowest ranked:

- Nagasawa Community Park
- Sonoma Valley Regional Park
- Maddux Ranch Regional Park
- Los Guilicos
- Finley Community Center
- Paulin Creek Pathway

Demarest recommended not removing Los Guilicos, since it was not ranked lowest.

Demarest asked for a motion to approve the prioritized site list. The motion was approved.

Motion: Pamela Van Halsema

Second: Paul Lowenthal

Vote: Unanimous

UPDATE ON NEXT STEPS

Demarest reported that we will be working on getting our materials ready for our presentation to the Board of Supervisors which will include the prioritized list, narrative descriptions, and maps.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

The board recommended and approved the election of Pamela Van Halsema to Chairperson of the Fire Memorial Task Force.

Motion: Tammy Sakanashi

Second: Cyndi Foreman

Vote: Unanimous

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52pm

Motion: Paul Lowenthal

Second: Tammy Sakanashi