

TEMPLETON AREA ADVISORY GROUP (TAAG)

Notes of the board meeting

Thursday December 15, 2022, 6:30 PM

Templeton Community Service District Board Room
502 Fifth Street
Templeton, California

Minutes submitted by Sonja Bolle

2022-2023 TAAG BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Shirley, Delegate/Chair

Murray Powell, Delegate/Vice-Chair/Treasurer

Doris Diel, Delegate/Secretary

John Donovan, Delegate

Jerry Jones, Delegate

Scott Silveira, Delegate

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Scott Shirley called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. . . .

2. Pledge of Allegiance

. . . and led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Scott Shirley, Delegate/Chair present

Murray Powell, Delegate/Vice-Chair/Treasurer present

Doris Diel, Delegate/Secretary present

John Donovan, Delegate present

Jerry Jones, Delegate present

Scott Silveira, Delegate present

4. AGENCY REPORTS AND UPDATES

4.1 Sheriff's Office

MICHAEL MANUELE, Commander of the Sheriff's North Station, made the report for November 2022:

The station received 2051 calls for service, as compared to last year's 1527, a 34% increase. Templeton had 337 calls, down from 375 last year. These calls generated 238 reports (74 in Templeton), as compare to last year November's 193 (67 in Templeton).

Notable incidents included two assaults: a landlord-tenant dispute and an incident of domestic violence.

Cmdr Manuele urged residents to be vigilant, as many of these crimes appear to be opportunistic [not his term]: wallets lifted from distracted shoppers, expensive sunglasses taken from parked cars, tools stolen from trucks.

He also tracks phone scams, and noted some calls in which people are impersonating the sheriff's office. He emphasized: "The Sheriff's office does not call and ask for gift cards."

4.2 California Highway Patrol

no report.

4.3 Supervisorial District One

no report.

4.4 Supervisorial District Five

no report.

4.5 County Planning Department

ERIC TOLLE, of the SLO County Planning Dept. gave highlights of projects in process:

An indoor cannabis operation planned at 320 Marquita is on the threshold of being finalized. When it is, it will be published in the State Clearinghouse and referred to TAAG for comment. A hearing was originally scheduled for January 26, 2023, before the Planning Commission, but that will be rescheduled; it won't be ready.

There was a hearing to consider an appeal (APPL2022-00010) by Allyson Magda, of the Planning Department Hearing Officer's denial on September 2, 2022, of a Minor Use Permit (N-DRC2021-00002) to allow a vacation rental. The project includes a modification to allow the proposed vacation rental to be located 422 feet from an existing vacation rental instead of the 1,500 feet required per ordinance standards. The project is located at 5240 Jack Creek Road for which TAAG recommended denial based on the Adelaida ordinance requiring 1500 feet between vacation rental properties. The Planning Commission also recommended denial. However, the Board of Supervisors approved the project on appeal.

SCOTT SHIRLEY: Did the supervisors give as a reason that other comparable projects were approved?

TOLLE: There was no opposition voiced at the meeting.

MURRAY POWELL: It's not true that there was no opposition. The TAAG recommendation was posted as a document, and there was other opposition

TOLLE: Correction: There was no IN PERSON opposition. If a person from TAAG had been there at the meeting, it might have gone differently.

TOLLE: Returning to the highlights:

The Clos Solène winery's mitigated negative declaration (MND) was submitted to the State Clearinghouse on Nov 23. It is still open for public comment.

You may have seen plans for Ramada Junction. It is a complex project, still in its infancy, with various businesses including a brewery. A MND won't be out for a while, but if there are questions, feel free to ask. It is on my desk.

For the ongoing Sara Street project, I am the liaison. I hear their frustration that they have appeared before TAAG three times. They hope to get a decision at the January 2023 TAAG meeting.

Tolle recommends that a TAAG member appear at the county presentation meetings, to ensure that the board's point of view is represented.

POWELL: TAAG has asked multiple times to be advised formally when MNDs are published.

TOLLE: TAAG is the only group that waits for the MND stage. Other agencies have already weighed in long before an MND is published. When Ramada Junction is published, I will send it to you, because I know this is what you need, but it is difficult to have different procedures for different agencies. Everyone who is hired by the planning department -- and we're been hiring like crazy lately -- would need to be advised that TAAG handles things differently.

SHIRLEY: The way we found out about Sara Street is you sent us e-mail asking when it could come before TAAG again. We are a volunteer organization, we can't meet at the drop of a hat, especially if there are a lot of documents to review.

TOLLE: Let's try to streamline process in 2023. By the time an MND is published, the project is pretty much in its final stages.

4.6 Templeton Community Services District

no report.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

no comment.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2022 TAAG Board meeting

Motion to approve minutes passed unanimously.

6.2 Approval of Treasurer's Report

POWELL, Treasurer: Bank balance stands at \$978.41. We have requested that the bank waive the \$15/month fee, which was imposed only by the new bank owners this past August. \$180/year is a lot when we only request \$1000/year from the county.

TAAG has a post office box. In 2003, the fee was \$23. In 2018 it was \$64. This past January the annual fee was \$181. What we get in that box is a monthly bank statement, occasionally a planning document.

MOTION to approve the treasurer's report was passed by voice vote.

7. OLD BUSINESS.

Call for TAAG Board Delegate Candidates for the TAAG Annual March 2023 Election. In accordance with TAAG Bylaw Article XII Section 5, a call is made for candidates for the March 2023 annual election of TAAG Board members. TAAG Incumbent Board members must declare their candidacy by the December 15, 2022 Board meeting. Non-incumbents have until the January 19, 2023 meeting to declare their candidacy. All candidates must be registered voters residing within the boundaries of the Templeton Unified School District.

- Incumbents Scott Silveira & John Donovan have declared their candidacy.

There was a discussion of local media outlets that could run notices calling for candidates.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Presentation by Riley Gadjos, SLO County Civil Engineering Technician, regarding Vineyard Drive Corridor plan to enhance safety & connectivity, and to reduce congestion:
Website Link: <https://lrsp.mysocialpinpoint.com/vdcp>

JOSHUA ROBERTS, County Dept of Public Works, presented information about the launch of the Vineyard Drive Multimodal Corridor Plan. The goal tonight is to promote the project, get out information about it, and solicit community input. We want to hear from community about their experience using the corridor, and about what improvements they want to see.

ROSANNA SOUTHERN, project manager, reported on the analysis that has been done and metrics that have been applied to observations at key intersections: Engineers have examined traffic operations, peak hour use, school traffic, collision data (considering pedestrians and bicyclists as well).

Considering bicycling, the entire corridor is ranked at LTS 4 (Level of Traffic Stress), which is the highest stress level, suitable only for experienced bicyclists.

So far there has been a technical advisory meeting in October 2022, with various official stakeholders -- police and fire departments, etc.

The public is encouraged to visit the interactive project website (listed above), where visitors can look at the plans and make comments. It's especially helpful if people take the on-line survey about their traffic experience along Vineyard Dr, and what improvements they would like to see.

SHIRLEY: Concerns have also been voiced about Main Street.

SOUTHERN: This project is only about the Vineyard Drive corridor, but that does cover the intersection with Main Street.

RILEY GAJDOS: Other traffic concerns (outside of this project) can be voiced to the Traffic Dept. 805.781.5252.

ROBERTS: Once a draft plan is prepared, we will present it to TAAG, and ask the Board of Supervisors to adopt the plan.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMITTEES

9.1 Project Review Committee

POWELL: The Project Review Committee should meet regarding the Sara Street project in early January, so there is time for the TAAG board to consider a recommendation at our January meeting, to go to the county before its January 26 Planning Department meeting.

So we should get that information out to the neighborhood around that project.

SHIRLEY: We decided at the last TAAG meeting to notify those neighbors. I've spoken with a local contact, there will be a distribution to neighbors.

POWELL: Regarding Eric Tolle's comments: when TAAG was first considering cannabis projects, the county would put referrals out, and immediately insist we make comment. We spent a lot of time on a couple of projects. The county wasn't doing MNDs, or complying with CEQA. We learned over time that the projects were changing so much, we wasted a lot of time looking at projects at too early a stage. County, state and federal agencies all consider projects earlier, but when you look at the project description and comments, the comments don't even refer to the current project. So now our policy is: We don't make recommendations until an MND comes out.

9.2 Cannabis Project Review Committee

POWELL: There are three projects currently kind of in the works.

9.3 Community Outreach and Public Relations Committee

JOHN DONOVAN wants to call a meeting in January.

9.4 Traffic Circulation Committee

no report.

9.5 Bylaws Special Committee

no report.

9.6 Water/Toad Creek Committee

SILVEIRA: We've had rain.

POWELL observed that "a majority," including TAAG and the entire County Planning Commission, recommended a NO vote on the planting ordinance that came up before the Board of Supervisors on December 6. Even so, the ordinance passed on a 3-2 vote, with Supervisors John Peschong, Debbie Arnold and Lynn Compton voting in favor.

Powell noted with irony that at a meeting just a week later, an item on the supervisors' consent agenda was to review an extreme drought proclamation by the county. The supporting documents included a 7-page report on drought in the county.

The new planting ordinance goes into effect January 6, unless the county is sued over it, which, according to Powell, Supervisor Bruce Gibson says is likely.

9.7 Elections Committee

no report.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DELEGATES (on items not on the agenda)

no announcements.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.