

Dry Creek Greenway

Minutes of Meeting #1

Date: February 27, 2003

Place: Roseville City Hall

Attendees:

Chris Schmidt, Placer County Planning,
Marilyn Jasper, Clover Valley Foundation,
E.J. Ivaldi, Placer County,
Ed Pandolfino, Sierra Foothills Audubon Association,
Ernie McPherson, RCONA,
George Brown, West Placer MAC,
Peggy Peterson, citizen,
Cathy Haagen-Smit, IMBA,
Lisa Ferrari, City of Roseville,
Jeff Darlington, Placer Land Trust,
David Siegel, Office of Environmental Health
Mike Wixon, City of Roseville,
Sharon Roseme, LBHA,
Loren Clark, Placer County Planning,
Vance Kimbrell, Placer County Parks,
Kelly Berger, Placer County Planning

Summary of Discussion:

Kate Kirsh opened the meeting, introduced Foothill Associates and gave an overview of the Greenway project. She introduced the Dry Creek Greenway Concept Report as the beginning of the planning effort that has led to development of the Greenway Master Plan. She then reviewed the agenda and round-table introductions were made. Ms. Kirsh provided a brief overview of the scope of the Greenway and general criteria used for selection of land within the Greenway. These included habitat values, synergistic uses such as recreation, connections to local and regional nodes, flood management, etc. Kate introduced the Foothill Associates team structure and provided an overview to the composition and function of the Project Oversight Team and the Public Planning Team. She summarized what has been done to date, and mentioned that we will be posting the results of Task 2 (the summary of existing policies plans) to the project website at <http://www.foothill.com/greenway/>. This website contains information about the Greenway project, as well as the team organization and project schedule. We will also be posting meeting minutes, handouts and collateral information.

A question was asked about what additional funding sources have been investigated. Loren Clark responded that there are a variety of sources of funding for the Greenway and that the collaborative nature of the project will strengthen our ability to secure

funding from the various sources. (Note: refer to the Task 2 Inventory of Existing Plans for a partial listing of these sources.)

The question was raised how this project dovetails with the Watershed Plan. Kate said that the Watershed Plan is looking at water quality, habitat and flood management on a watershed wide scale, whereas our project is limited to those areas immediately adjacent to the creeks for habitat, water quality, recreation and synergistic relationships. The Dry Creek Greenway can be thought of as a subset of the Watershed Plan. Kate also mentioned the Roseville Creek and Riparian Management Plan effort that will soon be underway. This project will study the habitat, water quality, hydrology and geomorphology of creeks within the City of Roseville and prepare a Management and Restoration Plan. It was also mentioned that Greg Bates with the Dry Creek Conservancy has Calfed money to develop a GIS and perform water quality monitoring in the Dry Creek watershed. Mark Morse mentioned Sacramento County's Dry Creek Parkway plan. Kate summarized the loop trail system consisting of the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (FLSRA), American River Parkway, Ueda Parkway, Dry Creek Parkway (DCP), and Dry Creek Greenway (DCG).

The Public Planning Team (PPT) roles and responsibilities were next discussed. The PPT is a volunteer effort that will help to deal with the difficult issues in planning the Greenway, such as how to address private property within the Greenway and how to make physical connections such as to the FLSRA, within the Greenway, across barriers, etc. The PPT will meet five times as currently scoped. The purpose of meetings is as follows:

1. This meeting: Introduction to the DCG project, initial data analysis, and kickoff.
2. April: Goals and policies. Materials will be distributed prior to the meeting. Please review them and come to the meeting ready to discuss.
3. May: Proposed amenities to the Greenway.
4. June: Management strategies, costs and funding strategies.
5. September: Final Masterplan review.

Between June and September, 2 community workshops will be held to obtain community feedback on the Plan. While these workshops are not mandatory for the PPT, we encourage you to participate and encourage local homeowners and interest groups to do so as well. PPT meetings will be approximately 2 hours long and materials will be distributed about 3 weeks prior to the meeting date.

A question was raised about the scope of our effort, specifically, whether we have the ability to impact factors such as new development. Kate stated that our goal is that the plan is adopted by all jurisdictions within the watershed, and becomes a planning tool to help organize open space within new developments. Combining zones are one mechanism that could be used to adopt the plan. The question was asked whether this plan could override General Plan policies. Kate responded that it is possible that this plan

could affect policies related to setbacks, etc, but we will generally be trying to work within the limitations of the General Plans. Ms. Kirsh was asked to review the process of environmental review. She said that the DCG Master Plan will have to go through environmental review, likely at the CEQA NegDec or Mitigated NegDec level. No decision has been made on who will be the lead agency for this process.

It was asked whether this group would be producing a consensus document. Kate responded that Foothill Associates, working with Placer County, will be producing the Master Plan. The PPT will be responsible for reviewing this plan, providing input to issues and coordinating the plan development.

A review of the project area was presented next. Kate performed a brief tour of the watershed using an ArcView (Geographic Information Systems) project with linked photographs. The City of Roseville Bikeways Master Plan was mentioned. The City is currently doing the final Environmental Impact Review (EIR) for the section from Harding to Royer Park. Many points of access are already established in this plan into the DCG. On Miner's Ravine, there is one segment left to be connected in the Stoneridge Specific Plan area.

The potentially difficult connection to the FLSRA was discussed. This connection may pose challenges because the area between Linda Creek and the Folsom Lake is largely developed already. A bikeway is currently planned in the Granite Bay Community Plan update along Douglas Boulevard to connect Miner's Ravine to FLSRA. Another potential connection may be possible near Baldwin Lake at the southern County boundary.

A question was raised asking if we would be considering how people will use the existing local bikeways to access the Greenway. The concern was that the public will tend to drive to staging areas along the Greenway, rather than riding their bicycles on the heavily trafficked local arterials to reach access points on the DCG. Kate said that we will be looking at how the existing bike paths provide access to the Greenway and also identifying connections that do not currently exist and that are needed. Mark stated that Roseville has class IA bike paths, 8' wide sidewalks that are intended as off-street bikeways. There may be a need for educational outreach to inform people of this accepted use of the sidewalks.

Ed Pandolfino, with the Sierra Foothills Audubon Association, said that we shouldn't ignore where the creek goes through existing subdivisions. We may not be able to put bikeways through people's backyards, but we shouldn't ignore the opportunity to teach people stewardship for the creek. Kate suggested that we may have areas where differences in policy apply. For instance, we may have a multi-use trail oriented policy that applies to those areas where we want to make alternative transportation connections, and a habitat oriented policy that applies where we want open space corridors for habitat, but don't need trails (or in areas where existing land patterns preclude trails). A question was raised about how this project relates to habitat and conservation planning. Loren Clark said that there were other levels of habitat and conservation planning efforts underway that will be considered in this project.

Ed Armstrong with Foothill Associates briefed the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) planning efforts currently underway. He discussed the opportunities and constraints analyses covering public vs. private land, valuable riparian habitat, 100-year flood plain, open space designations, wetlands, and existing zoning buffers around sensitive vegetation, perennial and intermittent streams. He presented the draft Greenway boundaries that resulted from the opportunities and constraints analysis and discussed some of the planning challenges in establishing the Greenway, such as the preponderance of private land and the connection between the Greenway and the FLSRA.

The meeting concluded with a confirmation that 9:30AM was a good time for the majority of the PPT to meet. The next meeting date was set for Friday, April 11th from 9:30AM to 11:30AM. Materials will be distributed by March 21st for review.