

## Minutes

### Port Costa Conservation Society Board of Directors Meeting, October 17th, 2016

Ridge Greene, Chairman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attending	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent
Jeff Wilson, Vice Chairman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attending	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent
Anne Mann, Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attending	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent
Sarah Humann, Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attending	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent
Mitch Polzak, Financial Sec	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attending	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent

**Guests:** Please see attached sign in sheet.

**Meeting:** Called to order at 7:02

**Last Meetings Minutes:**  Approved  Amended

**This Week's Agenda:**  Approved  Amended

#### 1. Public Comments

- a. Procedure, comments regarding Public Meeting held August 30<sup>th</sup>. Ridge commented on the last meeting where somebody asked to make a motion. Only board members can make a motion. The public can have an item put on the agenda for discussion and then after a discussion a motion can be made. Comments are kindly requested to be no more than 2 minutes.
- b. New Comments
  - Sarah made a comment (See the attached letter)
  - Tom Conklin asked if we had had a lawyer to look over the paperwork that has been presented so far. Also he asked concern if we had a timeline for the MOU. Ridge answered no to both questions. Tom found a discrepancy in the Mission statement and the MOU regarding the wildlife area. Ridge was confident that there are no conflicts and that this is to be discussed on a later date.
  - Lester made a comment regarding changes, and he was positive regarding the idea of having the school being a school again with a balancing budget. He was happy with the shared use where the building could be used for the children and for the town in the same way it has been done for years. He felt that by working with the involved partners, we would remain in control of the inevitable change.
  - Lisa is not concerned that the school would be a school again, but that if The Field Semester project was involved it would be 24-7 , with a large amount of students.
  - Wendy stated how we all came here because we love this town but maybe should not be so guarded regarding change. 'Funky' people have always been here and we should remember to let new people in and especially young people. Wendy trusts that the board will be mindful and not give the school away, but keep whatever happens in the right spirit.
  - Jeanvive. Stated that the school for young children is a brilliant idea. Especially she is happy that it will not increase traffic.
  - Tom from Crockett has personal experience with the board of directors from The Field Semester and he is impressed with the worldview and intensions they have. Students from schools like this will be well-rounded citizens and he trust that this can be done with respect for history in this town and the citizens of this town.
  - Anne talked about using the lake. We all walk around the lake, but very few of us actually walk inside the fence and enjoy the water, since it's difficult to get there and in the past there has been garbage and rusty cars all over. The thought of having access to the lake with walking path and young people laughing and living there made her happy.

-Karen's concern was the open space. She is happy with the space and very worried that that will change. Also she is worried regarding the sewer and if the plant can take the increased use. We already pay an enormous amount in fees every year and she is worried that the amount will increase even more. The school is a historic building and with the remodeling and use of so many people Karen fears that the building will change. She would prefer the building to maintain as is.

- Julene spoke as an involved member of several committees in town and thanks the board for making the effort to listen to everybody in town and spread the information as it emerges. Julene is excited regarding young people in town and fully accepts the idea of shared use.

-Shane spoke as a man who was born and raised here and how it is important to accept change and if we do not we waste away. The opportunity to work with the new idea of shared use is important and it is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

-Mitch finds the process a show of all the collective energy and reminds us that everybody is together because of the love for this town. The love of Port Costa. This opportunity to look at the new idea through all kinds of eyes, -new eyes, old eyes and legal eyes.... With all the collective energy we should look at this non-binding agreement. Whether it is decided for or against, the future will show.

-Savanna thanked everybody for being involved in the craft fair, making money for the restoration and physically working at the school; painting and cleaning. Savanna continues to ask for more information and asks for more detailed paperwork to be distributed to all Port Costa residents. Are we continuing to search for other options, or has the board set their mind on The Field semester? During the Craft fair resident came and did work at the school and maybe this is how we should finish it. Not reaching for the ideas the board has pictured but settle for a less expensive and extensive solution.

-Mary List's Letter (See attached)

-Katherine is well acquainted with working with MOU's and sees this as the very first step of finding the right way to work together with The Field Semester, which she knows about and has only heard very good things about. Education with sustainability is very important and she hopes we can find a way to make it work.

## **2. Treasurer's Report**

- a. Report: Push
- b. Financial/budget: Push

## **3. Chairman's Report**

- a. Response to the "MOU motion Letter" The Board has responded to the letter and has copies for distribution for all interested.
- b. Town & membership letter. Is has been distributed, and thank you to Savanna, Wendy and Veronica. This is the beginning of the process to get information out there to all interested.
- c. Documents for distribution. Ridge has a draft with information and as it is a draft we will clean it up and make it available. We also have to decide how to distribute it; mail and electronically?? If anybody wants a copy they can, but be aware this is a draft.
- d. Consideration for The MOU

Ridge states that shared use with the Field Semester is ONE option that we are now exploring.

Motion was made to enter into the non binding MOU process with the The Field Semester and the BVC in an official capacity. Anne seconded. All in favour. Jeff made the comment that he is voting yes, but he is very much against using the 83

acres for agriculture. This will be a continued discussion. Mitch would like to have a lawyer look through the MOU. We will continue to discuss and add this as an agenda item for text meeting.

#### **4. Events Report**

- a. Car show. Final report is done and submitted to CCF. We received a tremendous amount of donations and had a very successful raffle. All in all we made over \$11,000. Documents to be submitted next meeting.
- b. Samuel Peach's Peripatetic Players. Sept. 24 and 25<sup>th</sup>. Great event. It was fun.
- c. Craft Fair October 16<sup>th</sup>. This was also a great event. Savanna was pleased and great thanks to Veronica and Hilary and all other volunteers. Craft Fair also made money: raffle: \$1,100 and food: \$430.  
All in all \$1,600 was handed to Sarah and vendor checks are to be added later.  
All vendors gave a really good response.
- d. Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup>..Crockett Community Foundation POP UP event  
Called: "Discover Port Costa" (See attached) Ridge will call back and approve the event. We will look forward to get more information.

#### **5. Upcoming Events**

- a. Susan Raymond dog training. Please see attached proposal. As we have worked well with Susan in the past, we are sorry not to welcome the idea of dogs in the rooms for various reasons. We will work hard to see if we can find some kind of solution and continue to have the item on the agenda.

#### **6. Ongoing Business**

- a. Community Garden. Nothing to report. Sarah will give up her bed and resign as vice Chair from the beginning of next year.
- b. Grant Committee, incl. CDGB Grant. John and Anne went to the informal county meeting to see if we would be eligible for grants for the sewer or the PCCS. Very little money is available and most is earmarked for homeless and housing. It was clear that this is not worth our efforts.
- c. Complete application to CCF for \$41,000 incl. matching funds of \$10,000 and volunteers hours. . Overall the money we are applying for will go towards safety. stairs, railings and locks. Copy of the grant available. Last meeting was cancelled. We look forward to the next with new ideas from the community.
- d. The Park District Agreement. Renewal of the agreement is up for renewal in 2017. Jeff and Ridge will go over this.
- e. Elevators. Jeff will now be in charge of the elevator maintenance. Ridge will contact the inspector to get us a new permit. A call has been made and we do not have any outstanding bills.
- f. Knock Box. Still awaiting response from the fire department.
- g. Website. [www.portcostaconservationsociety.com](http://www.portcostaconservationsociety.com) To be continued
- h. Fence repair. Push

#### **7. New Business**

- a. Sarah's resignation/nominations  
Sarah has been a board member since 2012, but will resign due to personal reasons. Official suggestion made to continue using quick books as our book keeping system. Sarah will agree to remain a treasurer until next meeting, but a slow transmission will start. Sarah has put in an incredible amount of time towards the PCCS and will be sorely missed for her professional work and personal qualities.

Bylaws were read aloud and nomination of a new board member was allowed. Suggestion was made to nominate Michael Domagalski. No other nominees. Michael accepted the nomination. This term will end in 2019. Agenda items for next meeting: Board member assignment, membership renewal, board member election and reviewing the election procedure.

Volunteer Hours:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Ridge Greene			
Jeff Wilson			
Sarah Humann			
Anne Mann			
Mitch Polzak			
Veronica Crane			
Dee Stewart			
Lou Stewart			