



CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

MINUTES OF APRIL 3, 2025, SPECIAL PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE (PROS) COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

A special meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Committee of the Cambria Community Services District was held at the Cambria Veterans' Memorial Hall, located at 1000 Main Street, Cambria, CA 93428, on Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 2:00 PM

1. OPENING

1.A Call to Order

Chairperson Thomas called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

1.B Establishment of Quorum – 2:01 PM

Committee members present: Michael Thomas, Jeff Wilson, Shannon Sutherland, Mark Glanzman, Gary Stephenson, and Matthew Jaffe.

Staff was represented by General Manager Matthew McElhenie, Confidential Administrative Assistant Haley Dodson, and on Zoom by Utilities Manager Jim Green and Program Manager Tristan Reaper.

1.C Chair Report - 2:02PM

Chairperson Thomas described highlights from the recent CCSD board meeting.

He offered details of the Major Strategic Planning Update. Those included: Revisions to the mission statement, preparedness added as a district value, administration and finance added as a core area.

The Chair mentioned recent Brown Act training on April 12, as well as the 75-minute discussion and consideration of the proposed Cambria Skatepark at the April 13 board meeting.

The Board approved a motion to receive funding from the current grant for the proposed Skatepark location on Main Street. He reported that the Board received and filed the Cambria Community Park Phase 3 Plan and instructed staff to conduct a pre-application meeting with the County.

1.D Agenda Review – 2:05PM

No changes.

Public Comment:
Tina Dickason

1.E Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reports – 2:05PM

None on the agenda.

2. REPORTS FROM AFFILIATED COMMUNITY GROUPS - 2:06PM

Cambria Forest Committee, Laura Swartz.

- Will attend Earth Day event on April 27.
- New edition of Cambria's Invasive Weeds guidebook with additions is now available.
- Announced that Forest Committee zoom meetings on second Fridays of the month at 10 AM are open to the public.

Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County. Deputy Director Daniel Bohlman not present, conservancy member Laura Swartz provides update, 2:10PM.

- Mentioned that the Conservancy remains active in county environmental efforts to purchase and preserve hundreds of acres between Morro Bay and Cayucos.
- Mentioned efforts at the popular Pismo Preserve.
- The Land Conservancy is basically funded by the California Coastal Conservancy, which has given millions to Cambria for purchases here. Also started program to preserve environmental lots in Cambria. Very active in giving money to cooperating organizations.

Greenspace, The Cambria Land Trust, Executive Director Karin Argano via Zoom, 2:14PM.

- Greenspace is starting a habitat restoration effort in three areas at Strawberry Canyon focused on native plants, shrubs, and understory. Funded by Upper Salinas Las Tablas Resource Conservation District.
- Waiting for the September California Coastal Commission meeting for approval of vegetation treatment program before starting Strawberry Canyon fuel reduction efforts.
- Herbivory grant funding goats and sheep fuel reduction efforts will be implemented in fall.
- Continuing with Speaker Series.
- Working on details for Earth Day event, call for volunteers.
- Fundraising auction at the end of May.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

See below.

4. REPORTS & PROJECT UPDATES – 2:17PM

4.A Facilities & Resources Manager's Report, David Aguirre

General Manager McElhenie announces that David Aguirre is not present. Discusses weed abatement efforts on Fiscalini Ranch Preserve and changes focused on mowing buffer areas.

- Refinishing of trash and recycling receptacles expected to be completed in three weeks.
- Sections of the Bluff Trail have been cordoned off for several hundred yards to "serve as a visual indicator" to keep public on trails. Committee Member Wilson comments that new trail signs look great and list a number of rules but that there's an ongoing problem with people going off trail and onto the cliffs.
- Committee Member Wilson also expressed concerns about staffing levels in Facilities and Resources Department.

4.B Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve Report, FFRP Executive Director Kitty Connolly – 2:22PM

- Email from Rancho Marino Reserve announcing that 150 piles were safely burned. 200 more to go.
- FFRP will attend Cambria Nonprofit Community Fair on April 5.

- Cambria Wildflower Show April 26-27.
- Seven new trailhead signs on the ranch, with more coming.
- Ongoing weeding on the West Ranch.
- Santa Barbara Botanic Garden delivered 628 plants to FFRP, including understory plants and some Monterey pine.
- City Nature Challenge, a citizen science project using iNaturalist will take place in late April.

4.C Skatepark Project Update Report, Juli Amodei – 2:25PM

- Thanked the community for support at the March 13 CCSD Board meeting.
- Detailed upcoming fundraising and outreach efforts.
- Announces Cap the Gap fundraising event.
- Lists several more donations and grants for the park effort.
- Will attend Cambria Nonprofit Community Fair.
- Participating in Monster Skate event.
- Full Moon Potluck on April 22. All funds will be donated to the skatepark.
- Fundraising event at Parr Collective at Stolo Winery on April 27.
- San Luis Obispo Film Festival to dedicate a day to the “Community of Skate.”

General Manager McElhenie’s Skatepark Project Update - 2:29PM

- Board requested a Memorandum of Understanding amendment with the Cambria Community Council to address responsibility for potential overruns.
- Wants to “define the funding gap” and establish a target number for board consideration at upcoming meeting.
- Committee Member Wilson asked about variation in bids. Also asked about inflationary pressures being factored in for materials and other costs.

Public Comment - 2:34PM

Tina Dickason
Christine Auriele
Gary Boyle
Laura Schwartz
David Lacey
Margie Perez-Sesser
Christine Heinrichs
Gordon Heinrichs
Cheryl McDowell

4.D East Ranch Community Park Restroom Project Update Report – 3:00PM

General Manager McElhenie reports waiting on some electrical work for power to the facility. Dark-sky compliant lighting coming in, will be installed. Target date for restroom opening is the third week of April.

Public Comment:
Tina Dickason

General Manager McElhenie addressed this question.

Vice Chair Sutherland reminded meeting participants that the Community Park portion of the East Ranch was specifically purchased for recreation. The County required that a bathroom be installed before the park could be developed for recreation. But she also reiterated that there are no plans to construct multiple buildings at the site.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.A Consideration to Approve the February 20, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes – 3:04PM

Vice Chair Sutherland moved to approve the minutes.

Committee Member Wilson seconded the motion.

The motion was approved: 5-Ayes; 0-Nays; 0-Abstain; 0-Absent

6. REGULAR BUSINESS - 3:08PM

6.A Discussion Regarding Learnings from the 3/12/2025 Brown Act Training, and Anything Else of Interest from the PROS Committee Orientation Slides from the February 20, 2025 Meeting – 3:08PM

General discussion and observations.

6.B Community Park Phase 3 Planning Update – 3:09PM

Next steps outlined, including scheduling of pre-application meeting with County Planning Department in coming months.

Public Comment:

Tina Dickason

Gary Boyle

6.C Discuss the PROS Goals Progress Report – 3:15PM

Plans to revise and redefine overall committee goals at the next meeting to best advance the Community Park project. Vice Chair Sutherland advocates moving the park from an ad hoc committee effort to a full committee priority with individual members taking responsibility for different project components.

Rodeo Grounds Road is a priority.

Committee member Wilson emphasized the importance of open space parcels and raises questions about the fate of those parcels that remain under CCSD control. Brings up the nature of the role that PROS Committee should play in the management of these parcels for the community's benefit.

General Manager McElhenie voiced concerns about CCSD bandwidth and financial resources in managing these properties.

Vice Chair Sutherland discussed the benefits of PROS input into management and maintenance of properties with recreational potential.

Public Comment:
Christine Heinrichs
Laura Schwartz
Tina Dickason
Jim Bahringer

Vice Chair Sutherland enumerates top level goals.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – 3:50PM

Chairperson Thomas asked for any future agenda items.

- Chairperson Thomas mentions that Riley McFarland has asked to be on the May agenda to discuss forest health work planned on Fiscalini Ranch Preserve.
- Review goals.
- Request that Skatepark remain on the agenda.

8. ADJOURN

Chairperson Thomas adjourned the meeting at 3:54 PM.