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Adopted 2008 Planning Commission Bylaws

Proposed Updates and Revisions to the Planning Commission Bylaws
Board of Supervisors
August 19, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 08-03

AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 07-01 PROVIDING FOR THE HOLDING OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE NAPA COUNTY CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION AND ESTABLISHING RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS OF THE NAPA COUNTY CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

The Napa County Conservation, Development and Planning Commission, hereinafter called Commission, does hereby adopt the following rules or procedures for the transaction of its business.

RULE 1. Meetings of the Commission

- A. Meetings of the Commission shall be held on the first and third Wednesday of each month, except as modified by schedules adopted pursuant to Rules 1C and 23 below. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission may be canceled by majority vote of the Commission or, for lack of business or a quorum, by the Chair or Secretary.
- B. Meetings shall start at 9:00 AM and end not later than 5:00 PM. The Commission will not consider any business items after 5:00 PM except by a unanimous vote of all of the Commission members present.
- C. The Commission shall annually, at its last meeting in December, adopt a schedule for its regular meetings for the next calendar year.
- D. Unless otherwise provided, meetings shall be held in the Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room in the County Administration Building, 1195 Third Street in Napa.

RULE 2. Matters Pending Before the Commission

- A. All matters to be considered by the Commission shall be properly filed with the County in compliance with the provisions, standards and procedures established by adopted County Ordinances. The Secretary shall not accept for presentation to the Commission any matter unless it is properly made on the prescribed forms properly filled out with all required data attached. Late submission, i.e., at a Commission meeting or immediately prior to a Commission meeting, of lengthy written reports or materials by an applicant, his or her representative; an opponent, his or her representative; may be considered by the Commission as grounds for the continuation of the item related to said reports or materials, to the Commission's next regular meeting. Items submitted by individual Commissioners for specific listing under the agenda heading of Commissioner Comments shall be submitted to the Secretary, in writing, no later than 5:00 PM on the Tuesday of the week preceding a regular meeting date.

- B. Request for informal or advance decisions concerning potential future developments or plans will not be considered by the Commission.
- C. Any matter that comes before the Commission orally, except the Director's reports, which would not be shown on the agenda shall not be acted upon by the Commission until it is heard as a regular agenda item at the next meeting of the Commission.
- D. The applicant, or his or her appointed representative, may withdraw any matter pending before the Commission at any time prior to the Commission acting on such matters.

RULE 3. The regular order of business of the Commission shall be generally as follows. Agenda items will appear in order most expeditious for completion of Commission business, including necessary accommodation of outside participants:

- A. Call to Order.
- B. Roll Call.
- C. Pledge of Allegiance.
- D. Citizens Comments and Recommendations.
- E. Approval of Minutes.
- F. Closed Session re: Litigation, if necessary.
- G. Director's Report.
- H. Agenda Review.
- I. Disclosures (pursuant to Rule 21.F)
- J. Items to be Decided without Additional Testimony.
- K. Privately-initiated public hearing items continued from earlier meetings, with items continued from the most recent meeting first.
- L. County-initiated public hearing items continued from earlier meetings, with items continued from the most recent meeting first.
- M. New privately-initiated public hearing items.
- N. New County-initiated public hearing items.
- O. Presentations and Reports.

- P. Other Business.
- Q. City and Agency Referrals.
- R. Deputy Director's Report. / Zoning Administrator Actions.
- S. Commissioner Comments/Committee Reports.
- T. Future agenda items.
- U. Adjournment.

RULE 4. Resolutions of the Commission may be adopted conditionally and referred to the Secretary of the Commission for drafting in final form.

RULE 5. An agenda shall be prepared by the Secretary of the Commission for each meeting of the Commission.

RULE 6. The Commission shall elect a Chair and Vice Chairperson at the last regular meeting of the Commission in December of each year and immediately thereafter the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall assume office at the first regular meeting in January and shall serve for a period of one year from the date they assume office. Upon expiration of the one year period, the Commissioner who served as Vice-Chairperson shall typically serve as Chair the following year unless a majority of the Commission determine otherwise. Should an elected officer resign, or otherwise vacate his or her office or Commission membership during the term of office, the Commission shall, at a regular meeting within sixty (60) days after the resignation is effective, select another of its members to fill the remainder of any unexpired term. If the Chairperson vacates the position then the Vice Chairperson shall automatically serve as Chair until the next election of officers. The Chairperson shall not serve consecutive terms.

RULE 6A. In the absence of both officers when a quorum is nevertheless present, the Commission may, by a majority vote of those members present, select one of its members to preside temporarily until an officer is available to preside.

RULE 7. The County Counsel of the County of Napa shall be the legal counsel of the Commission. The Clerk of the Board of the County of Napa shall be the Clerk of the Commission. The Director of the Department of Conservation, Development and Planning of the County of Napa shall be the Secretary of the Commission.

RULE 8. The Chair of the Commission may second any motion and present and discuss any matter as a member of the Commission without having to step down from the Chair. The Chair shall have the rights and duties enjoyed by any other member of the Commission.

RULE 9. A roll call vote may be called in voting upon any motion of the Commission at the discretion of the Chair. Any member present who does not vote in an audible voice shall be recorded as voting "aye."

RULE 10. The Chair of the Commission shall preserve order and decorum and shall decide questions of order. The Chair shall be entitled to vote on all matters before the Commission.

RULE 11. Any person desiring to address the Commission shall, when recognized by the Chair, give his or her name and address. The Chair may, in the interest of facilitating the business of the Commission, limit the amount of time which a person may use in addressing the Commission.

RULE 12. Testimony and other evidence relative to any agenda item for which a public hearing is held shall, unless otherwise ordered by the Chair, be presented in the following order:

- A. The Chair or Secretary shall identify the matter.
- B. The Chair shall declare the public hearing open.
- C. Department report shall be presented.
- D. Presentation of testimony or other evidence by those in favor of the application.
- E. Presentation of testimony or other evidence by those in opposition to the application.
- F. Rebuttal, in the same order.
- G. Closing comments by staff.
- H. The Chair shall declare the public hearing closed.
- I. Commission discussion.
- J. Voting.

Commissioners' questions and/or cross-examination may, at the discretion of the Chair, be permitted at the conclusion of the testimony of each witness or it may be permitted only after all the witnesses favoring one position or the other have testified, or at both times.

RULE 13. Testimony and argument relative to any other agenda item shall, unless otherwise ordered by the Chair, be presented in the following order:

- A. Department report.

- B. Applicant or other directly interested party.
- C. Opposition, if any.
- D. Rebuttal, if any.
- E. Closing comments by staff.
- F. Commission discussion.
- G. Voting.

RULE 14. All official actions or decisions by the Commission shall be entered in the minute book of the Commission kept by the Clerk of the Commission. The vote or votes of each member of the Commission on every matter shall be recorded. Only written action minutes will be maintained, however, electronic recordings will be made by the Clerk of the Commission of each meeting of the Commission which shall be available to the public for inspection by request made at the Clerk of the Commission's office, 1195 Third Street, Suite 210, Napa, California 94559.

RULE 15. All public hearings shall be electronically recorded.

RULE 16. All persons appearing before the Commission shall be required to give testimony or evidence under oath, at the discretion of the Chair of the Commission.

RULE 17. Letters, petitions or other documentary evidence submitted to the Secretary of the Commission shall be presented to the Commission prior to or at the time of the public hearing. The Commission shall consider such material in deciding any issue before it. All documentary evidence shall become part of the Commission's file on the agenda item.

RULE 18. Any rule may be altered, amended, or repealed by majority vote of the Commission, except that such alterations, amendment, or repeal shall not affect any pending matter unless by unanimous consent of the Commission and any applicant thereto.

RULE 19. Any rule may be temporarily suspended by unanimous consent of the Commission.

RULE 20. Motion to reconsider.

- A. A final vote on any matter before the Commission may be reconsidered during the meeting at which the vote was taken provided all persons concerned with the matter are still present, and further provided the motion to reconsider shall be made by a member voting with the majority on the final vote.

- B. If all persons concerned with a matter are not present, or if a member so chooses, a motion to reconsider a final vote on any matter may be given not later than the next regular meeting by a member voting with the majority on the final vote, provided notice of intention to move such reconsideration shall have been given at the meeting on which the final vote was taken.
- C. A motion for reconsideration shall have precedence over every motion except a motion to adjourn.

RULE 21. Voting.

- A. A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.
- B. Adoption of a recommendation for approval of a general plan, specific plan, or amendment thereof shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the appointed members (3) of the Commission.
- C. All other actions or recommendations of the Commission shall require only the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting.
- D. A tie vote or other deadlock on a motion shall constitute disapproval of the motion, except that if a Commission member who has not voted will be able to vote at the next regular meeting, the Chair shall place the item on the next agenda for vote by the additional member. If a deadlock results in denial of a permit or tentative map, it is deemed to be an appealable action.
- E. No member of the Commission shall participate as a commissioner in any discussion or voting if he or she owns property within the required notification area of any specific matter before the Commission or has any other conflict of interest as defined in the Political Reform Act of 1984, as amended.
- F. Any member who has received evidentiary information outside of a Commission meeting or has viewed the property or site of a matter pending before the Commission or is familiar with the property or site shall publicly disclose the fact of such information, viewing or familiarity prior to the Commission's final vote on the matter.

RULE 22. Unless otherwise provided by these Rules, all proceedings before the Commission shall be conducted in accordance with and pursuant to the parliamentary rules of procedure as prescribed in the "Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, Fourth Edition," or the most current published and available edition of such work.

RULE 23. Emergency or special meetings shall be called as provided in the Government Code of the State of California.


RULE 24. These rules shall be applicable to the transaction of any business when the Commission has convened and acts or serves in an official capacity, pursuant to law, other than as a planning commission.

RULE 25. The Commission hereby authorizes the creation of ad hoc subcommittees on special subjects from time to time so that the Commission members having the necessary expertise to conduct field, plan or other specialized reviews may investigate, observe review or otherwise study and report back their observations and conclusions to the full Commission for possible further action. When creating such ad hoc committees, the Commission shall specify the subject to be investigated and time to report, and shall appoint those commissioners who will serve on the ad hoc subcommittee. The number of members appointed to any particular ad hoc subcommittee shall be less than the number of members required to constitute a quorum of the full Commission. Upon presentation of its report to the full Commission, each such ad hoc subcommittee shall cease to exist. Ad hoc subcommittees created pursuant to this rule shall not be subject to the Brown Act.

RULE 26. The provisions of these Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed by the Commission at any time, within limitations imposed by the Brown Act.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Napa County Conservation, Development and Planning Commission this 19th day of November, 2008, by the following vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS - Heather Phillips, Jim King, Bob Fiddaman,
Terry Scott



NOES: COMMISSIONERS - None

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS - Rich Jaeger

TERRY SCOTT, Chair of the Napa County
Conservation, Development and Planning
Commission

ATTEST: Melissa Gray
Clerk to the Commission

By: 

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: 

LAURA J. ANDERSON
Commission Counsel