

# TEMPLETON AREA ADVISORY GROUP (TAAG)

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 16, 2024, 6:30 PM

Templeton Community Service District  
Board Room  
206 Fifth Street, Templeton California 93465

[Find us on Facebook](#)

Web Site: [TAAGinfo.org](http://TAAGinfo.org)

## Mission Statement

*TAAG solicits community input on proposed development in the Templeton, Adelaida, and El Pomar- Estrella area and advises County officials on land use plans and ordinances.*

*TAAG uses established County standards, the Templeton Community Plan, and the Templeton Community Design Plan as guidelines for its recommendations. After a public review, TAAG reports its recommendations to County officials. TAAG has no oversight authority over the Land Use Permit Application process.*

## 2024-2025 TAAG BOARD MEMBERS

Bruce Jones, Delegate/Chair  
Murray Powell, Delegate/Vice-Chair/Treasurer  
Jerry Jones, Delegate  
Scott Silveira, Delegate  
Jennifer Jones, Delegate  
David Leader, Delegate  
Jason Tesarz, Delegate  
Brad Goodman, First Alternate Delegate

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

BRUCE JONES called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 3. ROLL CALL

Bruce Jones, Delegate/Chair	present
Murray Powell, Delegate	present
Jerry Jones, Delegate	present
Scott Silveira, Delegate	not present
Jennifer Jones, Delegate	present
David Leader, Delegate	present
Jason Tesarz, Delegate	present
Brad Goodman, alternate	present

## 4. AGENCY REPORTS AND UPDATES

### 4.6. Templeton Community Services District

(Due to time constraints, item 4.6 was presented first.)

PAMELA JARDINI, TCSD board member filling in for Debra Logan.

TCSD's May 21 meeting is cancelled; the next one will take place in June.

A federal grant has officially been approved for Templeton's new fire engine. The engine will cost \$1 million, of which Templeton will contribute \$300,000 from the capital improvements budget. It will take two years to deliver (a normal lead time at the moment). Thanks are due to US Congressman Jimmy Panetta's office.

The Templeton Historical Museum has been approved to add a shed behind the existing building. TCSD granted a fee waiver of \$1100. The museum will still pay \$5000 in impact fees and the CFD (Fire Dept) fee of \$8500 over 30 years (to be paid over time or up front).

As the Templeton Recreation Foundation has separated from TCSD, it will no longer be necessary to send a liaison to their meetings.

MURRAY POWELL questioned the fees imposed on a community project like a museum; should those fees not be waived? The money for the museum comes from community members, all of whom pay fees of their own.

JARDINI: There was debate on the issue, and the vote on the board was not unanimous. Certain board members argued that fees should not be waived, especially as the fire dept budget is at issue. Impact fees are imposed because every building development has some impact on the community. It's hard to grant nonprofit organizations fee waivers in times like these, when money is tight. Jardini observed that by contrast, Adventist Hospital, a nonprofit taking over Twin Cities Hospital, will no longer pay property tax. Likewise, the nonprofit museum also will pay no property tax provided they file for the exemption.

### 4.1. Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's office report highlighted the danger of scams, which seem to pick up in the summertime. The office is trying to get the word out to warn the public about common scams.

### 4.2. California Highway Patrol

None.

### 4.3. Supervisorial District One

None

4.4. Supervisorial District Five

None

4.5. County Planning Department

None

4.7. Templeton Unified School District

None.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Approval of Minutes from April 18, 2024 TAAG Board meeting

Minutes were approved by voice vote.

6.2 Approval of Treasurer's Report

MURRAY POWELL: The balance stands at \$592.41. There have been no disbursements or deposits except the \$15 monthly service fee.

JASON TESARZ offered to look into Umqua Bank, which may waive fees to a community organization.

POWELL will ask supervisors' offices for money TAAG is entitled to.

The treasurer's report was approved by voice vote.

7. OLD BUSINESS

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Response to Call for Candidates to fill vacant positions on TAAG Board.

The full TAAG Board consists of seven (7) regular voting delegates and two (2) Board Alternate positions. Currently the Board consists of seven (7) regular delegates and one Alternate.

TAAG Bylaw Article IV Section 7 states that: “Section 7: When there is an open or vacated Delegate or Alternate seat, if deemed necessary, TAAG shall make a call for candidates. The call for candidates shall be published in local newspapers, newsletters, on local websites, or by any other means that may generate responses from the public. At its next Board meeting, TAAG shall appoint, by an affirmative vote of approval by five (5) or more Delegates, a replacement for the remainder of that term.”

TAAG has published a call for Candidates. All interested Candidates wishing to apply for the vacant Alternate position(s) are asked to appear at this Board meeting to present their comments and be available to respond to questions and comments from the Board and the Public.

8.2. Acceptance of the resignation of Bruce Jones because he is leaving the state in early June.

Board reluctantly accepted Bruce Jones’ resignation.  
MURRAY POWELL took over chair of the meeting.

8.3. Appointment of TAAG First Alternate Delegate Brad Goodman to regular delegate seat vacated by Bruce Jones.

TAAG Bylaw Article IV Section 6 provides that “When a Delegate’s seat becomes vacant, the First Alternate shall be seated as a replacement for that Delegate for the remainder of that Delegate’s vacated term. The Second Alternate then assumes the position of the First Alternate. The Second Alternate seat is deemed vacant and open.”

A Delegate seat is vacant due to the resignation of Bruce Jones. First Alternate Delegate Brad Goodman will assume that position for the remainder of Bruce Jones’s term, which expires in March of 2026.

The board seated Brad Goodman as delegate until March of 2026.

8.4 Election of new Chair of the TAAG Board—An election is necessary because of the resignation of Bruce Jones.

Discussion among the board members:

MURRAY POWELL chooses to continue as vice chair because the TAAG chair cannot head committees. POWELL has taken the lead on researching development projects, particularly on the cannabis committee; he will continue to track these projects.

BRAD GOODMAN nominates JENNIFER JONES as chair.

JERRY JONES seconded.

JENNIFER JONES: We’re all relatively new to the board. If I have help and support from Murray and Bruce, and patience from the rest of the board, I can give it a go.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

BRAD GOODMAN: yes  
JERRY JONES yes  
JASON TESARZ yes  
JENNIFER JONES yes  
MURRAY POWELL yes  
DAVID LEADER yes

JENNIFER JONES was unanimously elected as chair.

8.5. Templeton resident Edward Bik has applied to be appointed to a TAAG Alternate Board Member seat. Mr. Bik has submitted the required TAAG's Board Members' Conditions of Service Agreement and TAAG's Candidate and Applicant Questionnaire. Mr. Bik will be present at this Board meeting to be available to respond to questions and comments from TAAG Board members and members of the public. The TAAG Board will consider the appointment of Mr. Bik at this meeting.

DAVID LEADER introduced and recommended Edward Bik as a candidate.

EDWARD BIK introduced himself. He has lived in Templeton since 2017, after two decades in Coalinga and Clovis, and has an accounting background.

BRAD GOODMAN moved to appoint Edward Bik as first alternate. JERRY JONES seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

BRAD GOODMAN yes  
JERRY JONES yes  
JASON TESARZ yes  
JENNIFER JONES yes  
MURRAY POWELL yes  
DAVID LEADER yes

EDWARD BIK was unanimously elected as Alternate Delegate.

8.6. Board discussion of the SLO County's publishing of a 2023 Community Advisory Council Handbook approved by the SLO County by the Board of Supervisors and comments regarding pertinent items covered during a Community Advisory Council orientation meeting conducted by the SLO County Planning Department on April 26, 2024.

BRUCE JONES and JASON TESARZ attended the Community Advisory Council (CAC) orientation.

BRUCE JONES: TAAG is seen as a model CAC. One suggestion the county made: They encourage TAAG to send reports earlier, as it would have a greater influence on decisions. In response, however, JONES noted that TAAG often does not

receive necessary information in time to make its own decisions. TAAG might make more *preliminary* recommendations – and mark them as such.

Regarding the handbook's Code of Civility: TAAG might want to write its own and make it part of the bylaws.

JONES recommended to the board a particularly useful part of the handbook, which clarifies how to look things up on the county website.

## 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMITTEES

JENNIFER JONES asked committees to name chairs.

Committee meetings are public events and require 72-hour public notice period. Notice should be sent to the TAAG list of 300, post to web site, post to social media.

Call TCSD to schedule time in the meeting room.

### 8.1 Project Review Committee

(Jerry Jones, chair; Murray Powell, Jennifer Jones; Brad Goodman, alternate)

MURRAY POWELL: TAAG has repeatedly asked the county to advise when MNDs or EIRs are issued. TAAG needs to react within the 30-day public comment period. The Mittry Farms MND was posted without TAAG being notified. TAAG now needs to schedule a special board meeting on the Mittry Farms MND, to get comments in during the 30-day public comment period.

DAVID LEADER: I thought TAAG was going to recommend that the county not approve the underlying zoning change?

BRUCE JONES: It is unclear if the county would block for that reason. The land along Main St. has retained commercial zoning. TAAG has a strong argument. But TAAG should be prepared to address the building issues.

JENNIFER JONES: Many developments in this area – the dispatch station, overpass roundabouts, the 40 acres on Ramada – all those properties impact drainage related to this project.

EDWARD BIK: Is there a quota for our area, since the state is requiring the building of homes?

POWELL: Water issues are a limitation on development. There are limited water meters available.

BIK: Are there other developments in progress that are answering the county's needs for housing?

POWELL: The Sara St. project had affordable housing.

JENNIFER JONES: The project added ADUs to every lot.

### 8.2 Cannabis Project Review Committee

(Murray Powell, chair; Brad Goodman, Jerry Jones; Scott Silveira, alternate)

POWELL: Nothing is going on in the Templeton area, all on hold.

However, on the west side of San Miguel, there has been an issue about an outdoor cannabis project that had been operating illegally. The planning commission denied the project. Applicant appealed and missed its date, but the board gave them extra time.

#### 8.3 Community Outreach and Public Relations Committee

(Brad Goodman, chair; Jennifer Jones, Jason Tesarz; Carly Stern, committee assistant)

Carly Stern is working on an Instagram presence for TAAG. Board members are asked to send photos and a short bio.

#### 8.4 Traffic Circulation Committee

(David Leader, chair; Edward Bik; Sonja Bolle, public member)

SONJA BOLLE: SLOCOG has decided to halt efforts to add the Local Roads First Transportation Tax to the November 2024 ballot.

North County Transportation Planner John Dinunzio asked if Templeton maintained a list of priorities for road projects. This will be a project for the committee.

#### 8.5 Bylaws Special Committee

(Murray Powell)

MURRAY POWELL: We may need to take a look at our policies and procedures manual, and maybe draw up a civility statement.

#### 8.6 Water/Toad Creek Committee

(David Leader, chair; Jennifer Jones; Dorothy Jennings, public member)

#### 8.7 Elections Committee (everyone not running)

### 9. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DELEGATES (on items not on the agenda)

MURRAY POWELL: It was suggested in the CAC handbook to have a second open public comment period at the end of each meeting. It's a good idea; it gives the opportunity to ask questions and to make comments on what has happened at that meeting. TAAG should add a second public comment period to each agenda.

### 10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm