

**Springs Municipal Advisory Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**January 28, 2020**

**1. Call to Order 6:30**

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Lely acknowledged passing of MAC Councilperson Robyn Anderson. Condolences expressed to her family.

Roll Call: Chair Lely

Present: Iturri, Willett, Conlan, Goldman, Lombard

Absent: Wheatley

**2. Approval of Minutes of December 3, 2019**

Councilperson Conlan requested an Amendment to Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Minutes, p.5, Consideration of Future Agenda Items. Section to correct: *Councilperson Conlan, agenda item suggestion re MAC election requirements if done as part of a General Election. Been told it's not possible and too costly. [Section corrected per email 1/20/20 to: "I requested that an agenda item include what the process and cost is to elect MAC members as part of a general election versus the cost as a special election. We were promised that elected MAC members would be considered at some point. We would like to know the pros/cons and costs for doing it in a general election versus a special election. Please make that correction in the minutes and please add it to the agenda." ]*

Councilperson Goldman called for a Point of Order re specific questions asked in previous Minutes. When is appropriate time to get answers? Chair Lely, in section 7 of agenda - Future Agenda Items. Councilperson Goldman suggested also under Ad Hoc update section? Chair Lely, agreed.

Vice Chair Iturri moved to approve Minutes with Amendment. Seconded by Councilperson Goldman. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Public Comment**

(Limited to consent calendar and items not appearing on the agenda)

Mario Castillo, Spring's resident, member of Sonoma Valley Housing group. Invited MAC to a Community Forum organized w/ Vice Chair Iturri, the Sonoma Valley Housing Group and Verano School. A study has been done for the past five years to identify the school issues and support the school community. Housing was identified five years ago as an issue, now these challenges have become tragic. Purpose of Forum tomorrow is for community to share issues in housing that afflict this side of town. Sonoma Valley Housing group also taking on other issues: how elections have been done for the past 19 years. Pleased to report the School Board has agreed to change the way school elections are held. Mario also involved w/ UGB & Sonoma City Council, making advances in terms of their recommendations re how UGB is awarded. He encouraged deep conversations to position community for a better future. Hopes MAC can have conversations and show leadership re annexation to the City of Sonoma. Need profound conversations in Springs community for change to happen. Forum, 6pm, El Verano School. Jan 29, 2020.

Seth Dolinsky, invite to Superbowl Sunday pancake breakfast, long tradition, all organic local foods, Sunday 9-11:30am. Great Springs event. Grange Hall almost 100 years old.

Greg Larson, El Verano, concerned about plastic waste and wants to get this issue on the agenda for a good discussion. Noted that a few MAC members are aware of issue as they had their own stainless steel water containers. Plastic straws are being banned, but all forks, knives, plastic plates, cups, coffee cup lids, should also immediately be banned, which can be made from other plant based products. Need to address issue and get it to Supervisors. Need to stop putting it into ocean and landfills. It is a crisis. Need to step up and get Supervisors to make decision that will benefit all. What is process to get issue on agenda?

Chair Lely, can answer after the meeting. Greg, might not be present.

Tobias Weare, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Community Program Specialist, for intellectual & developmental disability community in North Bay area. Was at SDC during fire evacuation. Interested in disaster preparedness tips. Familiar w/ Napa Valley's plan, wants to know Springs/Sonoma/County. Talks to service providers and does trainings on disaster preparedness. Also doing a statewide plan, looking for input from community who are receiving services. Go to online survey w/ 1-11 categories to prioritize, including transportation, etc. Invited input, survey being done for the Federal government to target services for California. State Council on Developmental Disability [www.scdd.ca.gov](http://www.scdd.ca.gov)

#### 4. Community Disaster Preparedness Presentation

Chair Lely introduced speaker.

Nancy Brown – County of Sonoma Community Preparedness Program Manager

[Nancy.A.Brown@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Nancy.A.Brown@sonoma-county.org)

- Develop Disaster Preparedness Goals
- Create Action Plans to achieve Goals

Correction to agenda goal. **Objective – focus on community resilience.**

Preparedness is about resilience, but in past workshop addressed strengths and weaknesses.

##### **Power Point Presentation**

Will **Review** identified strategy components from previous meeting, **Rank** items in order of importance in each category, and difficulty, i.e. short term (less than 9 months), medium (9 months to 2 years), or long term (more than 2 years) with aim to have a balanced range.

##### **Create an Action Plan for Top 3.**

##### **REVIEW & RANK:**

##### **Social resources:**

Library/community center, long term

Plaza/develop, medium to long

More meeting areas, medium

More green space, medium to long

Cultural Center, long term

Promote/improve more small biz and help support, all three

True blended community/develop strategies, all  
Neighborhood preparedness/group development & support, short  
Community hubs in disaster, short

Public Comment: Mario, how are these goals achieved? Dependent on what resources? Context is important, to bring people into the conversation. It's a missed opportunity if people do not have access to previous information.

Nancy, agreed. Summarized from last meeting re components that contribute to a more resilient community, such as economic resilience and social resilience. Identify assets that communities have that help make them more resilient to disaster.

**Knowledge and Skill resources:**

Access to information for all, short  
Educational pieces from County, short, ongoing  
Improve resident literacy – using resources, some seniors don't use social media, that disaster information is understood by everyone, short  
Improve insurance IQ for residents/understand insurance better, medium  
Signing up for Pulse Point (disaster phone app)/digital literacy, short  
NOAA radio. Signing up for Nixle & SoCo Alerts, short

*Request for clarification on workshop objective.*

Nancy, after deciding if short, medium, or long term, then rank in priority 1-8. Goal to come up w/ **Top 3 Items** ready to take to committee. List will continue to be addressed.

Councilperson Goldman, will these goals go to an Ad Hoc committee or whole committee?

Nancy, ideally they will go to a committee of two. Councilperson Goldman, is there an Ad Hoc committee for emergency preparedness? Chair Lely, no.

*Further discussion on digital literacy.* Smart phone alerts: finding equity in platforms.

NOAA radio knowledge for community, weather reports, has battery backup, has own radio tower on top of Mount Sonoma w/ own battery backup, can reach community, just started using in last year. In other parts of country common for weather alerts. Needs to be socialized in California. Cell phone companies/telecom industry can also help.

**Physical resources:**

Local shelter plan, med  
Grants for funding, long  
Develop emergency supply cache, med  
Additional escape routes, short  
Rebuilding local structures w/ sustainable methods, ongoing

**Cultural Resources:**

Teach/encourage inclusion, long  
Promote support everyone helping, ongoing  
Bilingual social messaging, short  
Create a culture of preparedness, ongoing

Public Comment: Mario, once the list of things is created & they've come up w/ budget to make it happen, will the county be supporting? That would determine pace of goals. This community has been isolated in the past.

Liz, yes the cost of things are wide & varied, like plaza more expensive than signing up for Nixle. Short term goals more affordable than long.

Goals become advocacy for MAC, not policy

*Discussion on potential for grant funding*

Nancy spoke to county grant writer today, those projects MAC wants to advocate for could be researched, and then all consulted including Supervisors when appropriate.

Liz, MAC has a budget allocated for administrative processes. Establish funding for small projects. Community resilience projects.

Councilperson Goldman, her department has budget? Nancy, yes. Councilperson Goldman, and their priorities reflect the same ones being discussed tonight, so MAC would be looking to her department for support? Nancy, yes.

Councilperson Conlan, if there are initiatives already planned out, MAC needs to know how to fit in to the plans in place.

Nancy, yes, e.g. the Library "Sonoma Ready" program, 36 education programs, 3 at each of 12 libraries. Breaks Emergency Preparedness into 3 pieces: Build a Home Kit Go Bag. Making a Plan/writing it up. Ways to Stay Informed and Connected. Other programs coming up.

Different agencies within the county have support for you; to help develop strategies, provide printed material and expertise.

Councilperson Lombard, researched library, not helpful.

Nancy – go to [socoemergency.org](http://socoemergency.org) under "prepared" tab – subtitle - Education and Events page, click on Sonoma Ready, will see schedule, location.

Councilperson Iturri, bilingual? Nancy, yes.

Nancy, Sonoma flyer not ready yet; partnership w/ library providing flyers, location, advertising. County providing the program.

Workshop continued with DISCUSSION on RANKING. Selected 8.

### **Suggested Top 3 Projects**

1. Access to information (all the alert systems)
2. Community hubs in disasters
3. Shelter plan

Public Comment: Mario, we need to be mindful of what can and can't be done. Based on what? Are there community resources? Nancy identified examples of resources. E.g. Alert & Warning Manager. County doing work and MAC are advisors. Nancy is one of the guides.

Councilperson Conlan suggested sequence: what is available, who's in charge, how does MAC fill in, then move on to make a plan, and communicate it

Chair Lely summarized, the MAC and the community are finding their way together. Grateful to Nancy for her time and expertise.

*Request for clarification on MAC's purpose. Suggestions. DISCUSSION.*

Liz, yes, MAC can take on community projects, like the Glen Ellen Forum. Volunteer projects

part of MAC's purview. She is meeting w/ Diamond A next week, have established their own fire safe council. Will need county to sign off on plan. Many ways to mobilize and achieve goals w/o county. Councilperson Goldman suggested establishing a Spring's group for emergency preparedness w/ help of Ad Hoc Committee.

Nancy, yes but there's lots involved w/ success of recommended programs. E.g. the library program involves instruction. Not just food and water. Want to inspire people to put in what's important to them. Bring unique needs like hearing aid batteries.

Councilperson Goldman, what % of county is prepared? Nancy, different studies say 30 - 60%? She questions the data. Councilperson Goldman, more like 20%.

Councilperson Conlan suggested a FLOW CHART of available resources, so groups can coordinate.

Chair Lely acknowledged overview, called for completion of workshop goal/resolution.

Councilperson Lombard, goals of MAC are aspirational. Some are up on board. Creating a resilient blended community w/ connections, as they move towards creating community w/ short term goals, the long term goals will be easier.

Public Comment: Mario hopes members of MAC make recommendation, recognizing what is urgent, what is long term. As a community person, he asks what recommendations are, how can he be involved, what will county do to support these recommendations? Recognizes the process but he comes from a place of urgency as well. Can identify the needs now – like housing, yes, long term, but also need to respond to immediate needs in the next 8 months.

Chair Lely, yes, wants to define short term goals & have resolutions more quickly. Wants to be effective for community. MAC goal to decide and share w/ BoS via Liz.

Councilperson Conlan, after fires, did county do an assessment? What does it say? Doesn't know how safe we are. Nancy, cannot answer that question.

Chair Lely, good question for Ad Hoc to ask in private conversation w/ Nancy and county, to return w/ report.

Advisory Board needs to know what resources are from county. Some things are already done.

Nancy, yes, but to get info/materials from County to individuals in community, need trusted community partners. Need to complete exercise.

Chair Lely thanked all for comments, and Nancy for her guidance and efforts.

## **Break**

Chair Lely, hopes to select Ad Hoc; choose short, medium, long term goals; select Top 3 Items.

DISCUSSION - how to be inclusive of multiple priorities, i.e. housing, annexation, etc.

Suggestions:

- revisit MAC By Laws to review Authority & Purpose to define MAC's responsibilities, including State's perspective.

- working w/ specific Emergency Preparedness goals will contribute to evolution/success of multiple goals/priorities

Decision to vote on goals, create Ad Hoc to do further analysis, return w/ recommendations.

## **TOP 3 GOALS:**

1. *Social Resources*: **Community hubs in a disaster**/a resource center. A place for community to gather to get information. Nancy, could put a ham radio operator there, to link w/

county. A place to publicize, establish place to give & receive info. Could have multiple hubs like Hannah Boys Center.

2. *Knowledge and Skills Resources*: **All emergency alerts**, access to information
3. *Physical Resources*: **Local shelter plan**, short, medium and long term. Coordinating w/ community hubs. Info for people how to get there, access? Maybe another goal?

Nancy wants better network connections in neighborhood. Those people who have good neighborhood connections survive better; those isolated have trouble. Build community groups. Like Neighborhood Watch programs. A medium goal.

Chair Lely called for Comments and then a Motion.

Councilperson Lombard encouraged including bilingual social messaging, in universal access to emergency alerts.

Chair Lely called for Public Comment. None.

Vice Chair Iturri made a Motion to create an Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc committee, that will address top 3 goals identified by MAC, with caveat that some adjustments may be made to goals depending on research. Councilperson Willet Seconded.

**Unanimous vote. All in favor.**

Nancy, could be called the Community Resilience Ad Hoc.

Chair Lely, ok. Changed name to **Community Resilience Ad Hoc Committee**.

Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc is Vice Chair Iturri, Councilpersons Willet and Lombard.

## 5. Ad Hoc Committee Updates

Chair Lely suggested five minute updates

Councilperson Goldman requested info from last report to be presented at this meeting.

Questions: Does each supervisor have funds for district? Is information available on the MAC budget?

Chair Lely, does not have that information.

Liz replied, yes, there is a budget for MAC, approximately \$70-80 thousand.

Councilperson Goldman again requested info on budget, what dollars are already allocated?

What are costs up to date, on a monthly basis so MAC can project what is available, relating to short term goals of creating identity?

Liz, can provide info for administrative costs. Chair Lely apologized for not having info.

Chair Lely, report on Plaza Ad Hoc, researched funding, design, maintenance - has list of possible people to chat with for agenda.

Councilperson Lombard, Nancy mentioned a survey on community safety. Available?

Chair Lely, perfect goal for new Ad Hoc to reach out to Nancy or Supervisor Gorin, report back at next meeting.

Public Comment. None

## 6. Community Event Announcements

Mario's Community Forum, 6pm, El Verano School

Vice Chair Iturri, online registration public pre-schools beginning Feb 5<sup>th</sup>; Feb 19<sup>th</sup> public pre-school presentation

Councilperson Lombard, Emergency Preparedness at library starting April 1<sup>st</sup> and following two weeks.

Councilperson Conlan, Springs Community Alliance has new executive committee. Veronica Napoles, Chair; Jennifer Gray Thompson, Vice Chair; Bill Hoban, Secretary; and AnnMarie Miller, Treasurer. Will bring report. Meetings TBD.

## **7. Consideration of Future Agenda Items**

Chair Lely: Eric Roeser, County Tax Auditor presentation on tax dollars, cost of running a city and city services. County and city, looking at incorporation, need tax funds. Will be a Q&A series. Can submit questions ahead of time to speaker.

Chair Lely: discussion on size of Council, since missing two members, need to replace, add or downsize.

Councilperson Goldman: Springs Specific Plan, wants as much advance notice as possible to be prepared. Chair Lely, unsure if it will be a joint meeting w/ SVCAC? Liz, SVCAC has seen it.

Possibly won't return till April? Councilperson Conlan, planner confirmed it would be brought back to Springs, separate from SVCAC. Councilperson Goldman, important to him to be able to attend and know the dates.

Councilperson Goldman: suggestion from his Development Ad Hoc to bring someone from planning or PRMD for an update on all the projects commercial and residential. A couple on table for a long time.

Councilperson Conlan: discussion about item in Minutes. Would like to see a brief discussion about cost of elections. Liz, will be part of discussion on item on MAC changes/downsize; including if there will be an election.

Councilperson Goldman: questions about project on Verano? What's happening? EIR? Progress update. Will have profound impact on community. Need contact info of developers.

Councilperson Willett: keep County Fire in mind to get information related to Emergency Prep

Councilperson Goldman: Supervisor Gorin mentioned business development person in county, would be great for an update, how to partner w/ business community

## **8. Adjourned unanimously at 8:47**

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Springs Municipal Advisory Council after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Board of Supervisors' Office located at 575 Administration Drive, Room 100-AI, Santa Rosa, CA, during normal business hours

Web Links: County of Sonoma: [www.sonoma-county.org](http://www.sonoma-county.org) select Boards and Commission

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Contact: Liz Hamon, Administrative Aide to Supervisor Susan Gorin – [liz.hamon@sonoma-county.org](mailto:liz.hamon@sonoma-county.org)

**To view video of the meeting go to: "SMACJAN" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tU6DJT3xrg>**

Can be found on KSVY.ORG website, under "youtube"

