



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council

AGENDA

Regular Meeting

April 11, 2024 05:30 PM

Fife Creek Commons Community Room - 16376 5th Street, Guerneville, CA 95446

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/lrrmac>

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/97263500750?pwd=aHV4bUpXc1BGdW0xNGdMbEt6bkVadz09>

Chair & Rio Nido Representative: Pip Marquez de la Plata • Vice Chair & Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls • Guerneville Representative: Joe Rogoff • Guerneville Representative: Spencer R. Scott • Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon Representative: Betsy Van Dyke • Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker • Hacienda Representative: Vicki Clewes • Forestville Representative: Lonnie Lazar • Forestville Representative: Thai Hilton

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

The Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council will make reasonable accommodations for persons having special needs due to disabilities. Please contact the Fifth District Field Representative at 707-565-1219 during regular business hours at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to ensure necessary accommodations are made.

1. Call to Order

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

2. Approval of Agenda

Discussion Possible Action

This approval process ensures that the agenda accurately reflects the items to be discussed and decided upon. Members may request adjustments to the agenda, including reordering or deletion of items at this time. Any changes must comply with the Brown Act requirements for public notice and agenda setting. The agenda must be finalized before the Council proceeds with other meeting items.

3. Statement of Conflict of Interest

Discussion

This is the time for the Chair, Vice Chair and Council Members to indicate any statements of conflict of interest for any item listed on this agenda. The River MAC bylaws state that members will not involve themselves in official River MAC activities that could materially benefit them personally, their business interests, or the interests of organizations that they represent. In a conflict of interest, the member will abstain from voting, and the abstention will be recorded in the minutes.

4. Consent Agenda

Discussion **Possible Action**

These items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. The Lower Russian River MAC will act upon them at one time without discussion. Any Representatives, staff member or interested party may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

A. March 14 Minutes

5. Councilmember comment on matters not listed on the agenda

Discussion

Comments are restricted to matters within the Board's jurisdiction. Please be brief and limit spoken comments to one minute. Due to Brown Act regulations, this is not a time for discussion of any item, however a brief dialogue about considering an item for a future agenda is permitted during this time.

6. Public Comments

On Matters not listed on the agenda: Comments are restricted to matters within the Lower Russian River MAC's jurisdiction. Please be brief and limit spoken comments to two minutes.

7. CARE Court Overview

Discussion

Sid McColley, Acute & Forensic Services Section Manager, Sonoma County Health Services will provide an overview of the upcoming implementation of CARE Court in Sonoma County.

8. George's Hideaway Update

Discussion

Rhonda Coffman with the Sonoma County Community Development Commission (CDC) and the project team will provide an update on the status of the permanent supportive housing and navigation center in Guerneville.

9. Committee & Community Project Reports

Discussion **Possible Action**

Written reports are included for review.

A. Community Engagement and Outreach Ad Hoc - no report

B. Land Use Standing Committee

C. Land Acknowledgement Committee

D. Governance Solutions Engagement Plan Ad Hoc

E. Guerneville Plaza Infrastructure Recommendations Ad Hoc

F. Community Stewardship Project

10. Adjournment



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council

Minutes

Regular Meeting

March 14, 2024 05:30 PM

Fife Creek Commons Community Room - 16376 5th Street, Guerneville, CA 95446

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/lrrmac>

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Chair & Rio Nido Representative: Pip Marquez de la Plata.

Video recording of meeting available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWlhurxlcmc>

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Lead by Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker

B. Roll Call

Present: Chair & Rio Nido Representative: Pip Marquez de la Plata, Guerneville Representative: Joe Rogoff, Guerneville Representative: Spencer R. Scott, Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon Representative: Betsy Van Dyke, Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker, Vice Chair & Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls, Hacienda Representative: Vicki Clewes, Forestville Representative: Lonnie Lazar, Forestville Representative: Thai Hilton

Staff Present: Debbie Ramirez, Mia Pedrazzetti

- 2. Approval of Agenda** Vice Chair & Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls motioned to approve. A second was made by Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker.

The motion passed with the following vote:

9 In Favor 0 Opposed

0 Abstained 0 Absent

3. Statement of Conflict of Interest

there was no statement of conflict of interest

4. Consent Agenda

A. February 8 Minutes

B. Letter of Support to Congressman Jared Huffman regarding the Lower Russian River Sanitation District's Community Project Funding Request for the Wet Weather Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrades project.

C. Letter of Commendation to REDCOM for exemplary service during the storm event of Sunday February 4, 2024

Field Representative Debbie Ramirez corrected typos on the February 8th minutes. Changes were made to number two approval of the agenda; correction from motion failed to motion passed with nine in favor and zero opposed. Joe Rogoff's name was added to formation of land use ad-hoc.

Letter of support of Congressman Huffman regarding Lower Russian River Sanitation District Community Project.

Letter of commendation to REDCOM for exemplary service during the storm event of Sunday February 4, 2024

Mike Nicholls asked to remove item B from consent agenda due to multiple comments he wishes to make on the item.

Questions posed by Mike Nicholls were answered by Kent Gylfe with Sonoma Water and Emma Walton Operations Manager with Sonoma Water.

Motion to send letter regarding item B of consent agenda motioned by Lonnie Lazar Seconded by Betsy Van Dyke. Passed with vote of 9 in favor and 0 opposed

Hacienda Representative: Vicki Clewes motioned to approve. A second was made by Guerneville Representative: Spencer R. Scott.

The motion passed with the following vote:

 9 In Favor 0 Opposed
 0 Abstained 0 Absent

5. Councilmember comment on matters not listed on the agenda

6. Public Comments

A resident of Forestville commented on the proposal of Canyon Rock Quarry to establish an asphalt plant. The community is divided on this issue, some support it and some are against it.

Community member seeking recommendation for rumble strips and speed limit radar signs in the area of Hacienda neighborhood, near River Road.

Community member thanks staff of District 5 for help received during flooding in the Sycamore Cottages area.

Community member introduces himself and his program Russian River Youth Program; teaching activities to local children.

Community member informs about her interview with staff of the Canyon Rock Quarry regarding the possible formation of an asphalt plant.

7. County Update from Supervisor Lynda Hopkins / Staff

Field representative Debbie Ramirez reported about the opening of Guerneville Satellite Office and informs about how to schedule appointment via email to district5@sonoma-county.org.

Debbie asked councilmembers about their availability to table at events taking place in May and June.

8. Renter Protections for Unincorporated Residential Tenants

Listening session conducted by Erik Romero policy analyst with County Administrators Office, Deputy county administrator , Liz Coleman deputy county counselor. With the goal of hearing community input on protections for unincorporated residents.

9. Committee & Community Project Reports

A. Community Engagement and Outreach Ad Hoc

No Action

B. Land Use Standing Committee

No Action

C. Land Acknowledgement Committee - no report

No Action

D. Governance Solutions Engagement Plan Ad Hoc - no report

No Action

E. Guerneville Plaza Infrastructure Recommendations Ad Hoc - no report

Joe Rogoff provided an update including community members involved and plans for funding. Call scheduled with Johannes on March 20th. Mags is working with Chamber of Commerce to gauge the interest of local businesses in hosting events at the Guerneville Plaza.

F. Community Stewardship Project

No Action

10. Prospective future agenda items - Informational item

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 7:13 PM

Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council

575 Administration Drive, Room 100A
Santa Rosa CA 95403

April 1, 2024

To: Lower Russian River MAC Representatives and Alternates
From: Paty Thayer – Land Use Committee Chair
Subject: Land Use Sub-Committee Meeting and Upcoming Events

The Land Use Committee did not hold a meeting on April 4, 2024 due to a lack of agenda items. We do want to note for the MAC and the public two upcoming events.

First, the Gran Fondo cycling event is scheduled for April 13, starting at 8 a.m. from Windsor. The course includes portions of the Lower Russian River, including River Road between Windsor and Guerneville, Highway 116 between Guerneville to Cazadero Hwy, and Cazadero Hwy to Cazadero and including King Ridge Rd within our jurisdiction. For more detail, please see <https://www.levisgranfondo.com/routes>. Please avoid driving over the route during the event, if possible, so as to give the riders a safe event.

Second, the County is seeking public comment on a proposed update to Sonoma County's cannabis ordinance. According the notice from Permit Sonoma: "County officials are seeking feedback on proposed policy changes that emphasize neighborhood compatibility and environmental stewardship before the project moves forward to the environmental impact report process. The proposed ordinance would allow most cannabis operations to be permitted by right, and not subject to review, in areas zoned as industrial and commercial; eliminate term limits and permit renewals; apply land-use regulations uniformly to medical and adult-use cannabis; adjust setback requirements that protect concentrated residential development; and allow on-site retail consumption, subject to relevant health ordinances." The comment period closes on May 2, 2024.

Sincerely,

Paty Thayer, Chair, Land Use Suite-Committee
Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council
Land Acknowledgement Ad Hoc Committee
April 2024

Members: Lisa Nahmanson (Chair: MAC Alternate Forestville); Vicki Clewes (MAC Representative: Hacienda); Patty Thayer (MAC Alternate: Monte Rio/Villa Grande).

Staff: Debbie Ramirez and Lupe Catalan

Objectives:

- Educate ourselves on the purpose, content, impact and prior or current use of Land Acknowledgements by Sonoma County agencies/committees/councils
- Coordinate with County legal and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) resources to understand the context and process by which Land Acknowledgments have been (or have not been) implemented in Sonoma County
- Work with staff at District 5 to connect with Coastal MAC and other MACs to appreciate current and prior contacts with local tribes and potentially broaden the membership of the ad hoc committee

Results:

- The ad hoc would like guidance from the Supervisor's Office: what are the current protocols for Land Acknowledgement?
- The ad hoc has studied this topic and learned a vast amount and we believe that we need to take the lead from District 5 and the County on the topic of Land Acknowledgement.
- We recommend that the River MAC have an agenda item where a Native Indigenous Speaker or Series of Speakers discuss the topic for the River MAC community.
- We recommend that the ad hoc be concluded at this time.

LRRMAC Guerneville Plaza Ad Hoc Update – March/April 2024

Present: Betsy VanDyke, Spencer Scott and Chair Joe Rogoff, LRRMAC, Che Casul D5, Herman Hernandez and Mags Van Der Veen, Community Members.

We reviewed the mandate of the ad hoc: to solicit community input in order to make a recommendation to the LRRMAC on a new design for the Guerneville Plaza.

Ché summarized the phone call with PI Director Johannes Hoevertsz, who recommended that we use Praxis Architects (who are designing the proposed park at the west end of town) to create design options to present to the public. He clarified that PI is the agency responsible for the plaza. We asked that he look at some interim improvements, starting with lighting, which he agreed to. Herman brought to our attention that Guerneville has a lighting district, which has county funds that could be accessible for this project. Ché said he'd look into it.

We discussed the desired outcome of the plaza redesign: that it be open enough to accommodate events such as the Farmers Market and concerts, that it does not provide hidden areas where the Sheriff's patrols cannot see, that it and the pedestrian bridge be visible from Main Street and that it feel welcoming to all. In order to accomplish this, our view is that most of the trees and landscaping would be removed, that electric service be adequate for the aforementioned events and that a stage be either built or have a space to be erected as needed. We'd also want some landscaping, but low and possibly just on the borders. Herman also mentioned some deficiencies in the current plaza - poor water drainage and uneven surfaces that are trip hazards. We want to communicate our thoughts for how the plaza would feel and perform rather than to describe exact specifications to the architects.

Ché has written to Brian at Praxis to schedule a meeting, hopefully for the week of April 1, where we will ask if they are interested in taking on the job, get an idea of at least initial retainer cost and an estimate of total fees, and ask about a proposed process and timeline. Our hope is to first get funding to retain Praxis and work with them to develop a set of draft designs to present in a public meeting.

Next steps:

- Meet with Praxis
- Create a proposal to MAC/D5
- Mags will meet with direct business neighbors of the site for their input
- Further our discussion about ramping up events in the current plaza. We need someone to coordinate this.
- Investigate funding options for music and events: Creative Sonoma, CIF grants...
- Discuss interim actions with Johannes - tree removal, lighting... and request funding from MAC/D5
- Be pre-authorized with funding to perform the renovation
- Obtain design options from Praxis
- Call a town hall/community meeting to present design options to the public and choose one
- Get proposals for the work and draft a request for funding



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council

Community Project: STEWARDSHIP

APRIL 2024 Report

Members: Lisa Nahmanson (Chair: Forestville Alternate); Vicki Clewes (MAC Representative: Hacienda); Brian Andriola (MAC Alternate: Hacienda); Patty Thayer (MAC Alternate: Monte Rio/Villa Grande); Vesta Copestakes (Volunteer: Forestville (Past Rep from Forestville)); Carol Shumate (Volunteer: Russian Riverkeepers); we would love to have more community volunteers on our Stewardship Project.

Staff: Debbie Ramirez and Lupe Catalan

Student Paid Intern: Mia Pedrazzetti

Next Meeting Time: 4th Thursday of the month at 5 pm. (4/25/24 at 5pm)

What is a Community Project?

- A community project does not have an advisory role
- A community project can be ongoing, and does not have limitations in the same way that an ad hoc does (created for a specific purpose and defined time) therefore better able to be nimble and responsive to community needs as they occur.
- When rotating members at the end of each year, we will need to ensure consistency of project purpose and focus.

What we are currently engaged in:

- 4/20/24: Villa Grande Earth Day Clean Up. Patty Thayer has organized with the County and Recology who are providing a Dumpster for organics. Does your group need a Dumpster for organics for a Clean Up? Get in touch and we can help connect you to the right people at the County!!
- Patty also found out from the County that they will no longer be doing Dump Days! It seems there are liability issues with a Dump Day: it would need to be permitted as a Transfer Station and there is not enough staffing at the County for this. Our group sees this as a problem, one which we would like our D5 staff to help us look into further.

- Brian reminded us that it is Scotch broom season so now is a good time to deal with it! Perhaps a reminder in the D5 newsletter?
- Vicki and Brian have reported that they tried to mitigate graffiti on the Hacienda bridge, to no avail. (Vicki would paint over it and it would come back stronger). They are now looking into “slow down” signs for the Bridge. Vicki is doing research on this topic.
- Lisa and Vicki attended the Forestville Planning Association meeting on 4/2/24 to present about our Stewardship Project. They are interested in “slow down in town” signs (like what Hacienda is looking into, like what Rio Nido has) so we will follow up with D5 on that topic. Since 116 is a State HWY, it could be a CalTrans issue. Forestville also wants to host another Dump Day (see above, we will follow up)
- We are trying to get the word out about Household Hazardous Waste and E Waste Collection Dates. The County will add these dates to the D5 newsletter and distribute fliers. Thank you Debbie for picking them up.
- CLEAN TEAM FUNDING: Carol mentioned that this is an ongoing issue. She took County Staff on a tour of River Clean Up hotspots during winter. We can promote Riverkeepers clean up days at Farmers Markets and other events during summer.

Future Discussion Topics:

- Helping Seniors in our community.
- Toilets for summer visitors
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advocacy
- Does your group want to hear from our Stewardship Project at your next meeting? Get in touch with your local MAC representative or at Lisa.Rivermac@gmail.com

Report to the Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council from the Ad Hoc Committee on Governance

I. Statement of Mission

The committee discussed how to best describe its mission, and this was the result: “To help the MAC identify ways to create genuine dialogue regarding community governance by building partnerships with the community through a variety of avenues”

II. Process followed by Ad Hoc Committee

The committee met once by zoom and once in person to share perspectives and ideas, including a discussion about the community comments made during the Governance Study public meetings. We also consulted with District 5 staff regarding our options for meetings and communications (including Brown Act issues). Finally, we obtained input from people in our communities about how they felt about the governance alternatives and the process for moving forward.

III. Recommendations

- A. We recommend that the LRRMAC facilitate the formation of a Working Group representative of all of the LRR communities, whose purpose is to undertake the substantive and procedural work detailed below. Ideally, the Working Group will include MAC members. We do not recommend that MAC take the lead alone on any of the substantive work.

- This will entail identifying and contacting LRR groups that may already be discussing and working on the governance issues and that want to help organize and educate the LRR communities. MAC would facilitate forming an inclusive, representative and motivated group to undertake the substantive work.

Note: The Working Group will need to acknowledge that the ultimate decision on governance may be different from one community to the next.

- B. We further recommend that the Working Group undertake a thorough, substantive analysis of relevant data pertinent to the various governance options.
 - 1. It is important to summarize/simplify the final Governance Study Report to make it more accessible to the community

(including a 1 or 2-page document for use as handouts and for social media).

2. The Working Group should meet with Blue Sky/County officials to enable it to fully understand, substantiate and explain the data underlying the final Report.
 3. The Working Group should also meet with any individuals or groups in the LRR who have developed data or have proposals about governance that may be either consistent with or differ from Blue Sky's report.
 4. It should also be a responsibility of the Working Group to research the possibility of changing current law (which requires budget "neutrality" for incorporation), and how a change of law might impact residents' views of the governance options. For this action item it will be critical to coordinate with the Board of Supervisors, which is looking into the option.
- C. Our committee also recommends that the LRRMAC representatives connect with the community to educate and receive input about all of the above, while coordinating with the Working Group. We believe it important to convene and/or attend:
- Community meetings (including Homeowners' Associations)
 - Focus/Study groups
 - Townhall meetings
 - Tabling at community events
 - MAC meeting discussions
 - Online engagement campaigns: "Did you know"
 - Posters/signage
 - District 5 newsletter announcements
- D. Finally, we support the dissemination of a broad-based survey to LRR residents (**after** educational and feedback activities have concluded) to assess the level of consensus within the various communities.
1. Gauge the interest in our community members to approve specific governance changes, if any.
 2. Identify any concerns community members have about the choices available.
 3. Identify people who are willing to help organize, draft documents, meet with LAFCO, etc.