

# MARK WEST CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes, July 13, 2022, 6:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting

Video Available Send request to [MarkWestCAC@gmail.com](mailto:MarkWestCAC@gmail.com)

**A) Call to Order:** Chair Fies called to order, the regular meeting of Mark West Citizens Advisory Council at 6:10 pm.

1. Roll Call

Members present: Chair Karen Fies, Heidi Would, Stephanie Bisordi

Members absent: Brad Sherwood, Willie Lamberson

Others present: Jen Mendoza, Field Representative Representing Supervisor James Gore, 4th District, County of Sonoma; Aggie Maggio, Secretary, Mark West Citizens Advisory Council (MWCAC) (via Zoom)

One community member in physical attendance: Bob Cipolla

2. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Would, second by Bisordi, the minutes of the regular MWCAC meeting, June 8, 2022, were approved.

The motion carried on a voice vote. (3-0-2)

**B) Presentations:** Action Items

Procedure: 1. Presentation 2. Questions by council members 3. Questions/comments from the public

1. Presentation: Homes 4 The Homeless (Business in Fulton and discussion on Porta Potties)

No one from the business was able to attend. Agreed to not add this item to the August agenda, unless we hear from the business.

**C) Presentations of Referrals from Permit Sonoma:** ACTION ITEM **None**

Consideration of proposed projects will proceed as follows: 1. Presentation by project applicant 2. Questions by Councilmembers 3. Questions and comments from the public 4. Response by applicant, if required 5. Comments by Council members 6. Resolution, ACTION, if indicated.

**D) Council Member Announcements/Information/Discussions/Disclosures:** Information only, unless stated **None**

**E) Subcommittee Reports & Discussions:** ACTION ITEM

1. Neighborhood Improvement Funding Program (NIFP) Subcommittee (Fies/Sherwood) **None**

2. Rebuild/Fire Mitigation Subcommittee (Sherwood/Fies)

Fies: Attended the Congressman Huffman meeting hosted by the Mark West Chamber of Commerce. One question that came up from the audience was about the federal and state bills that would exclude income from fire victims' settlements from income tax. The federal bill is HR7305 and the State bill is AB1249. She is looking further into those.

Congressman Huffman also said that there is increased federal money to train fire fighters, for community resiliency, vegetative management and establishing evacuation routes. He was not sure if it is available yet.

Met with Sonoma Resource Conservation District (RCD) Walked along Mark West Creek from Riebli to Londenberry. They are providing some rebuilding and restoration advise for the creek, damaged from the fire. They have to wait until the septic issues are dealt with on Londonberry and the Golf Course land is transferred.

3. Wikiup Open Space (Lamberson/Would) **None**

4. Sonoma County General Plan (GP) for Mark West Area (Lamberson/Would) **None**

5. Community Services District (CSD) Subcommittee (Sherwood/Lamberson) **None**

Amendment to Agenda (as part of the Rebuild/Fire Mitigation report out):

Report on Mark West and Geyserville Watersheds - Jen Mendoza:

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All supervisors were allotted a portion of \$100,000 for vegetation management in their districts. Supervisor Gore decided to use his share for watershed areas because they are areas somewhat neglected. Cloverdale is already being worked on and they will soon be moving down to Geyserville and Russian River. Jen requested that the Mark West Creek and Geyserville be priorities. While trying to avoid the permitting process, they are still hoping for some work to start this summer. Mark West is pretty dense and there are requirements about staying a given distance from the water.

Public Comments:

1. Catherine Dodd: Does watershed include creek bed? Response: Yes, but the permitting to be in the creek bed is pretty substantial. Have to stay a given distance from water and not disturb any soil. Any equipment is inspected daily. They are limbing up trees to a given point, while keeping the canopy. Trying to mitigate disturbance of soil. Nothing in or out of water. No pesticides.

**F) Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:**

1. Lori Barber via chat: Has anyone requested a crosswalk at El Mercado and Wikiup Drive? Extremely difficult to cross due to speed of traffic. Response: Fies/Mendoza: haven't heard anything.

Council/Community Discussion:

Council Members:

- It's a tough area.
- Speed needs to be reduced somehow.
- It's dangerous.
- There is a day care center there.

Mendoza: A few things:

- During the walkabout last fall, we looked at problem spots and talked about a road diet in front of the Larkfield shopping center. It isn't designed yet, but got some funding. It has to be approved by the Board but we are thinking we have some dollars to put towards this.
- The Hawk light will be soon, and then do some striping at St. James crosswalk. She can ask to have a crosswalk striped in El Mercado and Wikiup Drive also. No paving in Larkfield till next year.
- Speed bumps are a separate issue. There is a speed bump policy at the County. Residents would have to pay for improvements. Someone in the neighborhood would have to fill out a neighborhood improvement application. Would need a temporary speed bump for residents to experience before final neighborhood approval. They create noise so sometimes close neighbors don't want one. Some criteria has to be met, such as not being a major thoroughfare. Wikiup could be excluded if too busy. She will check on the policy and distribute it to those on the list if desired.

Lori Barber via Chat: Would like a crosswalk and maybe warning signs to slow down cars.

Catherine Dodd via Chat:

- Wants to work on Map Your Neighborhood
- Thank Jen for Board of Supervisors letter to Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Trees she talked about in the past that are dying on the lower golf course on Wikiup, at Carriage
- Sidewalk: Wikiup to where sidewalk stops on Carriage
- Response - Mendoza:
  - o She had received an email from a community member and connected that person with Tony Korman to deal with those trees. Will follow up.
  - o Sidewalk on Carriage Lane: Striping this year and some bumps. Will follow up on sidewalks.

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- o She will follow up on Carriage Lane sidewalk.

2. Bob Cipolla. Reminder that he has brought forth two issues:

- Be able to safely walk from Schopflin Park to the Kaiser facility
- Community input on this community park. Suggest to agendaize the issue so he could speak to that subject.
- Responses:
  - o Chair Fies: Will talk about Schopflin Park on G3 of the agenda. No news yet on the walk to Kaiser.
  - o Mendoza: County does not do sidewalks. She is trying to find another way to do it. County would not maintain it.

#### Council/Community Discussion

- There may be a way but it would be handled by property owners that about the sidewalk.
- Like being done in Wikiup, not so structural?
- It is mainly a safety issue. Interested in finding a way for the community.
- Kaiser contribute?
- Bay Area Air Quality Board or Metropolitan Transportation System?
- Mendoza is working on getting state and federal money. She is not expecting anything to happen quickly. She will look for grants also.
- Keep it on the agenda.

#### **G) Pending Items:** Updates when available

1. Utilities & Water – Margaret DiGenova **None**

2. Hawk Light - Jen Mendoza: Scheduled to begin July 25. It will block access to the middle entrance to Larkfield Center for a little while. End sections will be open. Expect about three weeks of work. There will be signage in advance. Thank you for your patience.

3. Schopflin Field - Chair Fies/Mendoza: Bert Whitaker, Sonoma County Regional Parks, said construction for the walk around Schopflin field should begin around August or September. She isn't sure what it will be but doesn't expect it to be loose gravel or paved.

#### Community Discussion:

Catherine Dodd via Chat: What is going on with the fields?

Responses:

- Chair Fies: Not sure what or when. Water and maintenance is an issue.
- Mendoza: Whitaker told her there was no alternative to Astro Turf. She will look into surface materials.

Bob Cipola clarified that he wants the future of the park in general to be on the agenda for next meeting. His goal is to have the community be involved in the future plans.

4. Blue Book Updates: Boundaries Chair Fies: The committee is working on setting a date for a community meeting for open discussion on the boundaries. Lamberson and Sherwood are not in attendance to report.

Mendoza: Maybe the second /Wednesday in September after the MWCAC meeting.

Would: She will work with Catherine Dodd on Map your Neighborhood.

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**H) Correspondence:** Information Only **None**

**I) Future Agenda Items:** Potential projects and/or suggestions for future MWCAC meetings

1. Possibility of an update on the COPE program in Wikiup (Or possibly Map Your Neighborhood) (TBD)
2. Possible speaker on home hardening and vegetation management (TBD)
3. Possible community clean up? Maybe in partnership with the Chamber. (TBD)
4. List of unmet needs projects for Larkfield/Mark West/Wikiup (Presentation: Sherwood/Lamberson) (TBD)
5. Discussion about the impact of the possibility of a Casino on Shiloh Rd. on Mark West area (TBD)
6. Presentation/Discussion: Community input on future of Schopflin Park – Bob Cipola & a representative from the Parks Department

**J) Adjournment:** ACTION ITEM

There being no other business to discuss, on a motion by Would, seconded by Bisordi, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm. (3-0-2)

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Approved Date:

Chair

**MWCAC MEETINGS: 6:00 PM—SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

**Hybrid Meetings until further notice**

**Mark West School District Office, The Learning Center, 305 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa**

**(NOTE: Location or time may change due to anticipated greater community participation.)**

**Be sure to check the MWCAC website for meeting agenda, location & time**

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