

## MARK WEST CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes, August 10, 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 6:00 pm.

1. Roll Call

Members present: Chair Karen Fies, Heidi Would, Stephanie Bisordi, Brad Sherwood (via Zoom)

Members absent: 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)

2. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Would, second by Bisordi, the minutes of the regular MWCAC meeting, July 13, 2022, were approved. The motion carried on a voice vote. (4-0-1)

**B) Presentations:** Action Items **None**

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

**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) Jen Mendoza Announcements/Reports:** Information only, unless stated

1. Crosswalk at El Mercado and Wikiup Drive: It's on the list. It will happen when the striping happens this year.

2. Sidewalk on Carriage Lane: TPW will include it and bumps with the striping this year.

3. Hawk Light Follow up: It is in process of installation in front of Molsberry Market. It is basically a crosswalk light that turns into a red light as people are crossing. When a pedestrian pushes the button, it goes yellow, for caution, then red, to stop. It may be finished by the end of first week of September.

4. Sidewalks on Mark West Springs Rd. Sometime between now and the end of the paving season (late October).

5. Other Items:

- Still working on Wikiup Open space.
- Sonoma County General Plan: She is going to meet with Brian Oh, Permit Sonoma, to hash out plans for engaging with the community.
- Schopflin Field: She met Bob Cipolla, discussing the master plan for the park and how to get the community input on it. Supervisor Gore is enthusiastic about that. Goal: Parks and Recreation present to next meeting.
- MWCAC Blue Book: Working on it.
- About the Creek: Started a Vegetation Management Program on the Russian River in Cloverdale. Now have things set up to keep habitat safe doing we all can without pulling permits, saving time and expenses. They started in Geyserville, then Healdsburg. The next step is Mark West. She requested that they start behind the Airport nearby the large homeless encampment and then keep moving up the hill.

**E) Council Member Announcements/Information/Discussions/Disclosures:** Information only, unless stated

1. Sherwood: School starts Thursday, August 11. Have full classes, about six new teachers. Dr. Valenzuela's first year as new superintendent.

2. Chair Fies: She saw two little boys crossing Mark West Springs Road today, maybe 8 and 10. So dangerous. She is looking forward to the sidewalks on both sides of the road.

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3. Bisordi: Fulton Founders Day is September 24, an annual event when volunteers of the community and Spring Hills Church spend the day cleaning and sprucing up Fulton, including the cemetery. Community members can even put out trash for pick up that day. The church provides donations for the day and breakfast for all volunteers at the church at 8:00 am. They are still looking for volunteers from the community. Anyone is welcome and can call the Spring Hills Church; or just show up. (707) 579-5683

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

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

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

Pete Lescure said that the Sonoma Resource Conservation District (RCD) says, in their August newsletter, that the upper Mark West Fire Resilience project is creating a defensible space around a minimum of 150 homes.

- There is a Meet & Greet for potential RCD board members on August 25 at 10:30 am. For information on that and the Upper Mark West Resilience Project read the newsletter at <https://sonomarc.org>.
- Chair Fies went to a meeting, hosted by RCD, at Pepperwood Preserve. They are doing very interesting work; lots of fire mitigation from there, all the way to the lower Mark West.
- They are waiting on the potential change of ownership for the golf course (Wikiup Open Space area) and the septic systems along Londonberry and the creek, in that area.
- Sherwood: He will be attending the Fire USA, Wild Fire Leadership Summit, hosted by Jennifer Thompson and her group, 9/20 thru 9/22, in Sonoma. He will report back to the Council.
- The Governor's budget is still being developed. There is a significant fire-resiliency package yet to be included. The concern is that the politics of wild-fire prevention is falling off, perhaps due to a calm year. He is hoping that through the Summit, the message, "Fires or not, we need fire prevention to be fully funded.", will get to the Governor.

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

4. Sonoma County General Plan (GP) for Mark West Area (Lamberson/Would)

Mendoza: Have been at this for a number of years and getting close to the time when we will be activating this update. However, it is still a while off. There are multi-steps and there will be a lot of engagement with the communities; much of it through MACs. She encouraged the community to send any ideas to either her or to the MWCAC secretary.

5. Community Services District (CSD) Subcommittee (Sherwood/Lamberson)

Sherwood: Alexander Valley group is moving forward on formation of some kind of CSD or something similar. There was talk about some sort of governance formation funding for the County.

- Mendoza says there is money for that. She is not sure of the dollar amount. She thinks Alexander Valley will get 50% and Mark West the other 50%.
- Alexander Valley is currently focused on either flooding or drought.
- It's going to be a kind of a special district, not CSD. Walter Kieser is leading the charge there and is also interested in having that conversation with the MWCAC. Not sure when he'll be able to work on the CSD part.
- Before anything else, this Council needs to focus on the Blue Book changes and figure out the proposed boundaries for a CSD. That is postponed till October when Willie Lamberson will be involved. Catherine Dodd will also help.

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

1. Pete Lescure: Provided a proposed CSD map of boundaries, from the failed attempt of a 2010 formation effort to provide to the CSD subcommittee (Councilmembers Sherwood and Lamberson).

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2. Pete Lescure: An old palm tree on the Ascot side of Old Redwood Highway blocks the view of the bicycle lane coming from the school to Ascot and also creates a blind spot for the kids coming from there to cross Ascot. He would like to have it removed to clear the traffic line-of-sight from Ascot to the bike lane. He will notify all parties concerned, including the County's Risk Manager.

3. Pete Lescure: Mark West Area (MWA) Chamber is working on a pamphlet on MWA history. He saw a History of Fulton at Bisordi Ranch. He likes the idea of history book for MWA. Maybe get a grant from the Council for that.

### Comments:

- Include Carol Eber.
- Maybe have something on the web site where people could add information
- It may not cost money. Inquire of the publisher.
- Follow up - Lescure: Include the encampment. Bisordi is working on it.
- Lescure has an 1897 atlas. He saw an 1877 atlas at Corrick's for sale.
- Lescure later asked Bisordi about capturing Henry Bisordi's history of Fulton for the Chamber's History project. She replied that's already in progress.

4. Pete Lescure: About the Sonoma County GP, he has a "work in progress" that could be posted on the MAC website to gather community input. The last GP that included Larkfield was in the 80s. We have something we can build on. Would like to have a place on the website to invite input on the subject.

5. Community member Vicki: Noticed new crosswalk on Carriage Lane. It's uneven with thicker pavement in more than one place.

Response - Mendoza: Contact her. They can meet there. [jen.mendoza@sonoma-county.org](mailto:jen.mendoza@sonoma-county.org)

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

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

2. Hawk Light - Jen Mendoza: See D.3.

3. Schopflin Fields - Chair Fies/Mendoza

Community Discussion: Bob Cipolla submitted a summary of the Schopflin Fields issue to council members. It's a soccer park with one baseball field, which is in poor condition. The summary is about plans to have more all-weather turf (plastic grass) soccer fields. He doesn't think it was done following proper procedures.

Purchased by County Ag and Open Space District, it was called Community Ball Field. A master plan was created for it in 1999. Ag and Open Space granted it to Sonoma County Regional Parks, subject to Recreational Easement Conditions. Changes were henceforth made that don't conform to the original easement. He is hoping nothing happens until the community has the opportunity to have input. The summary is attached to the minutes.

4. Blue Book Updates - Boundaries Chair Fies:

Changes to the Policies and Procedures, agreed upon for MWCAC Blue Book, will go to the Board of Supervisors in the fall. The last thing to discuss is boundaries for the Council. The proposed community meeting about boundaries is postponed until October, when Council Member Willie Lamberson can participate. It will most likely be somehow connected to the MWCAC meeting. After that, Chair Fies will present the package to the Board of Supervisors. That has to be six weeks after County Council reviews it.

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I) **Correspondence:** Information Only **None**

J) **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 (Maybe September)

K) **Adjournment:** ACTION ITEM

There being no other business to discuss, on a motion by Would, seconded by Sherwood, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm. (4-0-1)

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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**

[sonomacounty.ca.gov/Mark-West-Citizens-Advisory-Council](https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Mark-West-Citizens-Advisory-Council)

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