

MARK WEST AREA MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES

September 11, 2024, 6:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting

Video Available Send request to MarkWestCAC@gmail.com

A) Call to Order:

Chair Fies called to order, the regular meeting of Mark West Area Municipal Advisory Council (MWAMAC), 6:02 pm.

1. Roll Call

Members present: Chair Karen Fies, Stephanie Bisordi, Ron Calloway, Heidi Would, Becky Menzel
Keith Roberts, Community Relations Specialist for Supervisor James Gore, County of Sonoma
Aggie Maggio, Secretary, MWAMAC
Councill Members Absent: Haley Skerrett

2. On a motion by Calloway, second by Menzel, the Minutes of the regular MWAMAC meeting of August 14, 2024, were approved. The motion carried on a voice vote. (5-0)

B) Presentations: ACTION ITEMS

To proceed as follows: 1. Presentation 2. Council Member Questions 3. Public Questions

1. Discussion: Sonoma County's General Plan focusing on the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements Update - Claudette Diaz, and Katrina Braehmer, Permit Sonoma

- There will be a larger outreach concerning the General Plan (GP) in January, 2025.
- Two elements of the GP have to move forward because of the state law required deadline.
 - Public Safety Element; proposing changing name to Safety Element.
 - Developing the new Environmental Justice Element.
- The Power Point Presentation is attached to the Minutes

Safety and Environmental Plan

- It began with a short definition of a general plan.
- Described the purpose of the existing safety Element and the new requirements
- Described and defined the New Environmental Justice Element.
 - This is in the developmental process. They are now looking for feedback, questions and ideas from the community. Not making recommendations at this point.
- For the Safety Element they found the highest priorities for the Mark West community are: emergency preparedness and response, wildfire, and resilient landscapes.

COUNCIL/COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS/QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS

Safety Element

Emergency Preparedness and Response Issues

- All are issues important:
 - Broken accessibility barriers, evacuation access, transportation issues
 - Work with HOAs and neighborhoods, neighbors helping neighbors knowing of (and where) places to go
 - Have centers in communities.
- Evacuation facilitation
 - Ability to identify who/where some people need help
 - Neighborhood watch programs, evacuation drills, evacuation maps
 - Ability to drive on wrong sides of roads, escape plans
 - Plans for schools to move students out to their communities, same for mobility challenged and elderly community (day and night)
 - Maybe voluntary register to request assistance.
 - Suggest HOAs modernize rules for fire safety.

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- Consider the impact from the Koi Casino proposal. May have to adjust to deal with issues it could cause.
- Who would maintain/update neighborhood info over years/decades?

Wildfire Issues

- Use the education system to communicate to people. Schedule, on a regular bases, in each community, where the hub is and use phone trees.
- Post fire relocation strategies Consider where to post available temporary housing.
- Hold community events, emergency preparedness fairs, safety expos, farmers markets.
- Again...communication, registers for locating people and to list places for the public to go at the community level
- Find the hub in each community
- Engage social services, schools, etc, phone trees

Environmental Justice Element (Healthy Environments)

Pollution Exposure

Particulates from fuels will be becoming a big consideration. Also fuel and pollution from airplanes.

Clean Water and Stewardship

- Minimize various runoffs.
- State or grants to pay for supplement well testing and/or updating
- Better communication between State and County about trickle-down opportunities to local communities
- Help homeowners upgrade to sewer systems.
- Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP) type programs for water wells/septics ec.
- Traffic on Mark West and Old Redwood Hwy. - Find funding to reduce roads to one lane in each direction with trees in the center.
- Smoke Pollution, air traffic with particulates coming down out of the air
- Clean-air centers similar to heating or cooling centers
- Air purifier accessibility

What about noise pollution?

Community Engagement and Language Access

Systemically Marginalized Communities

- Need translators; have written communications in Spanish.
- Be aware people are complex and made up of more than one identifier of a community.

Varying Age Demographics

- More senior centers
- Identify Molsberry's as a center for communications in the Mark West area.
- Get better communication for those who don't use electronics.
- Better access to helping people get medications
- Bull horns and air raid sirens

Put grant funding sources in the General Plan.

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Question on Equity working committee. Response: From District 4. Developed for these elements and communication with community members to make sure equity was elevated. Katrina or Claudette will send the link to Chair Fies. It was developed for these specific elements. Still thinking of other ways to communicate.

Suggestion: Maybe this general plan committee could guide our MWAMAC Specific Plan Committee. Claudette Diaz, and Katrina Braehmer are very open to work with the MAC Specific Plan Committee. Mark West also has a lot of good input for the County.

Environmental Justice and Safety Element Updaes
Katrina Braehmer, Katrina.Braehmer@sonoma-county.org
Claudette Diaz, Claudette.Diaz@sonoma-county.org

General Plan Update, GeneralPlan@sonoma-county.org
Resources: [July 23, 2024 Board of Supervisors Workshop Materials](#)
[Environmental Justice and Safety Element Update Webpage](#)

2. Update: Mark West Area Community Park

1. We are still in the infrastructure phase.

- Continue to meet with Permit Sonoma: will be submitting a use permit application as soon as we get final grading plan.
- Playground still in discussion with the Saba Foundation (playground funder)
- PG&E application has started; discussing where to establish connection.
- Parking lot may have to be resurfaced.
- North driveway may need to be closed, for safety reasons.

3. Update: Koi Tribe's Casino

1. There is lots of opposition. See the letter from the Govenor's office - attached

C) Presentations of Referrals from Permit Sonoma: ACTION ITEMS

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

1. Chair Fies reported that after the agenda was posted, the Council received a request for comments on an application from Permit Sonoma, for an envelope change on a private property.

The Council has no comment on the application.

D) Keith Roberts Announcements/Reports/Discussions: Information only, unless stated - NONE

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

1. Update on MWAMAC application from Ann DuBay - Chair Fies: Reported that Ann DuBay's address location did not meet the requirements for a resident to be on the MWACAC Council. Thus there is still a vacancy on the Council.
- Ron Calloway will work with Ann DuBay to explore a Fire Wise committee. Bisordi will join the conversation.
 - Community Member Peter Holbert: About Fire Wise - Use a national organization that facilitates communities to organize for fire prevention/response. Have access to grants/insurance rates, etc. Certification in about a year. Peter is also interested in discussing the possibility of a Fire Wise Committee.

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F) Subcommittee Reports & Discussions: ACTION ITEMS

1. Neighborhood Improvement Funding Program (NIFP) Subcommittee (Fies/Calloway)

The request from the Mark West Area Community Fund will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in October.

2. Sonoma County General Plan for Mark West Area (Would)

Heidi Would will contact the General Plan Committee for coordination and guidance. She will report in October.

3. Communications & Outreach Subcommittee (Bisordi/Skerrett)

The proposed postcard was shared on the screen

Hailey Skerrett has information on a cost quote: print and mail - about \$1.00 per card. She will get another quote.

Haley will forward the draft postcard to the Council for review and a vote next month.

G) Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

This time is set aside to receive comments from the public regarding matters of general interest, not on the agenda, but related to MWAMAC business. Pursuant to the Brown Act, the MWAMAC cannot consider any issues or act on any requests during this comment period. Each person is usually granted three minutes to speak; time limitations are at the discretion of the Chair.

1. A letter to the Council, from Catherine Dodd, concerning the artificial grass issue was read aloud.

- Keith Roberts shared that Bert Whitaker is addressing the issue.
- Dodd's letter and Whitaker's statement are attached to the Minutes.

H) Future Agenda Items:

Potential projects and/or suggestions for future MWAMAC meetings

1. Community Services District (CSD)

2. Possibility of an update: COPE program (being prepared for emergencies) in Wikiup (or possibly Map Your Neighborhood - knowing where resources and/or community needs are) (TBD)

3. Possible speaker on home hardening and vegetation management (TBD)

4. Possible community clean up? Maybe in partnership with the Chamber (TBD) – Bisordi to take the lead

5. List of unmet needs projects for Larkfield/Mark West/Wikiup (TBD)

add discussion on Fire Wise Committee

6. Discussion: Fire Wise and if we should create a committee.

7. Supervisor Gore to attend a future MWAMAC meeting

I) Adjournment: ACTION ITEM

There being no other business to discuss, on a motion by Bisordi and seconded by Would, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm. The motion carried on a voice vote. (5-0)

Approved Date:

Chair

MWAMAC 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://markwestcac.org>

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