



## North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council

Notice of Meeting and Agenda

May 18, 2022



**PLEASE NOTE:** In accordance with AB 361, Governor Newsom's March 4, 2020 State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sonoma County Public Health Officer's Recommendation for Teleconferenced Meetings, and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Resolution 21-0399, the North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council meeting will be held virtually.

### Join Zoom Conference Meeting:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/96560648294?pwd=dFNCWm4vZG5HZEFaWHF6RDRIYmVJUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 965 6064 8294

**Passcode:** 883703

**Join by Phone:** 1 (669) 900-9128

5:30 p.m.

Contact: Hannah Whitman, Board Aide for Supervisor Susan Gorin – [hannah.whitman@sonoma-county.org](mailto:hannah.whitman@sonoma-county.org)

### 1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Land Acknowledgment, Roll Call

**Call to Order:** 5:33pm

**Roll Call:** Vice Chair Handron

**Present:** Chair Dawson, Dickey, Nardo-Morgan, Newhouser, Eagles, Oldroyd, Doss, Cooper

**Absent:** None

**Chair Dawson,** If at any time it appears our meeting has been hacked, we will terminate our meeting and reschedule for a different date. The NSV MAC serves the community of Glen Ellen (GE), Eldridge, and Kenwood and represents people who live and work outside of incorporated cities like Sonoma or Santa Rosa. The MAC serves as our community voice at county government to learn about & access county resources and as a place to identify challenges & opportunities and to innovate solutions in partnership with our supervisor. Our bylaws limit us to issues concerning transportation, health and human safety, community projects and emergency preparedness; others can be added at the request of our supervisor. Just to give people a quick update, the RFP request for proposals was released by the State Department of General Services. I have a copy. I haven't had a chance to send it out so Hannah, I'll make sure I get that to you. I don't think there's anything we necessarily need to respond to on that. Similarly in the same issue, we now have over 1750 signatures on the petition supporting the MAC letter about SDC, which we put out in January so let's continue to gather signatures even though. I have to admit I have not been active at all and trying to get more signatures. People are signing up, two or three a day, so it's slowly growing, so I think that's a really good sign. I had a conversation with a Jack Ding, the Mayor of Sonoma and it occurred to me I and I asked him about this that it would be great if the city of Sonoma, since they really seem to support us and what we're doing here if they'd be willing to recognize the Declaration of boundaries that we that we did last month, so he's interested in doing that. He supports the boundaries himself and he's going to look for a place on their agenda hopefully in June. I'll go in and just do a short five minute presentation and if the council supports it, then we'll go to the resolution, and again there's no legal standing with this, but I think it has a little bit of legitimacy to what we did, so I think it's a good thing.

### 2. Special Guest Opening Remarks

**Chair Dawson,** Invited members to invite any special guests who live or are connected to Glen Ellen to give some opening remarks. Max hopefully will be here next month, but he's I think a lifelong resident and a firefighter and he's also in his early 20s so he's a little bit unusual. We have a few people like that but not a whole lot. I was on the phone with my daughter today and she read me something and I thought this would actually work for this month. My daughter grew up in Glen Ellen, went to Dunbar school and also Kenwood. She's reading a book called, *Emergent Strategy*, and she read this to me over the phone and I just wanted to share this with you: "I love to see the way mushrooms can take substances we think as toxic and process them as food or the dandelions spread not only themselves but their community structure manifesting their essential qualities, which include healing in detoxifying the human body to proliferate and thrive in a new environment. The resilience of these life forms is that they evolve while maintaining core practices that ensure their survival. The mushroom is a toxin transformer. A dandelion is a community of healers waiting to spread. What are we as humans? What is our function in the universe? Perhaps humans' core function is love. If love

were the central practice of a new generation of organizers and spiritual leaders, it would have a massive impact on what was considered organizing. If the goal was to increase love, rather than winning or dominating a constant opponent, I think we could actually imagine liberation from constant oppression. We would suddenly be seeing everything we do, everyone we meet. Not through the tactical eyes of war, but through the eyes of love. We would see that there's no such thing as a blank canvas, an empty land, or a new idea but everywhere there is complex, ancient, fertile ground full of potential". I felt like that had some relevance to us here in Glen Ellen for a lot of reasons.

### 3. Approval of April 20, 2022 minutes

**Nardo-Morgan,** Wanted clarification on Sonoma Collaborative meetings. Last session we spoke about attending the Sonoma Valley Collaborative meetings. Currently, Tracy Salcedo, she's our Glen Ellen representative. I want to take a moment to thank her for her unwavering commitment to our community on all levels. She is a rockstar and she brings a deep level of expertise and talent to everything that she does. Tracy is our representative as you mentioned for the collaborative and we asked someone from the MAC I think to alternate with her at these meetings, if I'm correct. My question is the MAC's actual role here? Are we just attending meetings or are we endorsing the collaborative, an actual part of their constituency with our logo on their website? If that is the case, I just want to make sure that we as a public organization aren't crossing any boundaries and that it kind of coincides with our mission so I just wanted a little clarification about what exactly is going on there?

**Chair Dawson,** As I understand right now, Vicki is going to attend some of the meetings and keep us apprised at what's going on with the Collaborative. If it goes beyond that, then of course we are allowed to have a discussion and a vote.

**Vice Chair Handron,** Yeah that was my understanding that I was going to be back up to Tracy or relief for Tracy in attending those meetings and reporting back. It wasn't my intention to even comment, I don't think I could even comment on behalf of the MAC.

**Chair Dawson,** If something does come up that we do want to say yes, we agree or disagree with, I think we should take it one step at a time, so for right now we're just kind of observing. Any amendments or clarifications for the minutes? Do I have a motion to accept the minutes from last month? Vice Chair Handron moved to approve. Councilmember Eagles seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### 4. Public Comment

**Councilmember Eagles,** We did get a written comment just before the meeting started from Tracy Salcedo with the RFP and the request. She's not sure if it's appropriate for her to make this request but if possible perhaps to include some discussion of this on the June agenda.

**Councilmember Newhouser,** Yes thanks, just wanted to suggest that since Gary Johnson with the Sonoma Valley Fire Department is here, that he be given an opportunity to share some information about his services if he's willing to speak to that. They are offering inspection walkthroughs of neighborhoods and it's an invaluable service and perhaps he can even send Hannah the link for the online sign ups for that. I just like to make sure that he gets a chance to speak to that if he has the inclination. One other thing that I was going to suggest regarding SDC and Tracy's input, perhaps that could be addressed when the SDC ad hoc reports out.

Link provided by Councilmember Newhouser for online signups: <https://svfdfireinspection.as.me/schedule.php?appointmentType=31180013>

**Chair Dawson,** I think it might engender a lot of discussion. In my mind it's a different type of agenda. We have plenty of time to respond to it. I think we want to be strategic on how we spend our time on some of this stuff.

**Councilmember Oldroyd,** Kenwood update. In two weeks, it's Memorial day weekend. Events and wineries are ramping up their parking needs and I would like to get a report from the county on what the guidelines are because they are extending sometimes two blocks into town, solid cars parked for these events. Another issue with fellow Kenwoodians, they read about the AirBnb ruling putting all AirBnb levels on hold for the time being at county level and they want to know how the county wants to address the issue of Kenwood because the fire zone, when it was rebuilt it did not have the AirBnb

restriction, so they would like a report on that

**Chair Dawson,** We can request this item for the next meeting.

**Jay,** I wanted to bring to the attention of the Kenwood community in particular but to everyone who lives in the valley, but number one what Tracy said, yes. Two, most of us are aware that the Kenwood resort Graywood project is well underway at this point. It seems that this resulted from a meeting and between two of our members and Permit Sonoma. Permit Sonoma is ready to grant all building permits needed to all projects within the next few days. They did not meet with us although we requested it back in February/March. There's only 10 days left to appeal this decision to the BZA. Now what this really involves, there's no review of loss of trees and screening elements up there. There's no plan to replace the trees that's on public record. If that bothers anyone out there, I suggest the first step is to request an appeal and be aware of what's happening here. There's several things they have not looked at. No word on COVID or fires. It's moving forward and it's already a big scar. There's no screening left.

**Chair Dawson,** I think it's too late to do anything as MAC directly, except maybe write a letter of complaint next month, but I encourage individuals to follow up if they want to.

**Gary Johnson,** More than happy to be on agenda if needed. The Fire District is here to support or collaborate. A lot of projects are going on with our new chipper program. We'll be performing the work within our fire district. Any concerns about weed abatement or weeds in general, you can go to our website and put in an anonymous request to go inspect a parcel. Now is the time to start preparing for wildfire season. I'm more than welcome to discuss anything at future meetings. [sonomavalleyfire.org](http://sonomavalleyfire.org) is the department's website. Email is [garyj@sonomavalleyfire.org](mailto:garyj@sonomavalleyfire.org)

**Councilmember Newhouser,** Link to inspection program: <https://www.sonomavalleyfire.org/schedule-a-fire-inspection> I had a question because I was checking in with the county chipper program and they said that they couldn't chip broom which is one of our most prevalent in most flammable species covering our hills here in Glen Ellen, but they won't do that so what do we do with all that broom?

**Gary,** yeah we don't chip it either. If we chip it at one property, it will get stuck in the machine and we are going to spread it to other properties. What you should do is go ahead and cut it and when the season is right, prescribed burning of those fuels.

**Teresa,** Thank you Arthur. I just wanted to make a comment on Sonoma Valley Collaborative. I believe that a committee or organization should be a free standing organization and the MAC should be an independent body. Where are you going to draw the line if you're a member of Sonoma Valley Collaborative, are you going to be asked of other committees in the valley? I think you're opening up a big can of worms as far as in terms of conflict of interest. I also wanted to state that the RP is out for SDC property and the EIR is not quite out yet, so beware because the bids will be coming in. Thanks.

**Chair Dawson,** Good point. The City of Sonoma is part of SDC, so it might be worth looking into what sort of obligations we would entail. We're just going as observers right now, so I don't think there's any issues. Welcome Supervisor Gorin.

**Councilmember Eagles,** Two comments. To clarify, I thought we were not members of the Collaborative and that was one of the reasons why it gets too complicated? The other thing, the RFP, Tracy's going to ask Alice to post it on Eldridge for all so folks can access it because I don't know if it's particularly accessible. If it can be put on other county portals, that would be helpful.

**Councilmember Cooper,** My question is directed to Jay. That resort is right behind my house. I've spoken directly with corporate people up there and I've gone to the county too. I don't know if I'm just missing something? I've been told by both people that the "Okay" was given before the fires. There's nothing anyone can do to stop it or change it. Also, the trees and shrubbery that were displaced. The people on the hill, that's going to all be put in by the resort people. I'm very confused and wondering if Jay has any

suggestions? Is it too late to do something?

**Supervisor Gorin**, This is not agendaized for discussion tonight, but if you would like to put it on the agenda for next month, I'm sure we can invite someone from Permit Sonoma to talk about the permitting history of the Kenwood resort. The resort was approved, even before I was elected as supervisor, so there's not much we can do but you're right, it's pretty visible. I will explore if the spokespeople want to come and comment and have a discussion with you as well.

**Councilmember Cooper**, thank you.

## 5. Supervisor Gorin Update

**Supervisor Gorin**, Participated in the board meeting virtually on Tuesday. We had a couple issues in the morning that I thought were going to be non-controversial. One was the ongoing unhappiness from the neighbors around the Memorial Hospital. The number of helicopters going in and out of Memorial Hospital have increased over 500%. They are extremely bothered by the noise and potential vapors. The county's responsibility is not to approve, what our responsibility is is to approve Memorial Hospital as a level two trauma center. The agreement with the hospital was coming up for renewal, the reclassification, redesignation. We've been working on modifying language to require sound and vapor studies around the hospital and bring it back to board once studies are complete to see if there's anything we can do to mitigate increased noise. The helicopter flights coming over my backyard in the middle of the night with these great big lights was very concerning. I understand the neighbor's concern, but we need a trauma center, so there's not a lot of leeway. The county does not approve the flight paths, Caltrans does so that continues. We did approve the agreement but we will continue to work with the neighbors.

The second item, speaks to maybe how we might move more proactively as supervisors and pedestrian and bicycling committees. This was a bridge replacement project at Rio Nido. They had extensive public outreach choosing the alignment for the new bridge, design, colors. Everything worked very well, the community was very happy, with the exception of the fact that they scoped the work to include, and this is paid by CA transportation commission, not the county, so we had a deadline on when we needed to spend the funds to replace the bridge, but we chose the EIR end of bridge to end of bridge. We did not include, and I think that was a mistake, the extension of that bridge extending into Rio Nido to 116. That was a very narrow area. Here we have a great big wide bridge for pedestrians, cyclists, automobiles without the entryway designed into the project. As we look at bridge projects up and down Sonoma Valley, we want more access for pedestrians and bicycle connections. We need to be more productive in working ahead of time with the county with Caltrans to make sure those connections are included in any project that the county and Caltrans take on. I'll give an example of what is happening in The Springs. I'm sure you're all familiar with it. Highway 12 was widened during the tenure of Valerie Brown in that section and then as I was elected as supervisor, the remainder of Highway 12 was widened. We have a gap right there where Donald street comes into Highway 12 that has no sidewalks, really awkward transition to mobile home park, Donald street, unsafe conditions across the bridge. We've been working with Janice Thompson to try to come up with a solution. That should have been over a decade ago. It has been a continuing concern to the Springs MAC and Springs community. This is just an example of why we need better advocacy from both the supervisors, the bicycle and pedestrian committee, and the community to make sure that when we do scope of work for any transportation project, we make sure we include bike and pedestrian access on both ends of the bridge or the highway project. Every meeting I learn how to do things more effectively. Another hold over you probably read about from last week's meeting, we've been working on vacation rental ordinance modification every year I've been a supervisor, actually. We were alarmed by the number of permits being taken out in anticipation of something more permanent happening, some more restrictions. I think 44 of the permits taken out for March 17th, we're in the first district and I don't know where they are, so, we put a temporary moratorium on moving the permits forward from the day March 17th, which was the first board meeting we heard about this. Applications coming in before March 17th, could move forward through processing. After that, they're going to be on a temporary hold until we decide what we're going to do as a board to further talk about and produce responsibility in management of vacation rentals and avoid some of the

over-concentration issues that we're finding in certain areas of the valley. I know that the areas in Glen Ellen around the North Sonoma Valley MAC, we're discussing becoming part of the exclusion zone before the fire. I know we had some chaos and confusion during fires along Bristol and it's a good reason for me why we need to be careful about how many vacation rentals we have up there. It's still a continuing issue and I'm not sure we're going to create more exclusion zones, but rather put caps on vacation rentals permits being administered or handed out, looking at the over-concentration issue. Stay tuned. That's coming in August but I will conclude my comments for now. Thank you all for all that you do. You're all amazing.

**Councilmember Doss**, Good afternoon. I want to talk about emergency preparedness. There is a resolution or conversation coming towards supervisors regarding AM Mark extension contract and their proposal to go into tiered service would have a significant effect on emergency response in Kenwood and Glen Ellen. I'm not sure what our position would be in that situation but under emergency preparedness, we need to not trade away our position that we have because of some potential extension of a contract or somebody else wanting to contract for those services.

**Supervisor Gorin**, You know far more about it than I do. This has been a continuing challenge for both the county and the fire districts to move forward collaboratively. I think we resolved the lawsuit from fire districts toward the county. Why don't have this conversation offline and gather more information? If it's timely, then we can maybe have a discussion in front of the MAC, if the MAC is interested in this as an agenda item.

**Councilmember Newhouser**, Good evening I appreciate the update. I commend you for addressing the vacation rentals. A lot of people are realizing that the growing numbers are affecting affordable housing. It appears to be taking out housing permanently out of the realm of affordability. The housing costs are so high that the only way to make a mortgage is to turn it into vacation housing. I have a question and comment regarding that. I'm hoping that the county will seriously curtail vacation rentals for the reason that we're losing housing. It's forcing us to build more housing and strains more pressure to build into unsustainable areas and wildfire prone areas. I understand that's temporary, but if you're going to put a cap, is the cap a total cap in perpetuity or is this a cap per year?

**Supervisor Gorin**, good question. That has yet to be decided. We're in much better shape than the river area for example. I was sort of the lone horsewoman on this issue way back when, you remember where I didn't get a lot of support from my colleagues for working and more stringent notifications to the ordinance. I remember at the time Efrin Carrillo said, "This is not an issue from the river area". I said, "Oh, it will be very shortly". Now supervisor Hopkins and I have been working really closely. We at least have the exclusion zones that have been put into place and they have nothing, so they are working frantically to try to figure out where they're going, but we also have the support of James Gore. I think the other two supervisors to a certain extent. We may put the cap on per district or areas of the district, because it seems to be the three districts that are most affected is the fifth district with Linda Hopkins, especially the river area, excluding the costal area, but also James Gore and the Healdsburg areas, as well as the Sonoma Valley. We may be doing something that is somewhat exclusive to all three districts but I do know that Chris Corsi wants to lend his support as well, so stay tuned. We're working hard and also exploring actions we can take around fractional ownership of homes. Fractional ownership is an issue everywhere.

**Councilmember Newhouser**, I'm also interested in projects that are going forward in our community within the MAC area. My understanding is that the county approved PG&E funds for vegetation management. What's the approval process for this as far as, you know because I mean there's \$2,000 dollars going to these projects. What is the public process?

**Supervisor Gorin**, This is round two of the PG&E settlement funds for vegetation management. There will be a round three. I know the folks proposing a grant up in Cavedale Road were unhappy that they were not funded again but there are opportunities and there will be more funding coming into the area through Cal Fire and other mechanisms. I think the federal government is now really looking at this. There are community members that work on scoring and again if this is something that the MAC wants

to comment on or have a discussion about then we can invite our Vegetation Management Coordinator, Kim Batchelder, who works with the AG and Open Space District. She was selected as a coordinator and she's going to be compiling or creating a website that would document and have links to all sorts of funding for vegetation management needs. Now that being said, there is some controversy regarding vegetation management because when we were talking about this at the board, a number of conservationists were really unhappy that we were talking about taking down trees and even I'm considering the biomass project and now biomass is maybe one of the ways that we might see our way clear to dealing with a thousands of dead and dying trees that we have all over the county. Arthur's the expert on that so it'd be a good discussion to have and I would look forward to that but there's more involved in that. Also, we're talking about grant funding the ARPA funds, the American Rescue Plan Act funds. We gave the community a number of months to submit proposals for the ARPA funds. Three or four proposals came in asking for grant funding than was available, which is about 30 million dollars and none of the organizations in Sonoma Valley were funded. Well, first of all there weren't many organizations and this is something that I've been working on for a number of years is trying to get nonprofit organizations out of their silos working collaboratively to apply for some of the larger funding and to economize and be efficient in providing Services, similar to the Petaluma people services in Petaluma, the West County Community Services in the river area. Both of those organizations are very effective in applying and receiving grants from the county. The Sonoma Valley Mental Health Collective did apply for 5.7 billion dollars which was a lot to ask for when you only have 25 million dollars to give away. I think we gave away something a little over thirty million. That's coming forward on the board agenda next week. My concern is that none of the proposals were granted for organizations in Sonoma Valley. That being said, we've had a number of organizations receiving funding to provide services in Sonoma Valley and we don't exactly know the breadth of the services and the accountability. Social Advocates for Youth was funded to provide Mental Health Services in some of the schools in Sonoma Valley as they did previously and Hannah Institute was funded through CAP Sonoma to provide some services, so this is an issue that I continue to work on. Sonoma Valley is grown up enough that we should be working on consolidating, collaborating, and being effective in applying for grants and we're still in the early teen stage in development of recognition. There's not enough donor dollars in Sonoma Valley to support all of the great organizations in the valley so we need to think more globally and expensively in applying for that so that's what I'm working on and hopefully we will have a building in Sonoma Valley as a regional service center for the County. Health and Human Services and maybe other functions. Stay tuned. We have not agreed on that yet but we're still evaluating potential uses so we will grow up and we will become more effective.

I did receive a copy of the SDC RFP from the state, so I did go through the 28 pages. Not much remarkable, other than the fact that it was not detailed enough. A lot of missing information. I will suggest that they put the RFP on the county website for the specific planning process. The deadline for that is July 15th. I've talked with one very interesting developer I met at the Yosemite conference who is moderately interested and she'll be reviewing that and we'll see. Also, you should know that we are scrambling at the county through Permit Sonoma and Sonoma Water to apply for a grant from the Coastal Conservancy. This was suggested by Doug Bosco at our January meeting and we talked with the executive director, Amy Hutzler, about the grant process, so we're developing language and scope of work for a smallish grant to explore feasibility of climate adaptation innovation center as well as looking at SDC as a living laboratory for fire recovery and habitat. Stay tuned on that. Thank you.

**Chair Dawson,** That's encouraging. Is there an opportunity for the public to at least comment on the potential buyers?

**Supervisor Gorin,** It is a state process, not county process. I don't even think we're part of the panel to review proposals. I appreciate one of your comments that this is coming out before a specific plan has been approved. I think there was a comment from someone saying that the developer, if in fact they negotiated quickly with the state, could potentially have a role in crafting this specific plan. This site is so complicated, any negotiations will take a long time. I think it's already pretty well defined, the community input on what they want to see on this specific plan. I don't have the same concerns that some people have about the concomitant way of state moving forward and plan moving forward with the RFP and the specific plan moving forward.

**Councilmember Eagles,** The specific plan and EIR draft are not out yet, but the July 15th deadline is for proposals, so presumably those two things will be out before July 15th but not much before? That seems to concern me but I'm not an expert in this space. That's standard or?

**Supervisor Gorin,** I don't have a concern about the time. You should not have an illusion that you are going to get to see all of the proposals by the state. That is actually confidential information. They will select someone or a group to start negotiating. It could take a very long time. We had five rounds of RFPs for the Chanate site and negotiations. It's going to be complicated and I'm not worried about the timing of this. I just think we ought to focus on what we want to see on the site and keep firm on that.

**Councilmember Eagles,** What is the state's responsibility for disclosure once someone or multiple parties have been selected? Would that be when they would disclose?

**Supervisor Gorin,** It is disclosed once they actually have a deal. I think it is going to take a very long time. One more comment, we are having an upswing of COVID, so be careful and be safe.

## **6. Final Report Out – Outreach Ad Hoc, Preparedness Ad Hoc, and Traffic and Safety Ad Hoc**

Hannah shared a presentation on the NS MAC Ad Hoc Committee Overview.

### **Ad Hoc Assignments- Early 2021**

- January 2021, the MAC discussed priority goals and selected ad hoc committees
- In February 2021, you had your first report-outs from three ad hoc committees
  1. Outreach
  2. Preparedness
  3. Traffic and Safety
- A fourth ad hoc committee on SDC was created in March and activated in September 2021

### **Bylaw Review: Ad Hocs**

- Article VI, Section 1: The North Sonoma Valley MAC may establish single-purpose committees or subcommittees consisting solely of less than a quorum of MAC members on an as-needed basis by a quorum vote. All committees and subcommittees shall have a life of one year with the possibility of extension by the MAC after review. The Scope of Work for a given committee or subcommittee shall also be approved by the MAC by a quorum vote. The committees and subcommittees can conduct research, meet the members of the community and develop recommendations to bring back to the MAC in an open and public meeting within one year. If the Committees and subcommittees continue for a longer term, they will become standing committees and must comply with the open and public meeting requirements of the Brown Act.

### **Next Steps:**

- The three ad hoc committees that were formulated in early 2021 have all reached one year of existence
- Hear final report from the ad hoc committees
- Future ad hoc committees can be created as needed

**Vice Chair Handron,** Provided Outreach Ad Hoc report out. I think that we've already we presented a little bit about what we did at an earlier meeting with our end of your summary but basically we did direct outreach to a number of organizations in the valley either meeting them in person or by zoom or phone, introducing the MAC, talking about what we do, inviting people to attend the meetings and to bring any issues they have or they want raised to us and we decided that since the outreach committee can't continue necessarily that those responsibilities would just fall on the chair and vice-chair to continue to reach out to members of the public to try to inform and encourage as many people as possible to attend our meetings. I set up a Facebook page. I've done a terrible job managing the page. I'm not a Facebook person but anybody who is a Facebook person please let me know. I would be happy to give control to anybody on the MAC who has Facebook and wants to use it to post things.

**Councilmember Newhouser,** Provided Preparedness Ad Hoc report out. We also reported almost a year ago about our progress. Quick overview, when we first set out, it was really about determining what emergency preparedness efforts were already in the community. We did a lot of outreach to neighborhood groups and also professionals in the county to find out what services were available. When we learned about emergency preparedness programs and outreach programs, we started to plan to reach out to the community and build a network. We quickly found out that it takes an organization to do that. We applied for grants for planning but also applied to funding to do outreach programs for

outreach and education. Part of our initial research was to identify what was recognized as needs in our community:

- Better evacuation planning
- Need for comprehensive emergency planning
- Structural hardening for homes
- Outreach and education: What services are available?

We were not successful with the grants. Repositioned proposals of a collection of four proposals. We were able to get a modest grant to move forward with that and that's what we're in the middle of right now, a community protection plan process. We just had our first community stakeholders meeting, which was fairly well attended. We have an open survey so people can provide information about their own neighborhoods that helps to reveal not only what wildfire risks you might have but also what assets are in your area that need to be protected. The original plan was to do pilot projects for the neighborhood outreach projects. We couldn't really successfully do that until we had done the analysis. The community wildfire protection plan process will identify what people share with us through survey but also through extensive analysis using maps, fire maps and other analytical tools available to experts to figure out what are the risks, but what the priority is for addressing these issues. Where to start? Until we have that finished, we don't really know what priorities are. I mean we have an idea, a lot of projects are moving forward as we speak. Once we have the plan completed in December, there is an upcoming stakeholder meeting in June. We still have more outreach to do, such as with state parks and non profit partners. We're planning to meet with as many institutional stakeholders as possible to get their input before completing the plan. The next step would be to form a fire escape council and that's going to require people to step up to take on volunteer roles. Once we have a fire escape council, coupled with a plan, we can start doing the fundraising and applying for grants. Right now we are basically following fire state Sonoma's lead.

**Councilmember Doss,** There is a fire safe meeting for Oakmont and I will be attending that in the next two weeks.

**Councilmember Newhouser,** The best thing to do is to go to the Glen Ellen Forum website, I think it's just [glenellen.org](http://glenellen.org) and you will see a special green button that says Community Wildfire Protection Plan and folks can fill that out. We wanted to restrict that to people who are in Glen Ellen. We only get funding to do the Glen Ellen portion of the NS MAC. Right now, the survey just applies to Glen Ellen residents.

**Chair Dawson,** Applying to grants? Mac itself cant apply to funding?

**Councilmember Newhouser,** to have a larger to cover community. Identify community leaders to do that and then I will very willfully step back from that all.

**Chair Dawson,** One clarification, you were talking about applying to grants. As I understand , you were working with organizations that were applying for grants, but the MAC itself can't apply for funding? Is that right?

**Councilmember Newhouser,** that is correct. The MAC is not set up to receive public funds because we are essentially a public agency. The fire safe council can either operate under someone else's 501C3, like Fire Safe Sonoma can apply and receive funds or can incorporate as a nonprofit. There may be other ways to do it through fire departments and such. I know that some fire departments can receive funding and form a partnership with a fire safe council or a firewise community. There's options out there without having to formally organize as a 501C3 nonprofit.

**Councilmember Eagles,** Provided Traffic and Safety Ad Hoc report. One of the focus areas for us was of course traffic and safety and driving speed issues. We met with Nick Brown and he was very helpful in describing some of the good work they had done to the Forum on this. Of course, the MAC pro but also provided a direct sort of conduit for Community members that had any very specific, you know traffic or safety issues to bring them to the MAC and directly to supervisor Gorin and so some of those were addressed sort of you know, in that, in that way. Another focus area was bike paths and how they work. What grant funding can be available. This is still very much an interesting area and we can continue to look at it. Everything from the smaller route we talked about from Madrone into Glen Ellen or to Dunbar school. I know Supervisor Gorin, the Arnold Drive extension has been moving forward and I know there's been talk about something down the 12 quarter. Anyways, lots of room for additional work in that space. Something we didn't look at was parking. It's just something to flag for the future and finally I'm going to take credit for this, my connection is that you put up signs near roadways often, but Angela I give you credit for this councilmember Morgan for the conserve water signs that we were able to bring to the community and post around.

**Councilmember Newhouser,** For Kate, the parking issue is a great topic. I've had conversations with some folks who live in Glen Ellen that have been adversely impacted by the lack of parking. It is creating a problem. I understand the county



wanting to incentivise affordable housing, but it becomes an imposition on the existing neighborhood. I think it would be really good to look at that and provide that analysis to the county because I think we're getting some blowback on that one.

## **7. Discuss Formation of Future Ad Hoc Committees (continued from 4.20.22 meeting)**

**Chair Dawson,** Some ideas that came up were a community sign ad hoc, housing ad hoc, bike path ad hoc, any other ad hocs? What other gaps or places do people feel we could use in an ad hoc right now?

**Councilmember Oldryd,** I'm going to suggest air bnbs because they're an ongoing interest at the county level and to look at how it affects Kenwood and all communities that Supervisor Gorin mentioned.

**Supervisor Gorin,** most of the village of Kenwood is already in an exclusion zone but it does mean that when it was created that those holding vacation rental permits were still allowed to operate through Airbnb or home away, etc. That will not change, that's permanent. What we were looking at is perhaps expanding the exclusion zone to include Tree Haven with a number of vacation rentals but they're in the moratorium zone at the moment, which will be expiring shortly. Susan let's chat offline about what it is that you think an ad hoc could be helpful with in discussing vacation rentals. There may not be a need for another ad hoc because I'm not sure that there is much that an ad hoc could do except as an informational item for the board or the council.

**Newhouser,** I want to make sure that we look at existing ad hocs and if we are going to continue in some permutation or reform under a new agenda or specific objectives. For example, with emergency preparedness we would be going into a whole different phase of support for say a fire safe council, so we wouldn't necessarily need an ad hoc committee. As we discussed earlier, the traffic could easily continue with bike paths and parking issues, etc. We address existing and make a decision about those before we close out tonight.

**Chair Dawson,** As far as the outreach ad hoc, I'm comfortable with what we're doing or just place those roles to the chair and vice chair. People are free to do their own outreach. You can always bring things to one of us. If you feel like there's a need for outreach, we can invite someone to give a presentation or be a special guest.

**Councilmember Dickey,** May want to change the title from traffic and safety to transportation because it seems more generalized. The concept of parking could be included.

**Chair Dawson,** good idea. Do we need a community sign ad hoc? It could be kind of a single project ad hoc to try and get some signs in Glen Ellen and possibly Glen Ellen as well.

**Supervisor Gorin,** You might broaden that function to include signage but public art. I know this is something that the Springs MAC has been going into and the transportation ad hoc might consider talking with the transit department. We have funding and availability for bike racks, which could be part of the creativity.

**Councilmember Eagles,** I don't remember the community sign discussion. What is the different kind of signage?

**Chair Dawson,** this was before we did our Glen Ellen boundaries, but this is still relevant just so people recognize where Glen Ellen starts.

**Supervisor Gorin,** This is an issue that came up years ago because we were having a discussion about the Glen Ellen triangle and the little, ugly sign there that says entering the village of entering the village of Glen Ellen. I said to folks at that time, maybe five years ago, if someone could design a sign and post it on all three entrances into the village of Glen Ellen. We can find funding under tourism impact funds to potentially manufacture somewhat inexpensive signs.

**Chair Dawson,** I feel like it should be the community of Glen Ellen, as opposed to the village. The village implies just the downtown area.

**Councilmember Nardo-Morgan,** I do remember the sign conversation a while back and I don't know if you remember but Jim Burch, creator of the Jack London Yacht Club, actually has a sign company and he was interested in helping us at one point. I would reach out to him and talk about what the funding and design is.

**Supervisor Gorin,** We have so many creative folks in Glen Ellen and Kenwood. I'm sure a group of artists could come up with something that is not necessarily intricate but really beautiful and we could work with Jim. Maybe he can offset some costs. We do have some funding for this.

**Councilmember Nardo-Morgan,** great, I think we could even maybe somehow fashion a grant to the yacht club around this.

**Supervisor Gorin,** if they could create the signs, we could finance that. I would love it if the sign design would come through the MAC so you had an understanding of what it is and have some agreement and buy in.

**Councilmember Nardo-Morgan,** I just got a text from Nick Brown that says Jim Burch is ready to go and willing to pay for the whole thing.

**Supervisor Gorin,** the primary concern is the design that you approve and location.

**Councilmember Newhouser,** I'm working with the Glen Ellen Forum on the design for the firehouse triangle and a member of the transportation public works joined our meeting and approved of the conceptual plan. I had to resubmit a sign plan, which includes all signage like parking type signs, as well as an entry sign. The entry sign is not designed but we had to show the locations of the signs. Wherever we propose it, we have to get approval from transportation and public works and go through that process. I'm more than happy to work with Angela and anyone else who's interested in doing this. The other comment I had, there's great interest in Glen Ellen doing other beautiful projects and one of the things that developing a list of potential projects. Wanted to put a town clock, one of those old fashioned ones, on a pedestal. There's people when there's a pet project, they're willing to fund it.

**Supervisor Gorin,** You need an encroachment permit for anything. Any kind of art policy, you might have a protocol working with me so that you know the process. One thing that the county is concerned about is long term care and maintenance, vandalization, degrading, who's going to take care of that?

**Councilmember Cooper,** the Sonoma Valley Trail. There's a lot of things going on. The committee would be very well served here.

**Supervisor Gorin,** thank you Jed. That's a personal project of mine. I came into this office as a supervisor saying I'm a cyclist, I want to get bike trails throughout Sonoma Valley. It's difficult. I have a bucket list. You all know, I'm not running for real action. There might be someone else running for my seat. I have a bucket list that includes parks, bike lanes on Arnold, Sonoma Valley trail, and Schelville trail. I'm working on all of those and it would be good at some point, at a future meeting to invite Burt Whitaker and Steve Ehret in to give an update on the Sonoma Valley trail and other things going on and to have an interactive conversation with your thoughts. We need better connections throughout Glen Ellen. Let's put that on one of the future meetings.

**Councilmember Eagles,** So the assumption is that the SDC ad hoc will stay in place through the end of its one year term? For example, if we were looking at 2 additional ad hocs, that one would still finish out its term?

**Supervisor Gorin,** we may actually have a joint meeting with the other 2 MACs and CAC. We haven't really discussed it but it might be an option for all of us to consider

## **Public Comment**

**Larry,** thank you. I don't think we are ready to do an ad hoc along the lines but I do want to consider looking at it, not from the perspective of planning of the infrastructure or safety emergency fires etc., but in terms of our demographics and our people. Our demographics are affected by tourism, but also affected by changes in employment, and things happening at a larger scale. I think we really have to as a group that's looking into the betterment of the community, to get a hold of what the county services and safety services provide. There are people living on the creek and isolated off and on and off and there's a lot of different issues in terms of mental and physical health. I would like us to have a handle on that. I'm bothered by all of the issues coming up in terms of some discussion about Glen Ellen being a white population that has racial tendencies. I'm concerned about income disparities and a whole lot of other social factors that

we're not really attending to, but I think we can discuss them. I know housing is trying to discuss them and I know that certainly fire is an issue for safety. What is our desire for what kind of caring community we want? I was hoping SDC might contribute some kind of social services center that might be of help there.

**Chair Dawson,** Thanks Larry. I share those desires. I know a lot of us do.

I'm going to quickly lay out what I've been hearing and then we can talk about what we want to form as far as new ad hocs. We shouldn't form more than three ad hocs, maybe one or two. I'm hearing an ad hoc around signage, public art, and beautification, some kind of continuation of preparedness with maybe an updated focus. The third ad hoc I'm hearing is transportation, which can include the bike path, parking, Sonoma Valley trail. We could look at evacuations or maybe that's under preparedness. Those are the three that are coalescing right now. What do other people think?

**Councilmember Nehouser,** I think the preparedness ad hoc is a little up in the air. Even though I know this is perhaps downplayed, I do think that the housing, vocational housing, and affordable housing would still be a viable ad hoc. I think it would be good to look at this in more depth from a local perspective. I think it's critical. Look at Larry's comment about isolation and people who are having a hard time getting by. I still think housing is huge. I think it would be helpful.

**Chair Dawson,** thanks Mark. We can make it housing/ vacation rentals. Something like that, since they really play off each other like we all know.

**Councilmember Eagles,** I said this at the last meeting, I think we need to be clear on what our goals are. Unless we have a lot of time and resources, those are big topics. I want to make sure we use our time to get to a place where that information can be utilized. Thanks.

**Councilmember Dickey,** regarding the housing ad hoc, I agree with Kate. Another observation I would make regarding housing, the county has an awful lot of work they're doing regarding SDC, affordable housing, vacation rentals all of which is still pending. I think it would help us to have some of that resolved before we decide whether or not we are going to have an ad hoc committee. Some of the questions we pursue will be answered by the county itself through permitting processes, licensing, etc. Obviously the SDC is looming in front of us as well. While I agree with Mark, while housing is pretty critical, I think with the county working so diligently behind the scene on a number of areas regarding housing, I think it's well worth our while to see how those things evolve before we decide how we are going to enter that conversation.

**Councilmember Nardo-Morgan,** I want to agree with both Kate and Matt on the housing issues. I think we should wait. Looking around, we are not a very big group. Some of us are already on committees that are ongoing. I'm not sure we actually have the people power to work on all these other committees.

**Vice Chair Handron,** continuing on the last several comments, I'm trying to understand the purpose. What do we have in mind for ad hocs? Are they formed for a specific purpose to address a particular issue? We can continue to make ad hoc as issues come up. Are we trying to create buckets where we can place issues as they come up or do we want to have a really focused ad hoc on specific issues?

**Chair Dawson,** there's a couple ways we can do it. One way is to have something be formed for a specific situation and the other way would be more like what was done the first time, where we formed ad hocs and within those buckets what were the more important things to pursue. Personally, I would like to see the bike path happen but others think parking might be a bigger issue, so personally I would be tempted to set up a transportation ad hoc and let that ad hoc decide what issue they can tackle. Anybody else?

**Councilmember Cooper,** I guess I'm still learning like all of us and to continue comments previously, aren't ad hocs kind of like a search light of issues? We highlight an issue and shine more light on it so we can get a greater understanding of it, so then we can bring more information or resources? Then shine light on things that we as a group see are very important to the betterment of the community. Is that right? I'm still not sure.

**Chair Dawson,** that's well stated. I think that's certainly part of the ad hoc, is to serve that function.

**Councilmember Cooper,** so if transportation is an issue, we can then go in and look at the different aspects that the

larger community brings up and then bring out information on that to everybody?

**Chair Dawson**, yeah, it can work that way. I see it as looking at issues and bringing opportunities.

**Councilmember Oldroyd**, the definition of an ad hoc is when necessary or needed, so I think this makes perfect sense to have a general idea and then allow the group to look at specifics, as needed.

**Councilmember Newhouser**, I think the whole ad hoc role comes down to our mission as the MAC and that is to be a conduit of information between the community and the county. I think Jed's analysis is brilliant. That's our role, to look at a perceived issue and to look into it as best we can with our limited resources, knowledge, and manpower and try to unpack potential ways of resolving problems. It's just like the beautification thing. It's reaching out to the community, finding out what people would like to see, putting that together, and then determining what's practical, feasible, and permitted. Working with the Forum, they have all these great ideas and until we sit down to meet with the county folks to see what's feasible, we don't really know. It's a role that we can play since we have a relationship with the county and it's our job to reach out to the community to see what's needed and what problems, like transportation issues. That takes some research. We can bring experts from the county and we can get anecdotes from community members of what they would like to see, report back, and have that conversation. I think it is shining the light and helping to find solutions.

**Chair Dawson**, and to state the obvious, one of the advantages of the ad hocs is that there's no Brown Law limitations, as long as we're not violating the quorum. We can move ahead slowly as an entire group.

**Councilmember Eagles**, Vicki to answer your question, I think both. Sounds to me like we've identified areas that are buckets, but we've identified at least one in each area as a project we would like to move forward on. A bucket and an immediate need.

**Chair Dawson**, sounds like there's support to create signage and beautification ad hoc, support for transportation ad hoc, and preparedness maybe we can put in the wings, and then housing is being addressed to some degree by the SDC ad hoc already. Sounds like there's support for two ad hoc committees: 1) Signage and beautification. 2) Transportation. What do people think about that?

**Councilmember Morgan**, I'm wondering can you combine transportation with public improvement? Is that too much, do you think?

**Chair Dawson**, It probably could be a little bit but I'm thinking bike path and parking is a little different than signage and beautification. None of those is mutually exclusive.

**Councilmember Newhouser**, if i may make a suggestion, why don't we get a show of hands of people who are willing to serve on either of those two ad hoc committees, so we can resolve to adopt them.

**Chair Dawson**, Vicki and Mark are willing to serve on the Signage, Public Art, and Beautification committee. Jed and Susan are willing to serve on Transportation. Do I have a motion to form two ad hocs?

Dickey, moved to form the two ad hocs.

Eagles, seconded.

Unanimously passed.

**Chair Dawson**, suggests those two ad hocs meet once between now and the next meeting. Come up with a bullet list of what you think you're going to cover and then report at the next meeting.

## **8. Reports and Announcements from Councilmembers and Ad Hocs**

**Councilmember Dickey**, CAC. Our meeting last month was on the 27th of April. We had one item on the agenda

regarding temporary homeless shelter development along highway 12 and eventually will become a permanent construction site. This month, next week we are hearing about a presentation of Sonoma Raceway. I'm going out tomorrow to the site to see what they are proposing. In general, it is to remove and update some existing buildings but there's also an expansion element and of course that is a concern. What are the consequences? We are going to have a convo with the project manager. I'll have a better report for you next month.

**Councilmember Newhouser**, question regarding the homeless shelter. Is this permanent construction basically the permanent construction of a homeless shelter?

**Councilmember Dickey**, it's not a singular shelter. There are a series of small buildings. They're going to provide services that include food, some medical facilities on site. It's mostly tiny homes that they are doing within the community. It's 1800 Sonoma Highway, within Boyes Hot Springs.

**Chair Dawson**, I think if you happen to know Baker and Cook. it's right there.

## 9. Consideration of items for future agenda

**Chair Dawson**, read off a list created earlier on. Graywood Ranch, something from the owner, developer there, or Permit Sonoma. There's the Airbnb vacation rental issue. Gary Johnson could come in and talk about vegetation management. We can also have the vegetation management coordinator from the county, Kim Bacheldor. Other possibilities for the future?

**Councilmember Nardo-Morgan**, Julie Atwood, she would love to come and talk about the Halter Project and animal rescue and all of the great work she's doing with fire safety.

**Councilmember Oldroyd**, I would like to add event parking at special events in Kenwood.

**Councilmember Cooper**, your comment about people in the community doing interesting things, the article on the Kenwood Press, Ukraine is a pretty interesting story. Would that be an interest to people to hear about? Too specific?

**Chair Dawson**, I'd be happy to have someone like that as a special guest maybe at the beginning of the meeting for five minutes.

**Councilmember Dickey**, I'd be interested.

**Councilmember Eagles**, Sonoma Valley Trail or other bike path speakers? Supervisor Gorin mentioned there's several that might be of interest. Also, at some point our two years are coming to a close. Outreach to the public that they might want to sit on the MAC and some clarity on how transition will happen? What is the expectation?

**Vice Chair Handron**, having a presentation from the Office of Equity?

**Councilmember Newhouser**, the Orchard Project that Jack London State Historical Park just made a significant amount of vegetation removal in the orchard area. I've been really struggling with how to process the amount of vegetation removal that was done. This was part of the proposed wildlife corridor. It's an ongoing cultural resource project for state parks to recreate orchards out there, but it's now being declared a fire break. There was no public notification or discussion about it. I think aside from my concerns and other members' concerns about the environmental impact of these vegetation management projects, the real question that I have is about transparency and public notification and what should be a public discussion when you have massive vegetation removal projects, especially on public lands. I don't know how to address this issue but I sure would like to have a discussion about it at some point. I think what was frustrating for me was that we're in the process of doing a community wildfire protection plan, having a good faith, inclusive publicly noticed process to get input and put together a prioritized plan, while simultaneously there's these large projects with no public notification. It's concerning and I think it would be

worth discussing and hopefully with the outcome being more public notification, discussion, and transparency.

**Chair Dawson,** If you do this, we will definitely put this on the agenda to write a letter. When we talked on the phone the other day, correct me if I'm wrong, but my impression was sort of came to the conclusion that maybe the best thing for the MAC to do would be to send a letter to state parks and just request in the future that they notify the public.

**Councilmember Nehwouser,** I agree and I'm open to suggestions. Already called state parks about this issue. I think a letter from the MAC would be really helpful. Also there's a nonprofit called Jack London Partners that are also implementing this and it would be great if they were just more a part of the community and have some accountability to the community at large, rather than just kind of operating in a silo. It's not just state parks, it's also what's going on on private lands. I know Susan earlier said that there were certain community members that were a party to this approval process, but there was no notification, no public notification of any management plans.

**Chair Dawson,** if you want to draft a letter from the MAC, we can discuss it and send it off to the relevant agencies, requesting that public notice be given for large scale vegetation removal and also invite them to come to the MAC.

#### **Public comment**

**Larry,** I want to show some sympathy with Mark for the fact that there's too many things that the county is being criticized for in terms of neglecting or not paying attention to the people that they're supposed to be serving. As we heard this from Jay in terms of things that happened in Kenwood and we've heard all around the valley and terms to different projects and we hear it consistently in terms of, Why didn't they tell us? or Why weren't we involved? Why weren't we educated? or you know we're always after the fact reacting. I'm wondering if we can take a look at that and see that that's part of the disadvantage of being an unincorporated group that has no plan and not the learning and the research that we need. I'm just going to throw out for you at a different view here that if we begin month by month to learn about these things with more people involved or people from the public, we can do things like rethink the Glen Ellen Village specific plan in which SDC becomes a neighborhood within the Glen Area future and what is it that we want the future this whole area to be like and how does that fit with getting the government at all levels to cooperate with the local people so that we're actually leaving the kind of community the people want and we want instead of this kind of indirect disappointment that things are happening that we don't have control over and we don't have a government or the ability to do much about it. I know that's a big agenda item. I'm just saying let's proceed further with it, give me a call Mark and let's spend some time talking it through and see how that can fit into the MAC's long-term agenda.

**Councilmember Newhouser,** thanks Larry. I appreciate the support.

**Chair Dawson,** do I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

Councilmember Newhouser moved to adjourn the meeting.

Councilmember Eagles seconded.

**10. Adjourn: 7.48pm**

*Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the North Valley 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-A, Santa Rosa, CA, during normal business hours.*

Note: Consideration of agenda items will proceed as follows:

1. Presentation
2. Questions by Councilmembers

3. Questions and comments from the public
4. Response by presenter, if required
5. Comments by Councilmembers
6. Resolution, if indicated

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