



North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council
Notice of Meeting and Agenda
April 20, 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:

[hTps://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/94593861280?pwd=eUp5K0l4ZHVKYXFuQmtVQ1VLb2VjZz09](https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/94593861280?pwd=eUp5K0l4ZHVKYXFuQmtVQ1VLb2VjZz09)

Meeting ID: 945 9386 1280

Passcode: 912671

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

1. Call to Order: 5:31 pm

Roll Call: Vice Chair Handron

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

Absent: none

Chair Dawson, The meeting will be terminated and rescheduled if hacked.

2. Special Guest Opening Remarks: Patricia Galindo, long-time Glen Ellen resident and Client Services Coordinator, La Luz Center

Chair Dawson, I decided to invite someone else to this meeting and I'm trying to find people whose voices may not often be well represented. I invite every MAC member if there's anyone who would like to invite as a special guest to speak for three to five minutes at the beginning of the meeting to schedule them in. Our special guest tonight is Patricia Galindo. She's lived in Glen Ellen for a long time and is the Client Services Coordinator for La Luz.

Patricia Galindo, thanked everyone and recognized some faces. I live in Glen Ellen. My husband and I have been here since the end of 1989. My kids went to the local schools. They both graduated from the local high school. We continue to be here but it seems like the more time goes by, the more challenges we face. I originally grew up in San Francisco. I am from El Salvador, so I have moved a few times but Glen Ellen is my home. I love it here. I like the community. I also like the fact that people respect each other's privacy. I appreciate privacy and the beauty we have in Glen Ellen. We all know where we live but we stay away from each other, just to keep everybody's privacy going. I appreciate that. I think we all appreciate the privacy and the beauty we have in Glen Ellen.

Chair Dawson, thanked Patty and opened the space up for anyone to ask questions.

Vice Chair Handron, Can you tell us a little bit about the work that you do at La Luz and specifically if you see people from our MAC area and what you think the needs are, generally of the people in our area that we don't necessarily hear from?

Patricia Galindo, My role at La Luz, I was Client Services Coordinator and as of April first, I am Manager of Direct Services, which is what I have been doing the whole six and half years. The population that is not well represented is the Latino community. They have their own challenges. Of course, it is not just the language barrier, I don't think, because there is translation available. It has more to do with work hours. A lot of people work in the restaurant business. They don't get out until nine, ten o'clock at night. Other people get out at five, five thirty. Like the rest of us, they go home and cook. A lot of Latino families have small children, so they go home and do what they have to do, cook, help kids do homework. That is the population that has always been a challenge for us to recruit because they have other things they must do

in order to survive in this valley.

Chair Dawson, Any suggestions? They are welcome to come to any meeting, but beyond that obviously that's sometimes a challenge, but are there other ways to hear from them?

Patricia Galindo, I remember specifically about five years ago when they were talking about county transit or some government agency. They wanted to get input from people about highway construction on highway 37 and also the timing of getting rid of toll takers for Golden Gate Bridge, so what we did was invite those people to come to a meeting at La Luz. It was in the evening because that is what works the best. They listened to what the proposals were, but they also came up with a map. The same thing when the county was talking about building highway 12. They were talking about wanting five floors or three floors building apartments, what else do we need? Water Fountains, garbage cans, things like that. That helped also because there was a big map made by the county and there were little dots you would put on what they thought was most important and what they would like to see on highway 12. What that turned into was a picture, an actual picture of what their priorities were. It was things like garbage cans along highway 12, water fountains. We don't want five story buildings on hwy 12, we only want three stories at most and we would love to have business on the bottom floor. That was really good engagement with the community and I think that because La Luz has been around for so long they trust what we do and they like to be included but when it comes to other meetings with the county, it's a little more difficult because of the time. A friend of mine reminded me a few weeks ago, when you think about Latinos and in lack of engagement. It was striking. I don't know why I hadn't thought about it, but in Latin America, people are not included in government, counties, or municipalities. They don't ask you what you would like to see. They are not used to being asked. Of course, the new generation, our kids, my own kids that were born here, they expect that. They want to be included. They are more aware, but the generation that we help in Sonoma Valley and at La Luz are not used to that because they have never been asked by the government what they want, what they think.

Chair Dawson, thanked Patricia for that perspective. That's a really interesting perspective, really. I have not heard that perspective before. Thanks. I wish we had a lot more time but we do have time, probably for one or two more questions. Any thoughts on SDC, especially in relation to the Latino population?

Patricia Galindo, The Latino population would love to see low income housing, obviously. A lot of families struggle to pay the rent. They have two jobs to pay rent. They are in favor of low income housing but at the same time that phrase is catchy because they saw first hand the low income housing that went up on highway 12 where a lot of them did not qualify either because there were not enough apartments or because they made five dollars more than the limit that they were allowed to qualify. There were a lot of outside people that came to live here, so yes low income housing makes everyone happy, but they know the realities of it. For me in general SDC concerns me because in 2017 there was chaos for everyone leaving Sonoma and Glen Ellen. There was only one way. We were fortunate that we were able to leave at one in the morning, so we did not have to fight traffic, so that concerns me. It really isn't low income housing. Not low enough for our population. The other thing that concerns me with SDC is the water. We all know that we are struggling with the water and it is just the beginning. To me that's a high concern, the water issue.

Chair Dawson, Thanks Patty and maybe one more question from Mark.

Councilmember Newhouser, Yeah, just for some of us who are not as familiar with La Luz, what are some services that La Luz provides to the community?

Patricia Galinda, We have really strong partnerships with the county. We partner with legal aid, so someone who is going through a divorce or needs a restraining order, we help. We work with the family justice center. We have direct contact with people at the unemployment office in Santa Rosa. At La Luz itself, we help with things like if you want to apply for MediCal, apply or renew for CalFresh. We are a resource center so if you call and say, "How can I replace my Social Security Card?" We know what the steps are, we know where the person can go. We can also have the application sent to them so we at La Luz can help them out. We have immigration resources. We are in contact with Sonoma Immigrant Services, Immigration Institute of Bay Area Napa. We have an array of services there. It's just a matter of someone

calling and saying I need this. What resources can I find in my area? Not necessarily in Sonoma Valley but in Santa Rosa, Napa, Vallejo. We also partner with FISH, so there's rent assistance. Right now we are almost done with our ERAP program, which is the Emergency Rent Assistance Program. We've been helping people navigate that system with the county, so it's many things. This weekend coming up is the last day to do taxes. We've helped about 160 people do taxes for free, through the VITA program, so a lot of programs for La Luz.

Councilmember Newhouser, It sounds like a very important organization, so thank you for all you do.

Patricia Galindo, Thank you

Chair Dawson, Thank you, Patty for all your efforts and engagement in the community. If you're interested, stick around. We are going to be talking about possible bike paths which will go all the way down to Madrone and also talking about designating what are the boundaries of Glen Ellen, which often seem to be considered rather fuzzy, but we are going to try to set that straight.

3. Approval of March 16, 2022 minutes

Chair Dawson, Are there any amendments or corrections to the March minutes? Do I have a motion to approve those minutes? Councilmember Eagles moved to approve minutes. Councilmember Nardo-Morgan Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment Receive (Limited to items not appearing on the agenda)

Jay, thanked everyone for having Patricia Galindo in the program. The work that La Luz does is absolutely outstanding. They are an amazing interface between people who need help and resources that are available out there. Look forward to seeing a longer presentation on the work they do. Thank you Arthur for bringing it up. I think it's a great idea to bring people forward who may not normally be in this.

Chair Dawson, Thanks Jay.

Alondra, Hi, Yes I'm Passing on the note taker duty to my cousin Barbara. It was a pleasure. I want to thank all council members for all you do and allowing me to be part of such informative meetings. Thank you everyone.

Chair Dawson, Thanks for all your impressive note taking.

5. Announcement: Upcoming Alert and Warning Exercise Receive · Sam Wallis, Alert and Warning Program Manager, Department of Emergency Management

Chair Dawson, Next we have an announcement: Upcoming alert and warning exercise from Sam Wallis who's the Alert and Warning Program Manager at the Department of Emergency Management at the county.

Sam Wallis, Shared presentation on 2022 Emergency Management. We are holding a couple of different exercises. One of which is focused on Sonoma Valley. First of all, just let everybody know, on Friday, the 29th of April, at noon. We are going to be doing a countywide test of the NOAA weather radio alerting system that doesn't really pertain specifically to you, I just wanted to include that that is, in fact, happening and then Saturday at noon, is the main event where we're going to be doing a live testing of the SoCo alert system and I'll show you a map of where that is in a moment we'll be targeting about 16,000 telephones in that process. It's going to be about a 30 second message from people. We are going to be asking if they want to take the time to give us feedback through an online survey monkey,

just so we can get feedback. Every year we do one of these tests. This year we are trying to assess how well our alerting warning system works with our Spanish speaking residents. We specifically picked the areas that we are in because of the higher concentration of people that speak Spanish at home. Lastly, I did want to touch a little bit that there is going to be an exercise going on concurrently with this. The National Guard is going to be conducting an exercise for public safety agencies at the SDC. It's a series of earthquake drills where you know fire apparatus, EMS and such go in and do search and rescue. Not involved with this communication exercise, it just happens to be going on at the same time. I just want everybody to be aware of it, so that nobody thinks that any real emergency is going on. This highlights the area we are going to be doing the exercise for. This was made as a decision between Sonoma Valley Fire and a variety of organizations that we have reached out to and have been very helpful in getting the word out. As you can see, unfortunately we can't cover everything but this is the area we wanted to concentrate on. From north of the actual city of Sonoma boundaries up to and including parts of Glen Ellen. I want to make clear that we are only doing the NOAA weather radio alert, and so we are not going to be doing any wireless emergency alerts. We are not going to be testing the emergency alert system that's the television and radio portion of that, and you won't see any high-low sirens going off, nor will we be doing any Nixle. If anyone wants more information about this, go to socoemergency.org/get-ready/events-exercises we have information that can go into that in depth. Are there any questions by the council?

Chair Dawson, Thank you Sam. Any questions?

Councilmember Eagles, Can you explain the nature of the alert? You said it wasn't a Nixle or siren. Can you tell us what we will get on our phones on Saturday the 30th?

Sam Wallis, Yeah, it'll come as a call. If you answer it you're going to hear the voice of my co worker Jorge Rodriguez. He will give you a 30 second message where he makes it very clear that this is an exercise, thank you for participating. That's about it. Now if you happen to be signed up for SoCal alert, you might get a text message, an email if you've opted to that but as a bare minimum we want to try and get a phone call to you.

Councilmember Eagles, Will it leave a voicemail if folks don't pick up?

Sam Wallis, Yes it should leave a voicemail depending on the person's individual system, unfortunately.

Chair Dawson, Is it an opt in or opt out?

Sam Wallis, No, this will be going to everyone who is in our area. If you would like to opt out, completely out of the SoCal alert, they can always contact me and I will pull them off, but by default this will go to everybody.

Chair Dawson, So we don't need to do anything to be on it?

Sam Wallis, You don't need to do anything. I do encourage you to sign up for SoCal Alert if you want more things like to get those emails and text messages but you should be on the database, so you should get a phone call one form or another.

Councilmember Nardo-Morgan, Thank you so much for coming out today to improve this for the community. We really appreciate it. I have a question about the earthquake simulation happening at SDC? Is that also simultaneous with the alerts? Is it a two day thing? Is it an all day thing? I often walk through SDC. Is it still advisable to do that while that's going on?

Sam Wallis, To answer the first part of your question, it is actually going to be continuous Friday and Saturday. The way it's set up, fire departments from all over Northern California and each one of them in turn goes in and does a specific scenario. I think they're running four different scenarios. You will see a constant progression of fire engines coming in and out of SDC. It just so happens that we're doing the exercise at the same time but really there isn't a connection between the two. That one's being run by

the National Guard for all those fire agencies in the area. I apologize, I didn't catch that last part of your question?

Councilmember Nardo-Morgan, The last part of the question was is it advisable to walk around in the area during that time?

Sam Wallis, I'm not sure if I can say one or another. I don't think that there is any specific threat. They are not practicing moving very rapidly to the fire. It's more of driving up, getting out, figuring out how to evacuate people that are trapped under rubble. I suspect that the way that they're running, it is that there are areas that they don't want you to go into for safety reasons. I'm sure they'll have that roped off, so I don't see any reason why not to walk around that area.

Councilmember Newhouser, Regarding that two day exercise with the National Guard, I was told that there's a lot of local volunteers that are not only doing the exercise helping with certain training but they also have people to be made up and be victims. You know, do the makeup and be very realistic looking victims, so it's a real exercise to test all levels of emergency response. They are actually looking for volunteers, so if you're interested, let me know or contact folks. I know Julie Outwood is doing this work. Regarding your presentation, I do have a couple questions. One has to do with the map, as you mentioned. Is this based on any risk level and if so what is that based on? Fault lines or just evacuation risk? I was wondering if you could address that.

Sam Wallis, Great question. No, it's not based on any specific threat. Quite the contrary, we consider most of Sonoma County, especially on the eastern side to be under pretty much the same threat as wildfires, as we all experienced more than once. The main focus on this one is we wanted to target areas that had higher than the rest of the county, Spanish speakers at home. We want to get as much feedback as we can from the at home, Spanish speaking community on how they receive alerts and warnings, whether they are able to understand them. Basically we want to make sure we're able to alert that segment of our population equally as well as we do for everybody else.

Councilmember Newhouser, A follow up to that, how are you getting the data from them or response through your survey? How are you alerting people to the survey monkeys?

Sam Wallis, That's a great question. Starting several weeks ago, we started working with various community leaders in that area that have strong connections with the Spanish speaking community. We've already started distributing a lot of flyers telling people about the exercise so they know and also giving them the opportunity to respond. The day of the exercise they are going to be soliciting people to respond. It's always a challenge to get people to respond to it. I also have a method that I use that's more mechanical than anything. When I use the system, I can keep track of how many people who opt to listen to the Spanish version of the message, but that only tells me how many people actually did listen to the message. I am interested in getting that feedback and we're hoping that through a variety of methods and local resources we can get as many people as we can to get on the internet and give us feedback. We also have a hotline where people can leave messages and give us feedback. I've got a Spanish speaker that will reach out to them and interview them to get the best possible information from them.

Chair Dawson, Thank you. Any other questions from council members or the public? Sam, any last words before you sign off?

Sam Wallis, shared contact info if anyone wants to contact him off line and thanked everyone for their time. Sam.Wallis@sonoma-county.org (707) 565-6057

6. Supervisor Gorin Update Supervisor Gorin was absent.

7. Boundary Acknowledgment and Definition of Glen Ellen Resolution · Chair Dawson to present resolution for review acknowledging and defining community boundary of Glen Ellen

Chair Dawson, Before we discuss it, I just want to say a little bit about how I came to this. I was reading something about how some communities in the UK have an old tradition of walking the boundaries of their community to reestablish what those boundaries are every so many years, and it was kind of an interesting idea. As I thought about one thing we talked about, putting up signs last month I think, entering Glen Ellen, when you get to Madrone, when you're hitting north on Arnold and kind of setting boundaries like that. I know this has been an issue particularly with Permit Sonoma, having them characterized us as two different communities. My thought with this was, of course, has no no legal way to it. In one sense, it doesn't mean anything to it, but what it does mean is that if people agree with this when we vote on this, it will mean that we'll have another tool as we're trying to work for our own interest. I'm thinking of this as a tool. In many cases maybe we don't need this. It doesn't really matter to me if I'm in the Glen Ellen or Kenwood Fire District as long as my fire is being put out, but in the case of planning that's going on at permit Sonoma, where it is important to be recognized as a contiguous community. It's a tool in this case, Permit Sonoma, but I think this will come in handy down the road for other issues. Opened up for editing, questions, and discussions.

Vice Chair Handron, I wanted to add that we've heard from a lot of people in the community who object to my neighborhood being referred to as Eldridge and not Glen Ellen and I think that this is, like you said, it's not a binding legal effect, but it's a response to those people as well to show that we are hearing them. I think it's good in that sense.

Councilmember Cooper, I didn't even know what Eldridge was before I came here. I realized it was all Glen Ellen. As I've talked to neighbors, just out of curiosity, a friend just moved from Marin to right near Hanna Boys Center, they don't know what this is. It seems very logical that this be done this way, so my only thought is what would prevent you or us from submitting this to the state to just get it done? Do you think people would object or not want this?

Chair Dawson, I don't think the state would necessarily, I could be wrong, but I don't think they would necessarily do anything with this. This is a self definition of Glen Ellen. This is the people of Glen Ellen. These are the people who consider themselves the citizens and residents of Glen Ellen saying this constitutes our community, just like the fire department says the Glen Ellen Fire District has these boundaries. It's just another layer largely based on zip code. In my mind, most people who if your address is 95442, you consider yourself a resident of Glen Ellen and that seems like the most basic identification that people have. There could be a place down the road where it does become important, where it does have an implication for the state. Right now I'm just thinking about our local situation.

Councilmember Cooper, I don't want to pursue it, but wouldn't it be kind of a unifying kind of thing where people feel quite separated. It seems like it will be a nice thing for people to express they're part of Glen Ellen. feel like they are part of Glen Ellen. I'm not putting those Eldridge and those other places down, I'm just saying unification would be pretty good.

Chair Dawson, You know, I actually went into the post office to see if they're still using the zip code from Eldridge, which is only the state hospital. It doesn't include anything beyond the state hospital. They're not delivering any mail out there right now. The few people who are still associated with Eldridge are getting mail in Glen Ellen under that zipcode, but that's about it for now. They didn't know if that zipcode was going to be dropped or reinstated. Any other thoughts or comments?

Councilmember Doss, Yes, another Kenwood fellow speaking up. I'm not familiar with all the outlines and landmarks that you identified in your work, Arthur, but I do think it is important politically for those in Glen Ellen and in Eldridge to become unified in clarity because somehow we need to be able to convince Sonoma Permit to acknowledge wishes of those folks who live in that area. It seems like no matter what we the people say how we feel, Permit Sonoma has their own thing about what things should be and kind of just move on. I think it's important to make the statement and put it in writing and on record that there is a sense of community that you're not acknowledging. It may not be helpful today, but I'm not sure down the road it won't be and who knows how long this process is going to take. I would be supportive of either a resolution or an adoption of the position that the Sonoma Valley MAC recognizes that there is a community of Glen Ellen that is understood by people who live in Glen Ellen that is not acknowledged and recognized by Sonoma.

Councilmember Newhouser, That was very well said. In a way, I kind of wish we could make a declaration and say it so simply, but, I understand you want it to contain a lot of history in this declaration and I will respect the formal structure that you put forward. One of the main issues is we want to make sure we are actually representing what people feel. I think what Vicki said earlier, was really important that if people in the area that is basically contested here as far as in the view of whether it be zip code or the overlap below Madrone road, or just being defined as part of Eldridge. I think if people do feel strongly that they are part of Glen Ellen then I would feel more comfortable supporting this as a resolution. I would also be more excited about this if we plan to use this as a tool to promote a legal change, whether it be adjusting the zip code line, or the definition of the political boundary, if there is one. I think the reason that the state is resisting this and in turn why the county is not recognizing it, it's because if it's part of Glen Ellen it's going to be a lot more difficult for them to push this segregated plan through, that basically ignores the impacts to the community. I think there is a bias and a rationale for why they want to keep it separate. I just think it's a pragmatic move on the state's part and the county is working for the state, not us right now.

Chair Dawson, I am a little cynical and I do have some of the same questions of what they are trying to pull off here. If you look on google maps, it shows that neighborhood as Eldridge. It's a census designated place, which is only designed to count people. It has nothing to do with the sense of community, but the county and the state use that to say, this is the community. Like I said, in the declaration there are delineations that are just designed with one thing in mind, counting people. If they are expanding the use of it, then that seems to be what's happening. Anyway, we can make a statement as a Municipal Advisory Council. We are advising the county who identifies as the community of Glen Ellen. I think it's fully within our purview to put this out as an advisory statement.

Councilmember Eagles, I agree. I also agree with Vicki that we've heard some comments from neighbors. When I first saw this, I thought, I'm in the neighborhood that's on the carve out of 95476, south side of Madrone. I initially thought, how do I feel about that? As I spend more time with this, this is identifying the community. I don't know that we need to be more formal about this. I think it serves its purpose as a community designator. I'm in support. I think about our neighborhood which is 95476, but right across the street is Glen Ellen and when something happens, as it is processed now with the marijuana dispensary on the corner that is in Glen Ellen. I would argue that Madrone road and that cross section, in fact may impact that little carve out of 95476 more than it would Glen Ellen. I think it's very appropriate to include that little corner of 95476 in this community for all kinds of reasons.

Chair Dawson, If we need to support this in the future, we can come up with a much longer set of background, history, and reasons, but at this point I don't think we need to unless people feel we do. Any other comments before we go to the public? We'll take some public comments now.

Nick, Thank you for bringing this to the MAC. I thought it was also interesting that Councilmember Doss mentioned that permit Sonoma seems to be making decisions and doing what they feel like doing without public input. Interesting comment. I also made note about Councilmember Newhouser's comment about segregating our town and there seems to be a bias to keep it separated for similar reasons. You know that our neighbor in that part of Glen Ellen, Sharon Church sent a petition around and it was widely distributed and she sent that petition to supervisors and Permit Sonoma about formalizing the name or acknowledging that that part of Glen Ellen was part of Glen Ellen and was not called Eldridge. I look forward to formalizing the inclusion of that Glen Ellen neighborhood, because we want those neighbors to know they're part of Glen Ellen and to know that they are fully included as part of our town and always.

Chair Dawson, Thank you, Nick.

Glen Ellen Declaration Draft:

DECLARATION

NORTH SONOMA VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dram

WHEREAS: The community of Glen Ellen (Glen Ellen) traces our formal origin to the establishment of the Glen Ellen Post Office on June 20, 1872;

WHEREAS: This year marks the 150th anniversary of that event representing our official community founding, with said establishment by the United States postal service;

WHEREAS: The boundaries of Glen Ellen are considered poorly defined, especially by those outside our community;

WHEREAS: Residents of the Glen Ellen zip code (95442), the former Sonoma Developmental Center (zip code 95431); and the Rancho Madrone neighborhood (a portion of zip code 95476 within the Advisory Council's boundary) overwhelmingly consider themselves to be citizens of Glen Ellen ("citizens");

WHEREAS: Census designations, online maps and other sources created for limited purposes without consulting local knowledge or considering citizens' affinities and identification with "Glen Ellen," have caused the area to be falsely characterized as consisting of two or more separate communities;

WHEREAS: This misrepresentation distorts perceptions of Glen Ellen both within and beyond the community, challenging citizens' solidarity and damaging citizens' ability to faithfully represent our common interests to the greater world in the face of current and future challenges;

WHEREAS: Notwithstanding occasional differences of opinion, citizens of Glen Ellen agree that we share a common geography, history, and sense of identity, and recognize ourselves as a single, undivided community with many shared interests;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council, in its role as the "voice of Glen Ellen" within Sonoma County government, declares the boundaries of the Glen Ellen community to be as follows:

The entire area encompassing the Glen Ellen zip code (95442), the entire area encompassing the former Sonoma Developmental Center (zip code 95431); and the area commonly known as the Rancho Madrone neighborhood (the portion of zip code 95476 within the Advisory Council's boundary);

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council requests, in the strongest possible terms, that all government agencies, including but not limited to the County of Sonoma, their employees, agents, and representatives, refer to "Glen Ellen" as a single contiguous community, as defined above and shown on the attached map, and consider it such for planning and other purposes.

Approved Glen Ellen Declaration:

DECLARATION

NORTH SONOMA VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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By unanimous vote of the Council, April 20, 2022.

[Arthur Dawson](#)

Arthur Dawson, Chair
North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council

8. Local Bike Path Presentation Receive · Chair Dawson to present local bike path proposal for review

Chair Dawson, We could run into a snag with the state right now, because they're probably not going to want to do anything on SDC, but if we at least get in the books. Even if the county can put up signs. Mark sent me an email suggesting we could come up with a more comprehensive plan for non motorized transportation, which I totally support. I'd like to do what we can now and we can always add on to what we've done. So maybe something down the road would be to put together a transportation plan. This seems like a pretty simple thing to put together, as long as we can get around the state at this point. Any comments or thoughts on this?

Councilmember Cooper, Well, when I first came to this committee, we were on the transportation, safety, traffic ad hoc and I took out that Sonoma Valley trail project. That 277 page thing. I read through it pretty carefully. I think this is a big deal. I think it would add a ton to our community. The question I had was when you said that maybe one of the ways to get this through would be to present it as a segment of the Sonoma Valley trail, which I think is a great idea, but then I looked up the map. I could be wrong, but it looks like it runs parallel to the proposed Sonoma Valley trail, not really a segment of that trail.

Chair Dawson, Thanks for bringing that up. I confess I'm not fully up on the route of the proposed Sonoma Valley trail. You're right this doesn't directly connect with that. I know it'd be great if this was part of some bigger plan, but I think this would serve our community better than a trail on highway 12, like if you're a parent in the Madrone apartments, you're not going to take the Sonoma Valley trail out to highway 12 up to Arnold and then probably have to get off the trail to go down Arnold to get to the market like this, this is a way to get directly to the market.

Councilmember Cooper, I agree. I like the whole thing. I'm just thinking of a way to get it approved, passed, and funded. So the answer to this situation is no?

Chair Dawson, Yeah basically the answer is no, sorry. I think we'll have some leverage if we pass this we

can start talking to people that might be able to figure out how to connect this in because it would be a good idea to connect it in for sure.

Councilmember Cooper, Okay, well, the other idea is, it could be an offshoot that swims in through Glen Ellen and it would make a lot of sense to do that. There's money set aside for the Sonoma Valley trail. I'm just thinking of accessing some of that as part of that whole thing.

Chair Dawson, An easy way to connect the Sonoma Valley trail to this trail would be to just go through the regional park. You know, especially since there's disadvantage groups down in the apartment area. It would certainly serve those folks. There might be additional money through that.

Councilmember Eagles, Help me a little bit understand how you're seeing this at the moment. A couple things, the other way, Madrone has a bike route, which of course does not connect to anything. So, this route give or take, would be a route we would take from our house right now. It's a very functional route. It's not too busy. It's very doable, so in a way it already exists but of course it's not formalized, it's not paved or any of the other things. Of course, the SDC planning is ongoing and bike routes have been planned as part of that, so I'm fully in support of this but I don't know quite what to do with it at this point. How are we thinking about this juncture with the planning going on?

Chair Dawson, Good question. I think just getting it in the books. You're right, it's usable right now. That's one of the beauties of it, it exists. If you put a few more signs on it, it would be more visible. People would use it even more. There might be some money coming out of the SDC process that could fund this. It just seems so easy, but it would be great for it to be an official route as opposed to just something that people casually know about.

Councilmember Newhouser, Having now jumped into doing community projects with the Glen Ellen forum as liaison and co managing a couple projects, we can approach this in a couple of ways, one is just to lobby for this to be part of a larger plan so it gets incorporated into the plan and it gets funded. Then there's the other way, to pursue this as a community project, which is to then say hey we want to do this and have meetings with the county. We want to put up signs and we want to paint these stripes. Like Kate was saying, a lot of this exists and a lot of class three bike routes are just on existing streets. Class two is just basically a lane along an existing road. We can do a lot just to designate existing paths with signs and painting on existing roads, but you have to push for that and if you do it as a community project, you can hopefully convince the county to make it a priority to work with you and even maybe do kind of a public private partnership, where there's resources coming from both the county and the community. I think they might be more likely to do it. Unless they are completely reliant on state funds, which is probably what they're doing for highway 12 because they can just tap in to state and federal funds to do that. The other thing I want to mention is that I'm glad that the Transportation ad hoc committee is weighing in on this because I forgot to mention that when I communicate with you about this, it's important for them to have their buy-in and that they're looking at this from a bigger picture angle. Otherwise, I completely support this initiative, thank you. My thought was that I would like to see this bike path in context of a larger plan for all of our roads, whether it's class one, two, or three bike paths. I can't even ride my bicycle down Warm Springs road without being run over. We would love to see something done with that. That's down the road. The low hanging fruit are these existing pathways that need to be demarcated. I completely support pushing for that.

Chair Dawson, One thought, this could be an ad hoc committee, which could be a little different than a straight up transportation committee. I'm not sure how we can frame it. They're not supposed to last more than a year according to the Brown Act. I'm not sure how different a committee has to be to not be considered an extension of an old committee.

Councilmember Dicky, I think you can reauthorize them.

Public comments:

Tracy, Hi, I didn't intend to speak tonight but this is a pretty important thing. I wanted to make a couple comments. One is that making routes that are usable for citizens will involve more than just this

particular bike route. I have started riding my bike from Downtown Glen Ellen to Dunbar school. Getting to Mark's point about a community effort, I've almost died there a couple times already. It's one of the most dangerous places to ride your bike. The other point I would like to make is that on the Sonoma Valley trail, I have done some research. Councilmember Cooper is right that the Sonoma Valley trail has money and has been upgraded recently and does connect through Sonoma Valley Regional Park. That's already a viable option. Hooking into those kinds of funds and making bike routes accessible through Glen Ellen for not only commuters for myself, but also for kids that might be going to Dunbar school and to people who are visiting from outside. It should be a priority, so I encourage you guys to explore this and coordinate with the county to ensure that reasonable routes are created.

Chair Dawson, Thanks Tracy. That's good. Especially if we get a committee together, we can pursue that.

9. Review MAC Priority Goals and Ad Hoc Committees (continued from 3.16.22 meeting) Resolution

· Discuss MAC priority goals and consider future Ad Hoc committee formation

Chair Dawson, I'm going to suggest off the top that we form either a Transportation Ad Hoc or maybe a Non Motorized Ad Hoc, so that can include the bike path and other things. I also would like us to consider a housing ad hoc, since that's part of our purview. Tracy and I met with Kaitlyn Cornwall from the collaborative and talked about the MAC being part of their meetings or working out something. I was thinking if we form the housing ad hoc, that committee could decide how they want to proceed. They can be in communication with Tracy and Kaitlyn.

Hannah, Provided information on ad hocs. The original three ad hocs formed: Traffic and Safety, Communications and Outreach, and Emergency Preparedness. All three are from January 2021, so those would have expired. They can be extended, but I would suggest moving forward in accordance with your bylaws that ad hocs be formulated about specific projects that have specific timelines, because you can extend them if say that timeline or deadline once your year of your ad hoc has existed is up.

Chair Dawson, My thoughts for the outreach committee. That's been dissolved but that seems like that comes under the purview under the chair and the vice chair. I'm just going to consider that's part of our role. We will pursue outreach as needed.

Councilmember Dickey, Simply the question. Is the housing related to SDC and is that to be redundant?

Chair Dawson, I suppose it could be. I was thinking that housing is their big issue. Housing is part of one of our purview, that might make sense to have a dedicated ad hoc to just housing, but could then participate in the collaborative. I was looking at their collaborative and they have the city of Sonoma as a member of the SVC, so it seems like we as another municipal entity could be part of that as well. That's something they're thinking about. Does that answer your question?

Councilmember Dickey, Vaguely.

Chair Dawson, I guess I see SDC as it has a lot of issues going on. Housing is part of it, but it's got a lot of other stuff too. For example, we might pass some kind of resolution requesting that the county do more to promote ADUs in Glen Ellen. We might think of other things besides SDC to look at a housing ad hoc on our part.

Councilmember Dickey, I think it's a great idea to be part of the Sonoma Collaborative group. It doesn't necessarily require ad hoc on our part. There's nothing specific that we would be focused on as an ad hoc, so it would be merely a matter of participating. You're going to wind up reauthorizing this ad hoc for as long as Sonoma Collaborative exists, so you may want to find another avenue, by which we could have representation without having to form an ad hoc committee to have that formalized representation.

Chair Dawson, Depending on how much Tracy wants to remain involved, we could share the representation with Tracy or somebody else or have a designated person from the MAC to go to those meetings and that could change over time, without being full ad hoc or just representative.

Councilmember Newhouser, In response to what Matt was talking about, I fully support this new ad hoc that would form

around housing and look at the larger area, look at the full MAC area, even if we end up having to be a commentary specifically on SDC and how it's developed. It's important to have a bigger picture of what the different housing types are and what's available, what the real needs are and that would include all of Glen Ellen and Kenwood. I really support us looking at that bigger picture. I think we were only given housing as part of our purview because of SDC and through supervisor Susan Gorin's blessing. It may be limited, so we might want to check in with her as to how long our leash is, when it comes to exploring this topic and weighing in on that because it's more of an advisory commission role.

Chair Dawson, Out in the bylaws, I thought human and housing safety is under that. I think we should double check but I think that's right. Tracy, are you available to chime in on how we might coordinate or represent ourselves with SDC.

Tracy, I've been on the Sonoma Valley Collaborative's board starting when it was Sustainable Sonoma. It's been a thing where I'm a regional representative for Glen Ellen. The collaborative's reach is valley wide, so when I speak for Glen Ellen, I'm trying to pull from all the folks that I talk to and from meetings we've had with the Glen Ellen forum. The way that I can help this MAC is by bringing back information from the collaborative from what they're doing valley wide. They're looking at the housing element in the city Sonoma and Boyes Hot Springs. My focus is what that means for SDC and making sure that what happens on SDC in terms of housing, doesn't endanger the North Valley in terms of wildfire, traffic patterns, and all those kinds of things. I'm happy to continue in that vein. I would ask from you guys if it's okay for me to do that, but I also could talk about what happens in Kenwood, because what happens in Kenwood will affect the rest of the valley, if there are housing developments there. I'm happy to help with your direction.

Chair Dawson, Confirmed if Tracy is willing to check in every two or three months. Would you like a volunteer from the MAC to work with you?

Tracy, Yes in case she is not able to go or need another set of eyes.

Vice Chair Handron, Volunteered to partner with Tracy.

Councilmember Eagles, Just to be sure we are all cognizant of Brown Act stuff. I'm assuming if that three of us are listening in on those, we're still okay?

Chair Dawson, Yes, as long as it's not more than three. Instead of forming ad hocs, or a bunch of ad hocs, if there's a single person that wanted to take something on like let's say the transportation plan for the community, can they just do that and not form an ad hoc? They can just research it and bring what they come up with back to the MAC?

Hannah, Absolutely. They would reach out to you as chair and we could review them for the agenda.

Chair Dawson, At what point do those advantages outweigh the advantages of just one or two people doing something that are not part of an official ad hoc?

Councilmember Dickey, Well remember that ad hocs are largely related to a very specific focus, you know, organizing outreach, doing emergency preparedness study and then providing that update to the committee, so it's an authorized, formal committee. What you're talking about is something less formal. You would prepare an agenda on a regular basis, if you wanted that update. It would not be focused on a specific thing. You're talking about more general viewpoints, going out to the community and having discussions. You're talking about two very different things. I think when you ask that question, you probably want to be more specific in what you're asking. If you're saying to yourself, we're going to study bikeways and trails through Glen Ellen, then you would form an ad hoc committee to study that and inquire from the county. If you're saying, well as a community we're kind of interested in it, then you don't have to go through the effort of having an ad hoc and having meetings and be concerned about the brown act so that would be my input about the question that you're asking.

Chair Dawson, So it's partly how serious we are about a certain topic?

Councilmember Dickey, And how specific your focus is.

Councilmember Eagles, We just talked about it earlier. Something we mentioned was bike paths. Would that be a transportation ad hoc? Is there an interest in that from folks? I'm on the only ad hoc that is still there, so I will not

volunteer, but I throw that out there for discussion.

Councilmember Diceky, Just call it a transportation. All these things to some degree have overlap. You can't have a trail and bike path discussion without taking into account how you cross a public roadway. You may have to have the county come in and address this as to what they have. They might even have plans that the group is unaware of.

Chair Dawson, Do we want to have ad hocs that have basically a single project ad hocs that have more or less a single focus that they want to achieve, even if it's to create a transportation map. That could be a single project.

Councilmember Newhouser, Sign up to the Glen Ellen forum. That's Monday evening, coming up quickly. This is a chance to weigh in on wildfire risks and what we need to protect. The ideas that are coming out of this conversation:

- Housing needs, existing housing stock, based on statistical needs for different classes of housing
- Transportation, having that map of needs whether it be for traffic or signage and designation of bike paths

Chair Dawson, Read Susan's text: I would like to add parking as an important issue in Kenwood Village. In particular the wineries having special events, especially as we're going into the summer season. This could be part of the transportation committee.

Councilmember Cooper, Which one of the ad hocs are still in existence?

Chair Dawson, Really just the SDC. The other ones have been around for over a year, so they died a slow death as they reached the year. I think we're at that point now. All four legs are up in the air.

Councilmember Nehouser, Maybe they petered out. I do think that's short of having a final report and discussion on whether or not to ask for an extension or to reform under a new project title. Right now I'm not feeling a comfort level on dealing with these ad hocs, without having a little more thought on it. I just don't think we are prepared to do that. We do need to give this a little bit more structured time to reach a resolution on the status of these and the previously formed ad hocs.

Councilmember Dickey, I agree with Mark. I think that's a very good observation, that we're just banning something that we formalized and in order to do so, we should have some sort of final, a post mortem if you will to go along with the same thing. Do we have consideration for other ad hocs that we want to take up?

Chair Dawson, I would support that. Should we do that next meeting? All in favor raise hands.

Councilmember Eagles, Mark, you mentioned housing and we talked about housing earlier. That scope makes me feel uncomfortable. It feels big, but that's just me. As we think through these things, let's think about whether we are equipped to look at that kind of thing. Let's really be hard on ourselves as we look at where our role with some of these things, appropriately.

Chair Dawson, Thanks. I think capacity is a key issue here. I rather take on something small and succeed rather than take on something big and fail. I think we can build on our successes, but if we fall short, it's kind of disappearing.

10. Reports and Announcements from Councilmembers and Ad Hocs *Receive Due to 'me constraints, the Chair requests this be limited to crucial or time sensitive items*

Chair Dawson, We're going to do a big report on ad hocs next month, but does anybody have anything that they feel should be mentioned now instead of in four weeks?

Councilmember Dickey, Provided CAC update. Last month, we reviewed a project on castle road in Sonoma. Someone wanted to build a tennis court in the riparian corridor, so we reviewed that project. We reviewed the Springs MAC letter regarding SDC and the CAC ad hoc for the dram EIR comments were reviewed and approved.

Mark Newhouser, Shared zoom link for meeting on Monday: Topic: Glen Ellen Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Time: Apr 25, 2022 05:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting <https://>

11. Consideration of items for future agenda

Councilmember Doss, A combination comment and future agenda. I'm not planning to return to the MAC in my next term when we're through in June, my two years will be up. I'll be here in May and June, but in July when we start a new year, I will no longer be part of the MAC. I'm bringing it up to find an additional person from the Kenwood region, would be nice. I have no one in mind at the moment. Jed is an outstanding alternate, so maybe he moves into that and we look for an alternate, but that's a decision for the MAC.

Chair Dawson, We'll miss your presence but thanks for your service. I'd be in favor of Jed moving up, but we can talk about that next month. I know people from Kenwood, it's probably felt Glen Ellen heavy. I just want people to know I'm aware of that and if there's things we can do that will feel like we're serving Kenwood a little more, please let me know. I do understand we do have a geographical reach that goes beyond SDC. I think we are done. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

Vice Chair Handron, Moved.

Chair Dawson, All in favor adjourning the meeting, raise your hand.

12. Adjourned: 7:39 pm

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

Web Links: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/North-Valley-Municipal-Advisory-Council/>