



North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council

Notice of Meeting and Agenda

January 18, 2023



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/92167388545?pwd=SmNTVDEwWlIiOGszUkRGUkRhS2NCdz0>

9 Meeting ID: 921 6738 8545

Passcode: 475848

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, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

Call to Order: 5:30pm

Roll Call: Vice Chair Dawson

Present: Councilmember Dickey, Councilmember Oldroyd, Councilmember Nardo- Morgan, Councilmember Handron, Councilmember Newhouser, Councilmember Galindo, Chair Eagles

Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that the citizens and community served by the NSV MAC, occupy the unseeded ancestral lands of the Coast Miwok, closely related to neighboring indigenous peoples: Pomo, Wapo, and others. Asking forgiveness for past transgressions they and their ancestors experienced, we humbly invite them to join us in person or in spirit as we give gratitude for their ongoing stewardship of this place since time in memorial. Recognizing how much we benefit from their continuing presence as culture keepers and teachers, we commit ourselves to building positive and lasting relationships with our local indigenous community and to honor all the diverse peoples in our region.

Introducing New Council Member: Welcome Patricia Galindo, with a 2 year term. Tonight is her first meeting.

2. Approval of October 19, 2022 and December 12, 2022 minutes

Councilmember Nardo Morgan moved to approve minutes.

Chair Dawson Seconded.

October 19th and December 12th minutes are unanimously approved.

3. Public Comment

Deb Pool, Thank you for this opportunity to speak. I have an item of importance that I feel should be conveyed to the residents of Glen Ellen. It is regarding the EIR, the Sonoma County general plans housing element which analyzes the impact to propose rezoning of up to 59 sites to dense housing. Two of these sites are in downtown Glen Ellen. The Glen Ellen properties on the list belong to Marty Winters and are located on Arnold Drive, north of Marshall's Body Shop and the lower end of

Carquinez. There are five dwelling units on the properties now and if the rezoning occurs as planned, it will increase density on the properties to a minimum of 16 units. Looking at past development proposals by the owner developer in order to build those 16 units, the majority of the buildings and trees would be removed. Our downtown is about two blocks long, densifying this area that is served by minimal public transit, not near a job center, and not near or adjacent to urban growth areas, not consistent with the general plan policies regarding Glen Ellen, nor is it consistent with the Glen Ellen Development Guidelines. Glen Ellen is not an urban center. In addition, the EIR does not consider the cumulative projects in our areas. You can write your comments and the MAC has that information. Reference parcel numbers and state your reasons. If you think that rezoning these two parcels is a terrible idea, request that the county remove the two Glen Ellen parcels for rezoning consideration. I also included the link to get to the EIR report. Written comments may be submitted until 5:00pm on February thirteenth, via email to permitsonoma-housing@sonomacounty.org or by regular mail to the attention of Eric Gage in Santa Rosa. The parcel references: 054-290-057 and one is 054-290-084 GE1 and GE2

4. Supervisor Gorin Update

Expressed gratitude towards Steve, Eric, and Ken from Sonoma County Regional Parks. The Board held a strategic planning meeting where we talked about priorities for the county/ districts. I said for the second or third year in a row, "we have to grapple with faster production of bike lanes and multi-use paths. It's torturous. It takes forever, multiplicity of funding, only a couple folks from regional parks working on bike projects throughout the county. I'll see what kind of progress we can make in combining the talents of transportation. Of course, now the public infrastructure as well as regional parks try to work with SCTA, find the funding, do the design work and cut through that. I think next month you'll have an update from TBW to talk about the Arnold Drive Bike Lane Project. We're getting ready to have a community meeting for potentially in March. I asked them to give presentations to you on that next month, both you and the Springs MAC. We did look at the calendars for the year, items of significant interests. We'll have a discussion about that on January 31st at the board level as well as some updates on homeless services and some funding opportunities for homeless services providers, so January 13th might be a good meeting for you to look at the agenda and do some research on that. As you know we have approved the contract for Christina Rivera as our new CAO and I'm very excited. She participated in our planning meeting yesterday. She understands what it's like to be an immigrant to this nation and trying to get the professional credentials to go to work. She's amazing and just so animated and charming. I hope at some point she can be present at the MAC meeting, introduce herself and we can pepper her with questions about what the heck does the CAO do. Previously Bob Dice was a very strong CIO and rubbed some board members the wrong way, so they carved back a lot of the hiring and evaluating responsibilities to the board and each year we move some of the departments into a direct reporting relationship with the CAO, but we still have a few that are recruited and evaluated by the board. Our next recruitment is the executive director for the economic development board and we are recruiting now, and probably advertising that as a direct report to the CAO and so that would be coming forward. We also had a preliminary discussion about the management review of Permit Sonoma. If you try to take out permits from Permit Sonoma, you'll understand the frustration to get a permit. We'll also just be discussing that on January 31st, so if you have an interest in development issues, streamlining proposals, moving forward with online reporting, third party check permit processing, you might read that somewhat lengthy report about 65 pages.

We've been dealing with a lot of water and if you've looked at the videos of Schelville, a huge lake of water has been floating through Shellville. This is a state highway that's been closed for a week or more. I also mentioned to the board that this is going to be a priority of mine, once again reaffirming to me how important this intersection is and there could be solutions, upstream as well as downstream to alleviate

some of the flooding. I thank Mark and everybody on the Sonoma Ecology Center and Arthur for their great expertise. Steven Lee sent to me a video of Sonoma Creek that has started carving out the bank of a house in the Marty Drive area. I'm really concerned that we're going to lose that house. It's going to fall into the creek. There's some solutions but it will take maybe some FEMA money. His idea was can we use some FEMA money to move the house in the SDC? That will take some doing. It will be intriguing to just flip that house and have it be part of SDC. I was rather firm in saying the community plaza idea was a good idea, maybe not with that partner; the community reacted very viscerally for lots of good reasons and I understand. There may be some grassroots efforts to engage in conversation, bring the community together to talk about is the community plaza important? If so, where? If so, how? I know parking at that parking lot is very important to the businesses surrounding that. Stay tuned on that. Thanks to everyone for all the work.

Councilmember Newhouser, Yes, we would be very interested in participating in any future conversations about water management in the valley. It's a known issue. We've had a reprieve over the last several years because of the drought and not having to address the problem with permeability, runoff, flooding etc. It's hopefully not too late because there's so much development that has occurred in the last 20 years that can make it difficult to manage water upstream before it causes flooding and damage. It's worth taking time, especially getting experts in the Valley together with public agency representatives to actually have a meaningful conversation about that. Thank you.

Supervisor Gorin, Across the board everyone was interested in exploring the concept of stormwater banking, either aquifers storage and recharge through injection system or infiltration diverting some of the water into vineyard land and perhaps the Sonoma Developmental Center for infiltration. I think there are opportunities there and I know that my good friend Susan Hayden, developed the manual on stormwater for Petaluma & Sonoma Valley. The board discussed an opportunity for public education to have a workshop on flood control. We're planning a number of workshops on a number of things this year.

Councilmember Dickey, I know that the sanitation district periodically needs to use Maveson Creek as an overflow during flood events for the problems that arise. Do those finds ever become public? Do we ever know how much it costs periodically every 10 years and what the sanitation district is paying and in terms of how much it is costing us for that District to be in that location?

Supervisor Gorin, Well sanitation treatment plants are always downhill from just about all development because the water/ waist is gravity fed going downhill. I'm not aware of discharges from the treatment plant and you're right, I think it did happen not frequently but sometimes with Santa Rosa and it may happen with Sonoma Valley. I know that we have been fined through the Regional Water Quality Control Board by the sewer overflow. Good news is we've done enough repair work and management of the system that we have had no sewer overflow events in Sonoma Valley which is unusual because the lines leak like a sieve, all the cracks. When we have a large range of rain events, the rainwater infiltrates into the sewer lines and then it reaches capacity and overflows. We've had no events this year. I think it's a good question to ask whether or not they do pay regular fines for that. I don't think it's done on a regular basis because the regional Water Quality Control Board monitors all of that activity very carefully but I'll ask the question. You may want to invite Brad Sherwood, assistant general manager for water agency to the MAC to talk about how they were responding to the flood events, managing the water systems and the wastewater systems. We're looking at some educational Outreach efforts so that you all know what kind of expenses need to be incurred and planned for to provide resilience and reliability into the system so if you have an interest you may invite Brad in to talk about that.

Vice Chair Dawson, Some of the work I did at the Ecology Center was covered by some of those fines. I

did a historical report on the hydrology of Sonoma and why flooding happens. If anyone is interested, I can send you a 50-60 page report with maps, covering the changes.

Supervisor Susan, I know we were fined for sewer overflows and diverted those fines into funding sewer lateral replacements to replace some of the leaking pipes. Some of the folks in Glen Ellen and along the trunk line did receive grants to fund lateral replacements and minimize infiltration into the trunk line.

I do have one more report out. It is absolutely tragic that we have another pedestrian fatality at the intersection of Verano. The Springs MAC, Caltrans, our district have all been out there walking that intersection. Caltrans is slow to respond to the urgency. The real challenge is that it requires some funding to upgrade the signals at that intersection to provide dedicated left-hand turn lights and I think that that was sadly the vehicle turning into a person in the crosswalk. That should not have happened and my patience has run out. I had a great conversation with Johanna Supers, director of public infrastructure today and said stop it, I don't care what Caltrans is doing, we have to do something. I suggested a solution, which is buckets at each of the corners with a series of dowel rods and fluorescent pennants, so they're posted now they're on social media and the instructions are you take a pennant out of the bucket, wave it madly and place in the bucket on the other intersection. It is not the final solution so this is our stopgap solution and maybe they will be embarrassed enough to put this on the priority list.

Councilmember Dickey, Paul Saloon property is going to be developed into housing and a hotel. Is Caltrans required to do those improvements before all that can be constructed?

Supervisor Gorin, They are not required to do that.

5. Sonoma County Regional Parks: Bike Trails

Project Update on Sonoma Valley Trail and Sonoma Schellville Trail by Ken Tam

Sonoma Valley Trail Introduction: The Sonoma Valley Trail is a planned 13 mile long bicycle and pedestrian trail along Highway 12 in the Sonoma Valley from Melita Road in Santa Rosa to Agua Caliente Road in the Springs. The trail will connect with existing and planned trails in the city of Santa Rosa and Sonoma and connect with other regional trails.

Background: The Sonoma Valley Trail is a concentration of the Central Sonoma Valley Trail. The trail is part of the 2010 Sonoma County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. With funding from Caltrans the county completed a feasibility for the Sonoma Valley Trail in 2016.

Completed Trail Feasibility Study: Community workshops and public input. The study evaluated alternatives and recommended a preliminary alignment (where the trail might go), initial design, and identification of segments that have potential to be built in the near future. Estimated project costs: \$24M in 2016.

Project Goals:

- Provide a continuous class I bike path (separated from the road) for transportation and recreation
- Improve safety and mobility for pedestrians and bicyclists along Highway 12
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Promote healthy living by providing a trail for community use

- Promote tourism to help bring in money for the local economy
- Provide connections to places of interest such as wineries, businesses, churches, schools, parks, bus routes and other trails
- Minimize impact to private property agriculture and sensitive natural resources
- Identify concerns and potential solutions to be addressed in project- level plan

Trail By Segments:

1. Melita Road to Oakmont Drive (west side)
2. Oakmont to Randolph Ave (east side)
3. Randolph Ave to Warm Springs Road (reduce trail-both sides) Kenwood
4. Warm Springs to Arnold Drive (east)
5. Arnold Drive to Agua Caliente Road (west side)

Project Status:

- Preliminary Design- entire alignment except downtown Kenwood
- Fundraising for acquisition
- Negotiations with tribe
- Design Engineering Evaluation Report and ongoing coordination meetings with Caltrans
- Ongoing negotiations with property owners
- Property owner information booklet
- Trail branding

How Can You Help?

- Support Letters for Grants
- Donations/ Capital Campaign
- Public Awareness

Sonoma Schellville Trail Background:

- Railroad operated until mid- 1900s and changed ownership several times. Railroad right away currently owned by Union Pacific Railroad
- Proposal to develop a 4 mile trail located along the former railroad right away which partially parallels 8th Street East
- Planned 8 ft wide paved trail begins at Sonoma Bike Path and ends at Highway 121
- Planed trail will be a connector to the 500-mile San Francisco Bay Trail alignment
- County has secured 3 easements, 1 fee title to sections of the railroad right away and one trailhead through the development process

Project Status:

- Continue negotiations with Union Pacific Railroad to finalize purchase agreement
- Continue negotiations with a Jason landowners who have acquired Union Pacific property interest
- Prepare final appraisal
- Assemble funds needed for acquisition (\$2 million plus)

Contacts:

- Ken Tam, Project Manager, 565-3348, ken.tam@sonoma-county.org
- Steve Ehret, Park Planning Manager, 565-2041, steve.ehret@sonoma-county.org
- Subscribe to project updates at parks website www.parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/ by clicking on “sign up for planning updates”

6. North Sonoma Valley MAC 2022 Annual Report

Will continue this item in February.

7. Reports and Announcements from Councilmembers and Ad Hocs

Chair Dawson,

Transportations Ad Hoc last year: survey roads and give recommendations to TPW for the next year or two's paving projects. Also advocated for improvements on crosswalks in Downtown Glen Ellen.

Supervisor Gorin, thank you for the notes regarding the roads you'd like to see prioritized for repaving. We've combined those with recommended roads from Springs MAC. We were planning for two year cycles. We weren't able to put all roads on the first cycle, but put the rest on the second cycle. Of course, you've been reading on storms and damage. \$15 million and counting. We're going to be in a storm clean up for a number of years. Trying to get FEMA to fund some or all of that.

Councilmember Galindo, thank you for the explanation and for your support.

Councilmember Handron, Mark and I are the community benefit project. We are in the process of coming up with a plan to identify and develop a map with desired monuments, community benefits like benches, or other things desired by the community.

Councilmember Newhouser, Many of our ad hoc updates have been postponed because of other pressing issues the last three meetings. Some of the feedback we got was to conduct a master planning process to get public input on what kind of improvements are desired, needed, feasible. We would like to have this be a discussion at the MAC level to talk about pros/cons about this project and get approval from MAC before taking next steps.

Brief update on emergency preparation ad hoc: doing community wildfire protection planning process, funded through fire safe Sonoma. There will be a follow up hybrid meeting sometime mid March to present the plan. We'll be working with GE forum and SV Fire Protection.

NSV MAC Budget Review

- Supervisor Gorin has allocated each MAC \$10,000 per fiscal year
 - The \$10,000 can be used by the NSV MAC for both ongoing and special projects approved by the Supervisor
 - Each project will need to go through the Board for approval
 - Simple form to streamline requests
 - Funds will not roll over
- FY 2022/2023 Budget: Expenses July 2022- December 2022: \$975 (Minute Taker)
- Anticipated expenses: venue rental for in-person meetings

Bylaw Review: MAC Advisory Topics

- Article II, Section 1: The NSV MAC will make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and other County decision makers through the District Supervisor:
 - a) Prioritization of transportation, transit, traffic calming, bicycle and pedestrian improvements
 - b) Health and Human safety- net services, including homelessness and housing
 - c) Community projects such as art, cleanups and vegetation planting
 - d) Fire services and Community preparedness
 - e) Additional topics as requested by the District Supervisor

Next Steps:

- Discussion: desired topics for 2023 NSV MAC meetings

8. Consideration of items for future agenda

Chair Eagles, do we have a potential bike path presentation for February?

Supervisor Gorin, It is a briefing on the Arnold Drive bike lane projects.

Acquisition. There will be a different, short presentation regarding a potential development across the Hanna Center.

Councilmember Diceky, have we decided on a venue for our March in person meeting?

Hannah Whitman, we are working on it. Please send suggestions.

Possible location: Dunbar School Library

Councilmember Newhouser, requested: Community Benefits Projects Committee to discuss the master planning process in an upcoming meeting. Second request: attendance participants at our meetings. I think we could get the word out. We could've had a lot more attendees at this presentation, given the trails. It's worth discussing how we're doing outreach and getting the word out.

Councilmember Nardo-Morgan, seconded. Several council members agreed.

9. Adjourned: 7:51pm

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/>