

*The Springs Municipal Advisory Council represents the people of the Springs in Sonoma Valley as the voice of the community to elected representatives. SMAC is committed to engage with all community members in meaningful and inclusive ways to promote the health and wellbeing of the Springs.*

**Springs Municipal Advisory Council  
Minutes of the hybrid zoom/in-person Meeting  
March 8, 2023**

**1. Call to Order & Roll Call 6:30**

Roll Call: Chair Iturri

Present: Lombard, Reyes, Hardeman, Winders, Alcaraz, Reyes

Absent: Perot

**Chair Iturri:** Encouraged Council participation. Acknowledged MAC's support team.

**Introduced: Zaira Enriquez,** Board Aide to Supervisor Gorin

**Spanish interpretation provided.**

**Present: Julie Burns, Carlos Radillo**

**2. Approval of Minutes of February 8, 2023 meeting**

Councilmember Hardeman moved to approve Minutes of February 8, 2023. Councilmember Alcaraz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Public Comment (Limited to items not appearing on the agenda) 2 minutes**

**Samantha Kimpel**, Program Officer w/ Creative Sonoma (CS), division of Sonoma Economic Development Board. Announced Fire Memorial Art Project. BoS approved development/installation of commemorative artwork to recognize those lives lost in 2017 wildfire. CS facilitating project on county's behalf. Work Plan can be reviewed on website. Timeline 18-24 months. Two opportunities: 1. an opening for members of a Fire Memorial Task Force, applications now being accepted. First review end of March, 31<sup>st</sup> 2023. Will be seven members, from broad cross section of stakeholders, representatives from families who lost loved ones to fire, first responders, artists, arts workers. More info: email [creativesonoma@sonoma-county.org](mailto:creativesonoma@sonoma-county.org), or website [www.creativesonoma.org/fire](http://www.creativesonoma.org/fire). 2. Project Manager, accepting requests for proposals for submissions. Closes March 31<sup>st</sup>. Will be in charge of Task Force, work w/ offices, involved w/ site selection, pending.

**Josette Brose Eichar**, inquired re MACs position on Springs Plaza/Gathering Place. Springs resident, member of Wake up Sonoma. Often easier to start something than stop something. Thanked county for finding partnership w/ Mattson not in community's best interest. Now is the hard part; how to get something positive for community. Has data & disappointments to share from her Springs Plaza Survey. Will be asking to be added to Future Agenda Items. Does the MAC still have an Ad Hoc Committee dedicated to Springs Plaza, if not will some members be pursuing independently; if yes, how can she & Wake Up Sonoma be of help? Not enough to just stop something w/o a positive solution to replace it. Springs Community Center agreed to rent space for a meeting on this subject. Fee reasonable, evening available. If county will not

pay the fee, she offered to do so. Was a good turnout for Mattson meetings; hopes for similar community engagement to find out what people want, what is possible. Also alerted MAC that there are additional commercial buildings along Hwy 12 have been purchased by LeFever/Mattson. These were not publicized sales; found by public record searches. This is to highlight the challenges the Springs Specific Plan may have when one entity owns most of the commercial property in the Plan boundaries.

**Cindy Scarborough**, 20 year Springs resident, previously 20 years in Glen Ellen, a volunteer w/ Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging, which is conducting a Needs Assessment to inform funding and policy priorities for 2024-2028 Fiscal Years for seniors, people w/ disabilities, & caregivers for same. In particular want to hear from low income, disabled, minority, primarily Spanish speaking, socially isolated, living in rural underserved areas, otherwise at greater risk of having unmet needs as they age. The community's participation can ensure that everyone's needs are taken into account; not just typical white upper class survey takers. Please share opinions and needs, & anticipated needs, & share info w/ anyone who might benefit. Anyone of any age can complete an online survey in English at [SeniorsOfSonoma.org](https://SeniorsOfSonoma.org), and in Spanish [TerceraEdadSonoma.org](https://TerceraEdadSonoma.org). Has paper copies to share. For more info, email [Cynthia@onabout.net](mailto:Cynthia@onabout.net).

**Veronica Napoles**, Springs resident. Wake Up Sonoma is not anti-development. Support responsible development that serves the needs & best interests of Springs diverse residents. This demands a responsible & transparent partner. LeFever/Matson had demonstrated covert behavior in buying, showing no intent to develop its properties in a reasonable time frame. Government doesn't regulate property ownership but it does regulate uses of property, it can abate public nuisances, & place liens on properties declared nuisances. County needs to get creative to protect economically vulnerable community. Develop a vacancy tax where county will tax the owner of a building that is vacant for an extended period of time, usually many months. It can be for commercial property, single family residences, or multifamily residences. One goal of a Sonoma county vacancy tax would be to deter speculators like LeFever/Mattson from sitting on property only to make profits. The county should consider a measure that if an investor owns X amount of property, that it must submit a master development plan w/ timeframes & fines for non-performance. Also, hoping MAC is following through on Plaza/Gathering Space, not in partnership w/ LeFever/Mattson. The momentum is here; should proceed collectively w/ community meeting w/ possible spots to create a plaza for community.

#### **From zoom**

**Xinci Tan**, w/ Zero Waste Sonoma, organizing a compost giveaway at Larson Park, coordinating w/ Springs MAC, April 1st, 9am-12pm. MAC also distributing counter food scrap pails, for free. Pails also available anytime central landfill, county Transfer Stations, 4376 Stage Gulch Road. Zero Waste Sonoma offering a compost rebate program. Anyone can get 10% cash back on compost purchases, individual or combined purchases totaling over 30 yards in a year. Only purchases made after signing 3 page Agreement can qualify for rebate. Any organization or individual can claim up to \$25,000 in a year through this rebate program. More info: [www.zerowastesonoma.gov/compost-rebate](https://www.zerowastesonoma.gov/compost-rebate).

Public Comment Closed.

#### **4. Community Event Announcements (@15:15)**

**Karina Garcia**, announced vacancies in the First District. Encouraged community members to apply if you're interested in learning more about the Government & how you can make a difference. The Commission on Human Rights, the Community Development Committee, Iolero Community Advisory Council, & both the North Sonoma Valley Mac & the Springs MAC have Alternate Positions available. Charla Comunitaria is returning in April. Thank you for the support & the request for us to continue. Keep an eye out for the agenda, which will be April 13<sup>th</sup>. Also the Sonoma County Planning Commission is holding a public hearing to consider adding & amending the Vacation Rental Exclusion & Cap X, combining zones for certain parcels in the First, Fourth & Fifth districts. Public hearing is coming on March 16th, approximately at 1 pm at the Board of Supervisors meeting. More information - Gary (707) 565-2404, email [Gary.Helfrich@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Gary.Helfrich@sonoma-county.org).

**Councilmember Reyes**, behalf of Community Health Center, will be pop-up clinics through April 20<sup>th</sup>, which will be last day. Thanked everyone for support over 3 years w/ pandemic - officially two years of vaccines, 3 years testing & vaccines. Wednesday clinic at Health Center will be closing. Focus will be on pop-up clinics at different locations, fire stations, etc. Info [www.svhc.org](http://www.svhc.org) under Community Vaccines. Federal Emergency Pandemic ends on May 11th. State & County have lifted already on the 28th, but we continue requiring masks inside the building until any further instructions by the Federal Government.

**Chair Iturri called for Public Comment. None. Closed.**

#### **5. Chair Iturri Update (@19:45)**

- Happy birthday to Maricarmen Reyes! ☺
- New MAC member joining in April – Jack Allen.
- SVCAC liaison report - Kenwood Winery Ranch proposal; approved with some hesitation. Concerns about traffic & exit routes for evacuation. Approved for 10,000 case winery, 20 special events over the course of the year & up to 200 people at any given event.
- April 27<sup>th</sup>, the Springs Rotary has invited the MAC to share their work. Chair Iturri will be presenting at the FAHA Building on Verano Avenue.
- Reminder to Councilmembers from Karina re Meeting Material & Deadlines. To comply with any & all materials that Council wishes to bring forward during meetings they must be included in the Agenda prior to the time of posting. This allows the Council & Community members time to access, review & prepare with questions, edits, & approve; also to meet media deadlines for promotional support materials. Post 2 weeks ahead. Material reports, presentations, budget reports, annual reports, etc. Agenda posting is done by Karina, this includes sending the agenda & material to the Councilmember. So moving forward, material not received prior to the agenda posting won't be included & this means it can't be presented during the meeting, and it will get bumped to the next agenda. Chair admits she didn't get a Budget Request in; it will be on the next agenda. It is understood that some items take more time when the Council has a Resolution Item such as a letter to review; letters written must be submitted in full before the meeting. Again, it has to be in a timely manner, so it can be posted, compliant, & allow time to discuss. Need to make sure that all proposals, budget proposals, & anything else will get to Karina for the agenda.

- Reminder that the Chair & Vice-Chair terms are expiring in April; nominations will be accepted at the next meeting.

**Chair Iturri called for Council Questions or Public Comment. None. Closed.**

#### **6. Supervisor Susan Gorin Update (@23:46)**

- Acknowledged MAC & community.
- BoS Meeting March 7th, discussed & approved the funding for George's Hideaway. It's the most recent addition to the county shelter system in Guerneville. Not inexpensive. Been in discussion re that site & facility for 6 years. Given the go ahead, going to move forward. Burbank Housing is going to manage it w/ the West County Community Services. Hopes for good news about Homeless Action Sonoma in the near future, & their progress.
- Shortest Board session possible, talking about the Zoning Code.
- County has 11 bargaining units for its 4,700 employees. In active negotiations with a number, including SEIU; not close to meeting their needs yet, may have some action moving forward, but it is a very difficult time for all employees, dealing w/ inflation & costs. Must produce a budget & meet it.
- Large Forum on Mental Health & Substance Abuse, organized by the county, at Finley Center, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, all day. Springs residents may not want to drive up there, but encouraged participation. Will get info out to all; create a smaller community meeting to discuss topic/s. MAC & community concerned about lack of mental health services in Valley. Working on funding & community partners. Noted that Sonoma Valley is not hot spot for opioid or substance abuse. More in Rohnert Park, Petaluma, West County. Has asked for data to quantify. Inquired if Councilmember Reyes had data on that from Health Clinic. No.
- County is continuing to work with the owner to lease with an option to buy a building right on the border of this Springs area & the city of Sonoma to be co-occupied with community service providers. One half of the building would be the County Health & Human Services & a number of different functions from the county, perhaps housing navigation, perhaps walk-in mental health. Need to finish negotiations. Other half would be occupied by organizations identified by the Catalyst Fund. It might be the Health Center, or it might be HAS or SOS. Excited about this potential to come together in a synergistic way w/ community organizations. Hopefully will have a lease in hand & start the moving vans to move in.
- Discussions started w/ City of Sonoma on how to consider shared services between city & county. It will be a community conversation but need to be very clear about how to set the context & stage for that community conversation. Waiting for the City of Sonoma to settle; had a Council turnover & new City Manager hopefully on board, Mayor Lowe a force to be reckoned with. Moving forward.
- Not going to talk about Larson Park, because 2 friends here from Recreation/Parks to present.
- Invited a lot of the Ag & Open Space folks for a valley tour for potential to apply for matching grants; not this round – deadline is Friday.

**Chair Iturri called for Public Comment. None. Closed.**

## **7. Regional Parks – Larson Park (@31:48)**

*Receive an informational presentation from Sonoma County Regional Parks Director Bert Whitaker and Parks Planning Manager Steve Ehret on the Larson Park Master Plan.*

**Bert Whitaker**, Director Sonoma Regional Parks

Very busy across the county right now; maintaining, redevelop, expanding all facilities.

**Steve Ehret**, Director of Planning

PowerPoint



Larson  
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**MAP:** Larson Park, 7 acres, Maxwell Farms 85 acres. Both parks serve the Springs.

Complementary, different histories.

Maxwell traditional Regional Park w/ mixed urban active & passive uses.

Larson Park, mini-version, in between community & neighborhood park.

Maxwell project largest ever done. \$7million.

Larson project will be \$3million.

**TIMELINE:** 2015 - 2020 Community Workshops, Presentations, Survey, Stakeholder Engagement, La Luz, town hall meetings, Farmers Markets. Good attendance throughout process.

May 2021 Master Plan adopted by Board of Supervisors

2020 - 2023 Construction Document Preparation

2018 - Ongoing Fundraising, Grant Writing 3 Months from Securing Funds Bidding, Bid Award, Construction Start; 90% ready

4 - 5 Months Construction Duration During Dry Season

### **MASTER PLAN (see pdf)**

Map and written document available

Process was approached w/ open mind, welcoming the community's input.

Result showed each element had a constituent behind it, i.e. friends, neighbors, local residents, valley residents enthusiastic about different components. They oversee 56 parks, this interest does not always happen. Each group requested improvement, but a balance of power resulted.

Biggest controversy over Pickle Ball vs tennis. Split difference, turning one court into Pickle Ball.

This is parallel to Maxwell Farms project in development. Four additional Pickle Ball courts planned there. Plus soccer & baseball.

Larson Park site has shifted. Phase One – rebuild 2/3rds. Soccer increasing.

### **CONSTRUCTION PLANS (see pdf)**

Problem w/ original park construction. Soil/subgrade under tennis courts not properly prepared; can't just be over-laid.

### **BACKGROUND**

- Larson Park was donated to Sonoma County Regional Parks in 1988 after local park district went bankrupt due to insufficient property taxes to support park maintenance
- No Construction “As-Built” or original construction documentation were provided Infrastructure is 30-50 years old
- Limited Improvements – ADA, Sonoma Valley Trail with Flowery & Feters Springs Housing, Playground, Garden, maintenance Background
- Larson Park has \$80,000/yr. +/- and Maxwell \$70,000/yr. +/- Regional Park median income is approx. and; well above \$51,026 income threshold for state grant

Relative to Sonoma County, the Springs not as wealthy as other areas; but relative to Central/Southern California, it’s wealthy. Grants, like Prop 58, need \$51,000 income, get outcompeted by other parks. Been turned down for many grants. Also, Sonoma Valley population small; below 100,000. Competing w/ much larger areas w/ millions in population.

### **Funding for Larson Renovation Project (2018-2023)**

\$1,350,000 Parks for All Measure M, Sales Tax

\$335,000 County Service Area 41 (Failed Parks District Tax Assessment), annual operations & maintenance

\$48,000 ADA Grant

\$45,000 Park Mitigation Fee - Sonoma Valley Area

\$22,000 Regional Parks Foundation (Confirmed, more possible)

### **\$1,800,000 Total Funding Spent**

\$335,000 Construction Plans, Master Plans, Engagement, Utility Fees

### **Construction Estimate**

\$3,000,000 - 3,500,000 Phase 1 Construction Estimate (incl. 15% contingency)

### **Additional Funding Needed for Phase 1 Construction**

\$1,200,000 – 1,700,000

Continuing to fundraise.

Matching Grant Program, from Sonoma County Ag Preservation Open Space District geared towards new facilities. When applied for Maxwell asked for a whole bunch of money, & they were only willing to fund the new pieces which included some trail work, some restrooms but they weren't willing to fund the fields. But the fields were there, even though being dramatically made more usable - but through official turfs that are used throughout the whole year. Eventually lights will allow nighttime play, leagues will be able to come here, all ages use w/ Boys & Girls Club anchored there. And so the reason for this is the Open Space district doesn't want entities to try to backfill their maintenance budgets. They want to create new green, Open Space; this is really typical of grant programs. We are turning an application on Friday for a different Sonoma Valley project. But it's not a good fit for Larson's renovation. Being made all new & better but it doesn't qualify.

Re one of our first speakers this evening on Creative Sonoma. There's a number of art projects that are undetermined & captured in the Master Plan that are available for the community to work with either our community engagement division, or others to make it more beautiful. Engage people on a deeper level. A Master Plan doesn't have to get into that level, but it identifies that. So I think there's at least 7 different ones, e.g. murals.

### **Chair Iturri called for Council Questions.**

**Councilmember Winders**, knows Larson Park well. When looks at the map of Maxwell, heard it serves the Springs, but wants to push back a little bit on that, because the majority of it appears to be in the city limits. Incorrect or correct? Steve, you're incorrect. When Maxwell Farms was developed it was split. So the city took the high revenue generating area for commercial development, & the county was left w/ the park responsibility. The City, for a number of years, helped fund the Skate Park, but they recently pulled that back. \$20,000 out of City Budget. There is no contribution from the City, & it does serve the City, it's the great meeting place of whole community. Councilmember Winders, Maxwell is just outside the Springs, it's a popular walkable community, walking down to Maxwell isn't typical choice. They walk to Larson. The other thing is people complain about the parking fee at Maxwell & don't use it as much due to that financial barrier. Understands money must be made to sustain the parks, there is a socio-economic divide between Hwy 12 & Verano. Hears things like it's under-used; it's not under-used, despite how much it's falling apart. It is used a lot, there every day, & there are a lot of people there. Never there alone. That piece is important.

Question about the Regional Parks Foundation. Can people donate directly to Larson Park to fill that that financial gap we're waiting on. Can they donate specifically to Larson to the Foundation without it going into sort of one big pot? Steve, yes. Councilmember Winders, so that's something that as a community we could organize & utilize the Foundation as the destination? Steve, yes, and Maxwell also has a separate fund, too. Councilmember Winders, is that something that people do by reaching out? Or is there like a link? Large donations or crowdfunding small donations? Steve, all of the above. Councilmember Winders, could you provide a link directly to that for access? Steve, Karina can help. Sonoma County Parks Foundation. Councilmember Winders, acknowledged the work being done; Larson Park is a special place. Look forward to reaching goals.

Steve, agree w/ need to make it more pedestrian & bicycle friendly; reason they invested a few million in Class One Bike Lanes. Negotiated w/ Flowery School for over a decade to get the trail to wrap through there; worked w/ MidPen for almost a decade to get trail through there. Built the whole Class One along Verano all the way down to the bridge. Now working w/ hotel & housing developer to maintain a parklette on that side. Their responsibility is the Class One Bike Lanes. Separated ones like Sonoma Bike Path. Public Works does the road shoulders. Tried to get Class One along Hwy 12 corridor many years ago & CalTrans said no. This was right before the whole Springs Improvement Project. And what resulted, of course, were these nice Class 2 Bike Lanes & sidewalks but then there's this kind of circuitous route inland that doesn't connect, doesn't have that same functionality. So we've done almost everything we can do that is in the plans, & it has taken close to 20 years & millions of dollars. We have transit stops, which is also another way for people to get around. Re question about the fees. We do have a low income Park Pass. We do have a Veterans Pass, an Accessibility Pass. A Senior Pass. We also do all sorts of work with the schools & have a subsidized school bus program.

Information from Census states area around Larson Park is wealthier than around Maxwell. That's the data they have to use.

Re donations. Any size is great; it shows the community interest. Not just how many dollars they have, it's how many people, which is powerful to other grant funders.

**Councilmember Alcaraz**, is there a Master Plan for Larson Park, ready to go when funding is in? Steve, yes. Councilmember Alcaraz, is there room for additional suggestions or add-ons to the Plan? Steve, difficult at this point. E.g. the playground is not included. Future conversation & follow up around that. Also some art projects. In terms of full layout, yes, \$100,000s deep into development, construction plans. Councilmember Alcaraz, inquired about soccer fields. Many teams in the community. Some were punished, could not play in Maxwell or Larson Park because they weren't using the restrooms, but the restrooms are lacking. They had to go to other facilities like Bennett Valley or Rohnert Park to play. Is that something that you are aware of? Steve, yes, not exactly that they were banished, but did hear from the neighbors about the issue. That is why there is a permanent restroom slated for Larson, part of redevelopment. Also new restrooms at Maxwell. Councilmember Alcaraz, it will be great there is a re-education for this team so they can know not to cause problems, but also to have the facilities for them to use, which are lacking. They have to drive all the way there, and it's time-consuming, and also adds to the Co2 emissions.

**Councilmember Lombard**, question about bathrooms. How many facilities, if it's unisex, available in park? Steve, believes it's a double stall, will check. Unisex. For special events, excited to be building a host of appropriate scaled field events at Larson, always possible to bring in additional portables, but they are not very sustainable or desirable, but good for surge peak times. Councilmember Lombard, two restrooms doesn't seem like a whole lot e.g. during a break in soccer when everyone is converging on restrooms, to avoid problem Alcaraz alluded to. It could be a little more generous. Understands restrooms are expensive, and hopes that the teams would be readmitted to play there because the situation was not ideal for them, their behavior could be excused or explained.

Question about how the income of the area is figured. Admittedly, area directly around Larson Park is better off than people who actually use the park who are low income. Can a better argument be made to recognize the income inequity? Steve, can answer part of question. Info is available online. Data is 2000 Census. Look for lowest number possible on project site, some flexibility, lowest they found wasn't the trailer park next to Maxwell, it was more towards Verano Bridge. Can't remember lowest at Larson. They weren't that far off from each other. The whole area needs investment; the more they can do will be well received, it's needed. Can't change the grant programs & how they operate. Try every possible way to fund the project. Councilmember Lombard, how does the low income Pass work? If someone gets other benefits e.g. SNAP, does info come easily, low income people are stressed.

Bert, a good point. They worked for many years w/ Dept. of Health Services. Letters are sent that informs them of vehicle entry pass, can come into office to redeem it, have several thousand recipients of the low income pass, is a target for year ahead to make changes in criteria, not working in Sonoma County. Don't want \$7 parking fee to be a barrier; but used to fund daily operations & maintenance of facilities. Councilmember Lombard, clarified, they must



go into the office? Bert, yes, but working through some health providers in Petaluma & Santa Rosa, to streamline access through them. Councilmember Lombard, why isn't form available to fill out online? Bert, current regulation & set up is General Memberships available online, all other need to provide information & proof to office to receive benefit. Some do call, not a perfect situation, certain individuals e.g. disabled can do workaround on requirements. Not simply online w/ a data base to register. Councilmember Lombard, who is responsible for overseeing that? Bert, Regional Parks works through County Counsel Office & BoS annually, to look at programs & how to maximize getting opportunities out.

**Chair Iturri**, recommended the bathroom situation be better addressed; would be appreciated by many people. Please consider any opportunity to increase units in planning or construction.

Also, re county benefits, understands pending project to bring county services in, but also are there ways to bring in Mobile Services to Springs? Income challenged people have difficult time managing their lives to acquire the benefits. How to better provide more important ones, e.g. the Park Passes.

**Councilmember Hardeman**, inquired re timeline for first Phase of Maxwell Park to be completed. Steve, it's weather dependent. Need rain to stop & ground to dry out. Probably 2-3 more months.

**Steve**, also, **there are Park Passes in the Libraries, throughout county**. Come w/ adventure backpacks w/ supplies for use. Very popular, anyone can check out.

**Councilmember Reyes**, also info at Sugarloaf & Sonoma Ecology Center, & at Health Center.

**Chair Iturri called for Public Comment.**

**Josette Brose Eichar**, unclear on timeline for Larson Park. Asked for clarification on 3-4 months to completion. Steve, once the funding is in place, 3-4 months to complete. There's a public outreach process. Depending on various elements. Have to post it, Notice it, go to the Board of Supervisors to award it & then the contractors provide bonds & insurance. All this documentation, then can start construction within 4 to 5 months.

Josette, when will funds be secured? 5-10 months from now? Steve, hopefully this summer. Josette, re park usage. Do they see usage extending to things like craft fairs, farmers markets, etc.? If yes, will neighbors be ok w/ more intensive activities? Steve, parking is always difficult. Noise is an issue. One compromise was agreement to not turn into a night-use park. There's a little pulse on the weekends, and it's relatively quiet. During the weeks it has hosted a farmer's markets. I don't think it was terribly successful, and that's why the Farmers Market was moved back onto the arterials. They wanted to have more visibility. But we have a process for groups to apply, to use our parks for different events. And so each one of those will be considered.

**Chair Iturri called for Public Comment**

From Zoom:

**Linda Odetto**, curious about whether or not the turf is going to be natural or artificial, & whether the bathroom stalls are going to be individual & locking. And is there going to be additional funding for maintenance of the new facilities & enforcement of the parking? Steve, fields are natural. Bathrooms will be locking. Goal is to have maintenance dollars be effective. Instead of fixing broken water pipes all the time, & crack repairs; renovation will cut down on maintenance costs.

Bert, they don't manage individual parks they manage units of parks. As Maxwell is developed will become more of a centralized hub for Park Ranger or Park Services to come out of, so that should be an infusion, a greater efficiency with operations. That's one piece of the component out of Maxwell's having more presence down there, which ties into Larson, & also with Sheriff's Office & to be responsible there if not available. If further north in the valley where adequately resourced, badly resourced, is still spread thin when covering a landscape the size of Sonoma Valley.

**Nidia Figueroa**, lives & works near Larson Park. Works at La Luz Center, want to say that they support & appreciate this movement in getting renovations with Larsen Park. Like everyone has said, it really is needed, want to offer support from La Luz.

**Diana Sampson**, member of Park Foundation. To Councilmember Winders, appreciates her enthusiasm to help w/ fundraising. Will reach out to her, get contact info, answer questions. To the presenters – what is Phase One – most of park or just pieces? Steve, Phase One includes the soccer field, the court, gathering area, restrooms, working on updating the garden w/ Sonoma Valley Rotary. Does not include baseball field; doesn't have to move.

**Chair Iturri called for Council comments.**

**Councilmember Winders**, asked for confirmation that there's nothing in the Plan that would change or disrupt the creek area if the creek area would remain as it is.

Steve, correct. One of goals through the process was to try to bring this renovation to the community as quickly as possible. If anything done in the creek area, would have ended up with a much longer and expensive process. Going to continue to do restoration native plantings; all that's fine, but property boundary goes about halfway to the dam. In the past looked at working w/ state/federal agencies, learned that there's two different endangered species that compete w/ each other. The fairy shrimp like the dam, the salmon not so much. Couldn't go anywhere, so not messing with the swimming hole. It's still going to be this nice shady place to go down & visit, the valley doesn't have enough water that's affordable, to go. Well aware of the value of it. Councilmember Winders, Thank you. That was the happy answer. I didn't want the swimming hole next to it.

#### **Sonoma County Transit (@1:15:12)**

*Receive an informational presentation from Sonoma County Transit.*

*Transit Systems Manager Bryan Albee on the Sonoma-Rohnert Park route and other Sonoma Valley routes.*



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SCTSchedule\_44-48  
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## **Bryan Albee**

First public meeting in 3 years. Presentation on Sonoma Valley to Rohnert Park service. From comments received over the last couple of weeks there's a lot of interest in this. We're prepared to do it. Just need to figure out how, how much time it will take, & where the service starts. We know it will end at the Credo High School or Sonoma State.

### **Background Power Point Route 44 Schedule (graph in pdf)**

The interest in a Route from Sonoma Valley been around for a year, maybe longer.

We were able to make some changes with our December schedule last, December 11<sup>th</sup> & we'll start with the afternoon trips. What complicates service to the valley is there are multiple buses. One from Valley to Santa Rosa, intercity Route 30. From the other way is 30 from Coddington, up Valley to Sonoma Plaza. Route 40 goes from Sonoma Plaza to Petaluma Transit Mall, adjacent to Smart Station. Transfers can be made from there to other Routes & Golden Gate Transit. Buses Route 44 & 49 provide service between Petaluma & Santa Rosa, serving Rohnert Park & Cotati. That is largest, heaviest used Route. To get from Sonoma Valley to Rohnert Park you have to use three Routes. In December started a bus up in Sonoma Mountain Village, outside the school, at 3:45, called it Route 44 Express. Gets to Petaluma Transit Mall at 4:14. That bus turns into a Route 40 at 4:25, comes over to Valley, ends up back at Petaluma Transit Mall 40 minutes later.

### **Route 40 Schedule (Graph in pdf)**

That is most direct service available; have to go through Petaluma Transit Mall, takes longer. Not just serving schoolkids. Public Transit serves everyone, there is a Route network. Can run service to schools but not exclusively. Schedules must be published, open door to anyone.

### **Route 30 Schedule (Graph in pdf)**

Re comparisons to Route 26 in Sebastopol, that is a straight shot, fewer traffic lights, higher travel speed, have served Credo for many years from Sebastopol. Is possible to do something in Sonoma Valley, not as fast due to geography & how Routes work.

Problem now is the mornings. Afternoon works pretty well. To get to Credo need to be on 6:15am bus leaving Sonoma Plaza, to Petaluma Transit Mall, becomes a 44, to Credo at 7:42. School starts at 8:30am. Focusing efforts to improve this in August.

Added a new trip, leaving plaza 7am, get to Credo at 8:15, continue to SSU at 8:19. Would serve Petaluma JC Campus, at 7:59. Saving 45 minutes in the morning; still very early day, but there are options.

December change not producing many riders.

Offered to return in a couple months as plans move forward. Need information on where kids live. Will be working w/ the schools.

## **Chair Iturri called for Council Comments**

**Councilmember Winders**, grew up in valley & relied heavily on county bus system, as a kid, teenager, young adult & then a single mother who couldn't afford a car, putting herself through

college, & took the 30 to Santa Rosa JC w/ a baby, & then a toddler. Sometimes her classes did not align with bus schedule; she would get there early, use time to work on assignments, eat, prepare for day. Wasn't that big of a deal. Apologized for being curmudgeon in room. Noted there are Valley schools & when a parent makes a choice in school to choose a different school outside of the valley, they are making a choice to take on the additional responsibility of transportation, Appreciated something speaker said that it is not Sonoma County Transit's responsibility to provide bus services to the schools. Schools have their own transportation, & if charter schools want to take that on, they are welcome to do so. Our regular K12 traditional public schools provide bus transportation & it's an additional expense, worked into the budgets. So 48 minutes early doesn't sound like a deal breaker to me. That sounds like a great opportunity to have something to eat in the morning, work on some assignments, connect with some friends before class gets started, and then start your day. And so I have to be honest. I'm a little taken aback by some of the Public Comments. I don't actually consider this an equity issue. Equity is about creating opportunities in your local area to access, and there are public schools in our local area to access with bus transportation to them.

I think that Sonoma County Transit has gone to great lengths in the last couple of years to improve their bus stops, service, & to streamline to larger community needs.

We don't have colleges in Sonoma Valley, so for a lot of our college students in the valley that is an equity issue. There isn't an opportunity in the valley for them to attend college. They must attend college outside of Sonoma Valley, and I think the transit system has done a really good job of having regular stops at both the JC Campuses & SSU. Would like people in the community to take a step back & to re-evaluate what equity means. And to understand that we all make choices as parents; I've made educational choices. And we have to factor in what works for our families, & sometimes we have to do extra things with our choice, to provide our children w/ the opportunity that we feel is best for them. But that doesn't mean that the opportunity doesn't exist close by; that you could also choose to take.

Appreciated the efforts speaker put into this & willingness to consider the community needs & to readjust the schedules as needed to meet the community needs. I thank you for it because there are a lot of people who really do rely heavily on our County Transit system.

**Supervisor Gorin**, acknowledged Bryan's work, successfully establishing needed benches, bus stops, etc. Thanked Councilmember Winders for her comments. To the long view - suggested following the feasibility of the Smart Train expanding into Sonoma Valley which would be an easier connection going into Petaluma & to the train.

**Councilmember Lombard**, when my daughter was in Middle School & High school I had a job in Petaluma. Looked at commuting on the bus; meant that I would have been away from home about 12 hours a day. It was absolutely not worth it, so I kept on driving. But one of the goals of the county is to decrease our carbon footprint, & if bus service doesn't expand that's not going to happen really. Driving is people's only feasible way of getting around. I had a choice between spending that much time away from home & not being with my daughter. It was just a deal breaker. Feels that "if you build it, they will come" - if we had better bus service that would

meet the needs of the people. The valley is isolated, that's one of the reasons we don't have very good bus service

**Councilmember Alcaraz**, read somewhere that just about 6% of the SRJC Petaluma students are from Sonoma Valley. That is a really low percentage of students. This is related to this issue. Concerned about the sustainability to have a bus route from Sonoma directly to SRJC Petaluma, Credo High School & Sonoma State. I also used the bus & liked it a lot for a long time. But I had the same situation as Iris, spending so much time on the bus & it was very inconvenient & difficult to just to use the bus. So I decided to drive, because I also had to work. But I see a lot of support from the community that they really want this route, & apparently there are around 1,500 possible students that could be going on that route. So that makes it positive & optimistic. But if the new bus route is created & it's empty, that's sad; why would we create it? But I will totally be in support of that if students use it. I think that in America we create cities for cars & not for Public Transit, & that's the major reason why we have so many cars.





**Councilmember Reyes**, I personally didn't know about this route; it's been a pretty well-kept secret. Happy to know that it does exist now, for whichever reason they've chosen the High School. But as Councilmembers have been saying, it has been a missed opportunity for education e.g. during summer camps, at Sonoma State for middle school students, for high school students going to Upper Bound for academic college readiness. A lot of parents are not able to take time off work to take their kids to these opportunities. E.g. the Tinker Academy, which is free, will be from 9am to 4pm - that's usually a time parents have to be working. So you have middle school students who can be missing this opportunity of attending a free STEM Academy. I think that promoting this route more is going to be able to bring more opportunities, not only for middle school & high school students, but also for kids going to JC, Sonoma State, and not only for academic, but also sports. A lot of kids that want more activities like soccer, would have better teams, different levels of soccer or even baseball e.g. into Rohnert Park. So I think it's really going to expand the horizon, not only for better academic access, but also for sports. And this will help the mental health of our teams. Also for people that want to do a dual education, ESL students, people that want to do their GED. There are people that are afraid of driving out of Sonoma; kids that are not in college, & are afraid of driving & have anxiety of learning how to drive. She will be promoting this route way more now.

**Councilmember Hardeman**, acknowledged Councilmember Winders comments. Thank you Bryan, for explaining how the routes all run; now it makes sense. There's a way for our graduating teens to get to those schools, because there's not another way for a lot of them.


**Chair Iturri announced readings from submitted Public Comments (@1:35:49)**

Many submitted Public Comments, 12 total; will read 90 seconds of each one.

[All meeting documents included in supplemental file]

 Public Comment  
 Springs MAC 03.08.23 Anna Som
  public comment  
 March 8 re new bus ro
  Public Comment.pdf
  Letters of Support,  
 updated.pdf Richard Dale

 Public Comment  
 3\_8.pdf
  SMAC Public  
 Comment 03.08.23 m Jennifer Palladini

 Sonoma-Petaluma  
 SRJC letter of support David Liebman

Energy & Sustainability Manager, Capital Projects  
 Sonoma County Junior College District  
 Office (707) 522-2836, Cell (310) 430-2063

**Public Comment via Email From:** Cathy Miller <[cmiller@schsd.org](mailto:cmiller@schsd.org)>

Date: Wed, Mar 8, 2023 at 10:30 AM

Subject: Public Comment 3/8

To: Alex wilkens ([acwilkens@gmail.com](mailto:acwilkens@gmail.com)) <[acwilkens@gmail.com](mailto:acwilkens@gmail.com)>

Dear Karina,

I would like to request that this public comment is acknowledged at the meeting on 3/8/2023 regarding the Proposal for Sonoma-Rohnert Park Direct Bus Service.

*We respectfully request consideration for this proposal for the reasons outlined clearly and succinctly within the document. Initially, when our daughter started at Credo High School in 2021, our family looked toward Sonoma County Transit as an option. However, due to the significant travel and wait time it would take for her on both routes in the mornings and afternoons, we quickly realized this was not viable with her school work and other extracurricular activities. We opted to locate carpooling with other families. While we were fortunate with this arrangement, we also want to advocate that allowing people from Sonoma Valley to have equitable access to various education institutions while reducing the greenhouse footprint is of great value. And, it likely aligns with Sonoma County goals for all its communities. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.*

*Sincerely, Cathy Miller and Alex Wilkens*

**Public Comment via email From:** Seth Olyer <[ofd581@gmail.com](mailto:ofd581@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 8, 2023 4:30 PM

**To:** Karina Garcia <[Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org)>

**Subject:** Public Comment 3/8/23 re: proposed bus route

*Hello, I would like this comment to be read and acknowledged at tonight's (3/8) meeting.*

Good evening, and thank you considering this importantly transit option for Sonoma Valley students. I wish to support the proposed bus route from Sonoma to Rohnert Park area. I am the

proud parent of a Sonoma Valley middle school student who will be attending Credo High School next year, and this proposed bus option for Sonoma Valley families is excellent! All of us in Sonoma appreciate the County's commitment to reducing greenhouse gasses and to keeping this area the jewel of the North Bay. This proposed bus route would save tons of greenhouse emissions annually, reduce traffic on already overloaded roads, and enrich the lives of Sonoma Valley families.

The Sonoma Valley is vastly underserved when it comes to public transit, and the proposed bus route would be a huge step in the right direction to provide equity and more importantly, **access** for students and residents to achieve their educational goals. Education connects motivation with opportunity. So many Sonoma Valley residents and students have the motivation, but just don't have the opportunity because of lack of access to higher learning. This bus route would immediately change that.

I write in STRONG support of this proposed Sonoma-Rohnert Park bus route, which is a fantastic way to reduce pollution, traffic congestion, and to encourage the use of meaningful, well planned public transportation. This is an investment in the Sonoma Valley's future!

Thank you for your time and for your consideration.

Seth Olyer  
Sonoma, CA

**Public Comment via email From: Linda Odetto <[rich\\_o@me.com](mailto:rich_o@me.com)>**

Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 9:57 PM

To: Karina Garcia <[Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org)>

Subject: Sonoma County transit meeting comments

I feel compelled to express my outrage at the comments given by Celeste. It was short sighted of her to suggest that "it is a choice for parents to send their students to schools outside of Sonoma" suggesting that our students do not deserve basic county services. We all pay taxes in this county and it is a county bus system. It was equally infuriating for the other bearded person to agree then to say the bus provided is sufficient. That bus takes over two hours to get to Sonoma from Rohnert Park! While it will be a relief to get our kids to school in a relatively timely manner, it is unrealistic to expect anyone to spend over two hours on a bus five days a week. The fact of the matter is Sonoma has always been under represented by the county bus system. The comments given by Celeste were an insult to all the parents and students in our valley who simply want to get to where they need to go in a timely manner. Who is she to suggest it is a privilege for them to have basic transit services to the places they need to go. Frankly, I find her comments were of the highest form of hypocrisy, as she herself spent years fighting for services for her own children. Although the services were of a different nature, I find as a parent, fighting for any services for our children is not that different.

Sonoma does have a K-8 Waldorf Charter if Sonoma had a Waldorf high school I would send my son to it. The expense of insuring a new driver can be upwards of \$5000 a year added to the price of gas and maintenance can be a great financial burden on families.

> In addition, I can comfortably say that my son feels safe Credo. Public schools have a history of violence, as we were sadly reminded of that with the tragic stabbing of the student at Montgomery High School. Where I do not feel is safe, is my son traveling regularly on the roads to get out of Sonoma as a new driver.

It's not like this bus will be empty. There are so many parents desperate for a bus to and from Sonoma Valley for their students. This bus will not go unused by any means. I am the one who initiated all of this two and half years ago, and I am so grateful for Jennifer P. She took the reins and got the ball rolling. Despite the snide comments of your two peers, I hope this bus line does not die in the slow death of red tape, but will be expedited. I would love to see these students getting to and from schools by the end of 2023.

Finally, I hope Celeste learns to have the same compassion for other parents and students as she has demanded for her own.

Thank you for reading, My best regards, Linda Odetto P.S. I kept raising my hand because my son had a comment. We had no way to communicate that to you. Perhaps there is a solution?

**Additional Public Comment email From: Linda Odetto <[rich\\_o@me.com](mailto:rich_o@me.com)>**

Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 10:52 AM

To: Karina Garcia <[Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org)>

Subject: Re: Sonoma County transit meeting comments

From: Linda Odetto <[rich\\_o@me.com](mailto:rich_o@me.com)>

Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 10:52 AM

To: Karina Garcia <[Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org)>

Subject: Re: Sonoma County transit meeting comments

Yes, I believe it should be on the public record. People who choose to be civil servants should keep ALL the people they represent in mind. The students in need of this bus are a part of the community Celeste represents. Honestly, in what way does this bus even affect her? It is like she has some kind of personal vendetta against student commuting out of Sonoma. She obviously knows a lot about the political system, but she needs to learn how to communicate to people with decorum, and not speak to them with ego driven condescension.

Thank you for getting back to me, and yes you can put this response on the record.

Thanks again, Linda Odetto

### **Chair Iturri reads from submitted Public Comments**

**Submitted by Jennifer Palladini.** "So we proposed a new direct bus route from Sonoma Valley to Rohnert Park with an emphasis on serving educational institutions - Petaluma, SRJC, Credo High School, Sonoma State University. In addition to serving students, this route would also serve employees of these educational institutions and nearby businesses. The proposed route would be the equivalent of an existing Route 26, Sebastopol Rohnert Park, Cotati that brings students from Maribel Park, Forestville, Sebastopol to Credo High School and SSU in the morning, and returns in the afternoon. This proposed route would increase equity and access to public transit and educational access for residents of Sonoma Valley compared to other parts of the county, such as West County. Detailed Route proposal. Morning. The proposed route is 28 miles, comparable and mileage, and timing to Route 26 - 22 miles. The route would begin in Glen Allen and Glen Ellen and Market stop and proceed south on Arnold Drive and Highway 12, with limited stops in Agua Caliente, Boyes Hot Springs, El Verano. The bus would then leave Sonoma Valley, taking Highway 16 to Old Adobe Road, turning on to East Washington then Sonoma Mountain Parkway to serve Petaluma SRJC. The bus would then continue on to Eli



Road, Old Redwood Highway, Petaluma Hill road turning on to Valley House to serve Credo High School, continuing there to SSU. The maps are on the following page.

The bus in the afternoon would do the same in reverse route; morning would be likely to depart, Glenn Ellen, at 7:15 or 7:20.”

**Submitted by Anna Som.** “Hello, I'm a parent of an incoming freshman Fall 2023 student who will be attending Credo High School in Rohnert Park. My family and I live in the town of Sonoma. The drive to create a high school from our home is approximately 35 min. One way. My husband and myself would greatly benefit from the proposed bus route, from Sonoma to Rohnert Park, Credo High School and back. We both work 8 to 4 Pm jobs, making it impossible to get our daughter to and from school each day. There are a number of other student’s families from Sonoma that find themselves in very similar predicament. My daughter would use this service every day if it were an option, and I know other families whose children will be attending Credo High school who would use this service as well. I truly hope that this proposal is accepted as it would help my family and so many others tremendously. Thank you and advice for your time and consideration.”

**Submitted by Andrea Akmenkalns.** “Dear Sonoma County Supervisor, Sonoma County Transit Authority and Springs MAC. I am writing to you as the Executive Director of Credo High School in support of a new direct bus route, linking the Sonoma Valley with educational institutions in Cotati, Petaluma, Rohnert Park including Credo High School. Credo High School is a tuition free College Prep. Pre-Public Independent Charter School, authorized by the Cotati, Rohnert Park Unified School District. We offer a rigorous academic curriculum that exceeds the University of California admission requirements, and includes a full complement of enrichment subjects, including printmaking, sculpture, media arts, blacksmithing, wood working, farming, American music orchestra, world percussion, eco, Robotics, and more. In 2021 Credo was recognized as the California Distinguished School because of our strong academics and unique enrichment offerings. We attract students from across Sonoma County and beyond, including 55 students in Sonoma Valley.”

**Submitted by Dr. Alexa Forrester.** “Dear Springs MAC. Thank you for taking time to seriously consider the possibility of creating a bus line to serve local residents and help increase equitable access to educational opportunities for all in the county. I am writing to support a One or Two-year Pilot of a route connecting Glen Ellen through Sonoma to SRJC/Petaluma, SSU, and Rohnert Park High Schools. The detailed proposal is here with a link. As a Sonoma County transit writer, mother of school children and instructor at SRJC I regularly see how limited transit options directly translate into limited opportunity for county families and kids. The new pilot line can be modeled off of the already well used Line 26 from an equity perspective. It is unfair that families in West County are being afforded these resources and support from the county when the families in the Springs community and Sonoma are not. Further, there is no way to truly gauge, demand, or lack thereof for this Route without actually creating the Route and letting it run for one or 2 years. The county may claim that they already have bus service

But the current routes are so burdensome in terms of travel times that most families cannot consider them a practical option. In light of the county's equity and climate goals. We need to be willing to experiment with solutions like these.”

**Submitted by Elizabeth Greggio.** “Co-Chair, Sonoma Valley Earth Care Alliance. I am writing on behalf of the 35 members of the Sonoma Valley Earth Care alliance to support the proposal for a new Sonoma Valley direct bus route to Cotati Rohnert - Park. Our proposal under review focuses on a population that should be better served by Public Transit specifically students, faculty and staff of the following educational institutions: Petaluma/SRJC, Sonoma State University and the 2 pre-public Charter Schools that enroll 55 plus Sonoma Valley students. This proposal is particularly pertinent because the Sonoma Valley is currently underserved by public transportation compared to other parts of the county along the 101 corridor that have more bus service and more access to Smart. This disparity in access to public transportation for Sonoma Valley residents needs to be rectified for reasons of equity in access to education. There is an additional reason for supporting this proposal however. One that is particularly important to the members of Earth Care Alliance – the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Our organization is committed to effecting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions whenever possible. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors adopted the Climate Emergency Resolution in 2019. To be faithful to that intention, the Board of Supervisors must recognize that growing adjustment in automobile transportation along our crowded highways is the leading source of greenhouse gas emissions.”

**Submitted by Genevieve.** “I am writing in support of the proposed direct bus Route, linking the Sonoma Valley with Cotati, Rohnert Park, including direct service to Petaluma/SRJC. See Proposal in parentheses. As a parent I have greatly benefited from the direct services connecting Sebastopol to Sonoma State and Credo High School Line 26. This critical transit allows my child to access quality education at both Credo and Sonoma State, while removing costly burdens from my family and the planet. The service is widely utilized daily by many students traveling from West County to the Rohnert Park Cotati area. My child also takes this Line to connect with other important services in Rohnert Park and with her friends from other parts of the county. In addition to allowing our family greater access to educational institutions and support services, the process of taking public transit itself has been a beneficial learning opportunity for our children. Students from an early age have to navigate public transportation, rely on and understand municipal services, and gain independence in a safe and sustainable way. Riding the bus has also encouraged my child to take other public transit, instead of relying on me or other parents, including the Smart Train and city transit services. As an urban planner I understand the complexity aligning transit services with educational schedules, locations, and events. When I was at Santa Monica College (SMC) I helped to create 3 new lines that connected students from all over Los Angeles County to the SMC. These lines were highly successful.”

**Submitted by David Moral.** “Members of Springs MAC. I write to you as Chair of the new City of Sonoma Climate Action Commission, as a President on the Board of Directors of Sonoma Ecology Center. While this letter reflects my own views rather than those of either organization,

I note my position to suggest my knowledge of and commitment to effective climate action now in our home area. From this perspective I am convinced that it is imperative for Sonoma County to take every opportunity to aggressively respond to the climate emergency increasingly falling around us - from fires to drought and beyond. As you are well aware, transportation is far and away the leading source of our county greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore improved public transportation is critical to meeting our climate goals. I am pleased to express my strong support for creation of a new direct public bus service, linking Sonoma Valley with the Cotati, Runner Park area. I understand that this success of Route 26 serving riders from West County into this area in recent years demonstrates that a similar route from Sonoma Valley will similarly achieve high ridership, even with perhaps only 2 buses per day. Such a route will consider (inaudible) reduce carbon emissions and vehicle congestions, and will allow concurrent access for our Sonoma Valley residents to important educational institutions (inaudible)."

**Submitted by Richard Dale.** The Sonoma Ecology Center. "Dear Sonoma County Supervisor, Sonoma County Transit Authority and Springs MAC. Sonoma Ecology Center writes today in support of a new direct bus route providing service between Sonoma Valley and Educational institutions and Cotati/Petaluma and Rohnert Park. Our programs reach about 1,100 students annually, including our teen internship program. We have seen how young people in the Sonoma Valley feel isolated from the rest of the world. For young children this may be a blessing, but for teens and young adults it can crush their sense of possibility for their lives. Free or low-cost public transit access to the busier parts of Sonoma County is needed, so that these young people can find their opportunities. Currently transit access to SSU, Credo High, Tech, High, and Petaluma/SRJC is prohibitively time consuming and unrealistic. A student with 2 working parents or without access to a car just cannot access these institutions. There has to be a better way, one that is in line w/ Sonoma County's commitments to climate leadership and social justice. Providing bus service for students to access more than the 101 corridor, where there are so many things for them to do would help address the stark inequities of mobility, education, sports, and opportunity faced, especially by kids who live in the Springs and highlighted by the 2021 Portrait of Sonoma County. Reducing traffic and emissions created by the single occupant or carpool vehicles is currently traveling between Sonoma Valley and Petaluma/Runner Park area is another reason for a new bus route. Since this route is for education access it only needs to run twice or 3 times a day."

**Submitted by Allen Kjeldsen.** "Dear Council Members, I am writing in support of creating a bus line that would connect Sonoma Valley to the educational facilities of Credo High School, Santa Rosa JC/Petaluma Campus and the Sonoma State University. I am a fortunate recipient of parents efforts to create Sonoma County Transit Bus Route 26. Knowing that this bus line existed, allowed us to consider Credo High School as a viable option for our 2 high schoolers. Currently the bus is full every morning and afternoon with Credo students and various other riders. Prior to the pandemic 2 buses were necessary to accommodate this amount of students on the bus to and from the Sebastopol area. I have confidence that parents and students will support the bus option if given the opportunity. I also have experience as a bus rider when I was a Sonoma State student traveling daily from Santa Rosa. I believe that our traditional car

culture needs to end. Public Transit is a positive improvement for the environment, social growth, and skill building. We all understand the environmental benefits of taking approximately 40 to 50 vehicles, parents and students off the road. Other additional benefits include social time for young adults on the bus. High Schoolers have surprisingly little time at school for social interaction, and they are still recouping lost social time and skills from the pandemic riding. The bus encourages independence and responsibilities, that is, getting to the bus on time, having money, paying attention to where to get off."

**Submitted by Viola Palladini.** "Dear members of the Springs MAC. I am Viola Palladini, a freshman at Credo High School. I am writing to ask you to support a bus that goes to Rohnert Park from Sonoma. Many of my friends live in Sebastopol, and they take a public bus to school. It's unfair that there's not one from Sonoma. I have taken the bus to Sebastopol to go to friend's house before, and it has been very helpful to be able to be more independent. It is hard to arrange carpool for everyone coming from Sonoma, and many people do not go to Credo, because it's a challenge for parents to get them to school. If we had a bus like the other surrounding areas, many more people would have this option. Sonoma is very isolated from other places and it makes it very hard for teenagers. Sonoma is a small town, and there are not many things for us to do here. We are not able to go to other places because of lack of transportation like my friends who live in other places. I hope you will make it easier for people to get to other parts of the county from Sonoma."

**Submitted by Meredith Rebolledo.** "My son is a sophomore at Credo High School in Rohnert Park. For the last year and a half now we have had to organize a carpool every school year to get my son to school and back. He was at Woodland Star Charter School prior and one third of his eighth grade graduating class attends Credo High now. There's a real need to get the over-50 plus students like my son, to school and back from Sonoma Valley. Next year my daughter's eighth grade Woodland Star Charter school class, around 15 of the 20 of the students will be going to Credo, so a lot more families will need to get their kids to school in the year to come. It would be a fantastic option to have these students take the bus to get safely to and from the Valley to Rohnert Park. Currently there are Credo High students that take public transit 2 hours every afternoon from school to Santa Rosa, and then another bus in order to get home to Sonoma Valley every day. There is a dire need for a link to a bus line to that part of the county, so these students can get to school safely. It has been proven successful in Sebastopol area, where a bus route for many years has been getting those students safely to Rohnert Park to school. I truly hope that we can add a line in Sonoma Valley too. Thank you for your time."

**Submitted by Dr. Matthew Long.** "March 7, 2023 Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, Sonoma County Transit Authority, Springs MAC regarding a direct bus route link in Sonoma Valley with SRJC/Petaluma. Dear Board of Supervisors, S. C. T. A. and Springs Mac. My name is Dr. Matthew Long, and I serve as a Chief Administrator of the Petaluma Campus at Santa Rosa Junior College. We serve approximately 6,000 students a year, many of whom are first generation college students, and come from underserved communities. On behalf of Santa Rosa Junior College Petaluma campus, we would like to express our support for 2 items. 1. a new, direct bus route linking Sonoma Valley with Petaluma/SRJC to a direct No-stop bus route

from SRJC Santa Rosa campus to the SRJC/Petaluma campus. For many of our students County Bus transit represents the only option for transportation. Up to the current day, bus transit from Sonoma Valley to our campus has been extremely slow and problematic to us to make it simply not a choice anyone would make. Sonoma Valley is underserved, with direct service only to 2 cities. In addition, the route. . . “

**Submitted by David Liebman and Abigail Zaugur.** “Dear members of the Springs Municipal Advisory Council. The Santa Rosa Junior College Sustainability Committee is writing in support of the proposed direct bus line, linking the Sonoma Valley with Cotati and Rohnert Park, including direct service, to Petaluma/SRJC. Access to, and success in all SRJC educational and extracurricular programs depends on our community's ability to get to and from our campuses in a convenient safe and affordable way. As we seek to lower the carbon footprint and other negative impacts of our communities, transportation to and from SRJC campuses, we support solutions that simultaneously help our community members overcome transportation insecurity, and increase mobility options for all residents. The Petaluma/SRJC campus is geographically the closest institution of higher education to Sonoma residents, but transportation barriers prevent access by those that are unable to drive. We encourage the Springs Municipal Advisory Committee and the Sonoma County Transit to support the addition; we want to say something about and continue to explore ways to increase access to convenient, safe, and affordable ways for residents to access educational programs.”

#### **Chair Iturri called for Public Comment on zoom.**

**Linda Odetto**, I would like to say that yes, it is a choice to for us to send our son to Credo High School. And it is because there is a school in Sonoma, this town, which is also a Waldorf. Most of you know it - Woodland Star. It goes to eighth grade, then we choose to send our kids to Credo High School because it is a continuation of that Waldorf Education. There are several students that come from Sonoma Valley and up into 50 - 60 kids come from this valley not to mention the kids that drive from Napa that could utilize the bus from the valley to the school in Rohnert Park. It doesn't necessarily have to be just for school students, either. It could be collaborating with workers into the valley coming from Cotati because there is a shortage of workers coming into this valley and it's too difficult for people to get in here to do the service work and whatever. There's no reason why that bus can't be utilized to bring workers into town after dropping the students off on an express bus to Credo High, Santa Rosa Junior College & Sonoma, State and Tech.

#### **Public Comment in person**

**Annette Goodfriend**, I'm the eighth grade class representative for Woodland Star. I just wanted to add that we have 15 eighth graders right now that intend to go to Credo, that would be on top of the 55 other Valley residents; we're looking at about 70 total, I think the ridership would be really high, we're totally in support of it. Thank you.

**Mike Palladini.** My family and I live in Sonoma Valley, and my daughter Viola, who you heard from, is a Freshman at Credo High. I'm here to voice my strong support for a new direct bus route from the Sonoma Valley to Rohnert Park, with an emphasis on serving educational institutions, including Petaluma/SRJC, Credo High School & Sonoma State University. This route would also serve, as was just mentioned, employees of these educational institutions and nearby businesses. I can tell you from firsthand experience, that a lack of Public Transit is a strain on families with 55+ students attending Credo High from the Sonoma community. Unlike communities along the 101 corridor, the Sonoma Valley is not served by Smart, making it all that much more important that we receive adequate options for transit on intercity bus routes. The population size of the Sonoma Valley warrants better connectivity. Current inner city trips from Sonoma require stopping at Transit Malls in Petaluma & Santa Rosa, lengthening the time required for travel. A new direct bus route from the Sonoma Valley to Rohnert Park would likely enjoy high ridership similar to the high ridership on the existing Route 26 from West County, which has been mentioned, which serves fewer students in a smaller population. Providing better bus service along this route would have the added benefit of reducing the number of cars driven to Petaluma, Cotati & Rohnert Park, both helping the county to achieve its greenhouse gas emissions, reduction goals, & reducing traffic in an already overburdened transportation corridor. I would again strongly urge the county to adopt a new direct bus route from the Sonoma Valley to Rohnert Park to better serve residents of the Sonoma Valley. Thank you.

#### **Chair Iturri called for Council Comments**

**Councilmember Alcaraz,** to Karina. I'm a little frustrated we only have 1 minute & 30 seconds to create these comments, because I think that all people deserve to be heard. But I also understand that these meetings are very lengthy and I can see that in your faces. Is there a way that other members of the public have access to these Comments, or is that only for us? **Karina Garcia,** first, the time allowed on each item is selected by the Chair. She can select 2 min, 3 min, 10 min, depending on the amount of Public Comment. All the Public Comments received prior to the meeting, in advance in time for Agenda posting are included in the Agenda Package, and can be found on the Springs MAC website. So, yes, it's available to the public.

**Chair Iturri,** added, we made the conscious decision to read the Comments aloud this time. In the past we were just allowing them to be posted, & so that was a change to make sure that people's voices were heard. But to read everyone's Comments for more than 90 seconds would take a long time. I can summarize them. There are some options, and I think I'm going to suggest it for Future Agenda items. But I'll wait for that topic to come up.

#### **Public Comment on zoom**

**Karina Garcia,** I do see Linda but she already commented, & it should be noted that callers are allowed to only make one comment per item. But I do see another raised hand.

**Seth Olyer,** I wish to support the proposed bus routes in Sonoma to a Rohnert Park area. I'm the proud parent of a Sonoma Valley Middle School student, who'll be attending Credo High

School next year, and the proposed bus option for Sonoma Valley families is excellent. All of us in Sonoma appreciate the county's commitment to reducing greenhouse gases and keeping this area the jewel of the North Bay. This proposed bus route would save tons of greenhouse emissions, annually reduce traffic on already overloaded roads, & enrich the lives of Sonoma Valley families. The Sonoma Valley is vastly underserved when it comes to public transit and proposed bus route would be a huge step in the right direction to provide equity, and more importantly, access for students and residents to achieve their educational goals. Education connects motivation with opportunity. So many Sonoma Valley residents & students have motivation, but just don't have the opportunity because of lack of access to higher learning. This bus route would immediately change that. I write & speak in strong support of this proposed similar Rohnert Park bus route, which is a fantastic way to reduce pollution, traffic congestion, & encourage the use of meaningful, well-planned public transportation. This is an investment in the Sonoma Valley's future. Thank you for your time & consideration.

**Thomas**, we met with and heard from the people sponsoring the effort to secure transit for students. That was through our Transportation Land Use Committee and we're very supportive of that. The other thing is the fact that the valley is underserved with respect to higher education in general. Whether it's Preparatory schools like Credo, Sonoma State, or the Junior College. And so we're hoping to see extensions of other universities to be there in the SDC property, because it's specifically built for State occupation. So any State type of facility schools, those buildings can be used. And there's a hospital there which could be used for nurses training. And my point is that people do need transit out of the valley & be able to go to the main school.

#### **Chair Iturri called for Council Comment**

**Councilmember Winders**, I want to address this because I want to make sure that people understand why I take the position I do on this. There may be people who don't understand the requirements of transportation & public education in California, and the difference between those requirements & County Public Transportation. The State of California is one of 12 states that is not required to provide public school transportation, but many & most districts do. Although there is some legislation coming forward that may change that, & public transportation may be required for all public school students in the State of California. But that's still in the works, and it hasn't been fully put all the way through & signed. But it is legislation being worked on. Currently that is how transportation and public education works i.e. it's an option for districts. And so here in Sonoma Valley we do have School District transportation for our K12 traditional schools. We have 2 Charter Schools here in the Valley. Charter Schools, while the District may hold their Charter, are responsible for their own implementation. They have their own governing body, their own budget, their own implementation of their school curriculum, etc. and that would include transportation. So a Charter School could, if they chose, provide transportation & work that into the budget; the same way that a School District does. A County Department of Public Transportation provides public transportation to the entire county & they are not responsible for providing transportation for LEA. The MAC does not make any decisions; We are an Advisory council. We

all have different opinions. But I look at governance, & I look at the different categories of governments, and who's responsible for what? And that becomes really important because you can't overburden one entity with the responsibility of another entity. And it sounds like there are a lot of students from Sonoma who travel to Credo, and I would really encourage Credo to look at their budget, & maybe consider creating a transportation line from Sonoma Valley to their school if they have that need. But it doesn't seem appropriate to expect county transportation to provide specific school transportation. Now, I'm all for expanding bus lines to serve specific areas, but we didn't get a bunch of emails from workers. We got emails that were very, very specific to one school; and that's a different conversation. So what I'm addressing are the emails that I received as a Springs MAC Council Member that were very specific to one school. So I don't personally believe in my opinion & in my experience in governance, that it is the responsibility of Sonoma County Public Transit to provide transportation for a specific school, to meet that specific school schedule. If they were to do that, they would never be able to create a transportation schedule, because there are a lot of schools. We have over 40 School Districts in Sonoma County & they are all on different master schedules, and that's why School Districts have the responsibility or can choose to take on the responsibility of transportation. I can appreciate the spirit behind the emails, but I personally could not get behind endorsing such a thing, because that actually is the responsibility of the school. I would really encourage Credo & their community & their family community to explore the option of creating school transportation between Sonoma Valley & their school.

**Councilmember Lombard**, what I'm noticing is that there is already a precedent w/ the Sonoma County Transit to create a bus line that serves Sonoma State, Petaluma/SRJC and Credo. I'm assuming that such a bus line would also be useful to other people; it wouldn't just serve people who are going to those particular institutions. Having something that is further over to the East in the Petaluma Valley seems like a good thing.

**Councilmember Alcaraz**, I think that I endorse the creation of the bus route from Sonoma Valley to the SRJC/Petaluma, Credo High School & Sonoma State. First, because I believe Credo is a school for a special education i.e. talented; it's a Waldorf based High School, yes, but it's a different kind of education. The point is that if somebody feels it in their being to go to that school, they will be doing something great later. I think that is important that we allow these kids to go to those institutions - I'm speaking for the students at Sonoma State or SRJC, not only for Credo High School. We have to take into consideration allowing students to attend these institutions so that they can excel at whatever they choose in life, and education is part of that.

**Councilmember Hardeman**, correct me if I'm wrong - there is transportation already. It's a longer bus ride, but there's already transportation. So first, in my mind that ability is already there to get there. Second, the carbon footprint part of my mind is - there's already transportation, so, adding buses - I don't see how that decreases carbon footprint. That's all.

**Break 8:55**

**Supervisor Gorin**, final comment. Thanked everyone. Be careful in the rain.



**8. Springs MAC Annual Report (@2:27:02)**

*Resolution Discuss activities and projects to be included in annual report. Designate councilmember(s) to work with Chair Iturri on draft to be approved at the April 12, 2023, MAC meeting. The annual report will be agendized on the Board of Supervisors Calendar before end of fiscal year.*

**Chair Iturri, requested reports from all Councilmember projects, Ah Hocs, etc.** Chair will compile report to BoS. Needs to be approved at next meeting, i.e. April 12, 2023. Needs the write-ups by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Gave direction for reports.

**Chair Iturri called for Council or Public Comment. None. Closed.**

**9. Budget Request: Logo Design Competition (@2:29:23)**

*Resolution Discuss plan for Springs MAC logo redesign. Discuss and approve competition details and monetary prize amount for design winner*

**Chair Iturri**, noted that her request was late for March so will be submitted at April meeting. Art Escape agreed to collaborate as nonprofit partner to pay artist/s. Need to get advertisement out to start. Summary: will put out a General Proposal to artists to design logo; Ad Hoc Committee (Councilmembers Hardeman & Winders) will review all entries & choose best 3 or 4 to then present to community to vote/decide on. A cash incentive will be offered to winner.

**Councilmember Hardeman**, re preferred elements: a graphic that is capable of size & color adjustments, in English & Spanish. Up to artist/s to decide what they feel represents the Spring's community.

**Councilmember Winders**, inquired re deadline. Chair Iturri suggested June, perhaps coinciding w/ Picnic. Councilmember Reyes reminded Fiscal Year ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. Are there limitations? Karina Garcia, okay as long as Art Escape invoices before June i.e. April or May. Winders, suggested deadline by June 1<sup>st</sup>; Hardeman, add to April Budget Requests.

**10. Budget Request: Día del Niño 2023 Sponsorship (2:34:10)**

*Discuss and approve sponsorship and on-site promotional opportunities for the Día del Niño 2023 event honoring Children's Day in partnership with Grupo Quetzalen and Sonoma Immigrant Services. Event planned for April 2023 at Hanna Center. Designate councilmember(s) to work on event.*



Dia del Niño\_MAC  
Budget Request Form

**Councilmember Reyes report**, this new budget request was presented in August 2022, estimate \$1,000. Request Form now completed. **Description:** "This event will be part of the Quetzalen community concert on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Hanna Boys Center Auditorium. To honor Children's Day, originally on April 30<sup>th</sup>, attending children will receive a toy/game after the concert."

**Community Benefit:** "The community will benefit by supporting the well-being of children, validating, and cherishing the importance of being a child." **Partnering Organization/Fiscal Sponsor:** Sonoma Immigrant Services.

**Chair Iturri called for Council or Public Comments.**

Councilmember Hardeman, what is money being used for? Councilmember Reyes, small toys, up to 100/150. Averaging \$5/10 each.

**Chair Iturri called for a motion to approve the Dia del Nino celebration in April.**

Councilmember Winders made a Motion to approve. Councilmember Lombard Seconded. All in favor. Unanimous. Approved.

**11. Budget Request: Emergency Preparedness Event (@2:37:52)**

*Discuss and approve sponsorship and on-site promotional opportunities for Emergency Preparedness event in partnership with the Map Your Neighborhood Group (MYN). Event planned for May 2023 in the Springs. Discuss and approve date and time of event. Designate councilmember(s) to work on event.*



FIRE Emer  
Prep\_MAC Budget Re

**Councilmember Reyes, Request Form completed for Event during Fire Emergency Awareness**

**Week, May 1-7<sup>th</sup>** and fire season starting in June. **Description:** “Proposing the event to take place at 22 Boyes Boulevard in the Springs in month of May by inviting different emergency preparedness organizations to table & provide giveaways related to emergency preparedness.” Was an amount estimated proposing \$500 but would like to retract that and request \$0 from the MAC. Spoke to DEM and they will be in process of providing \$1,000 from the County of Sonoma. **Looking at May 9<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, evening.**

Has spoken to Fire District & to Fire Safe Sonoma. Nancy from the EM will be co-leading this connection with all the rest of the emergency preparedness organizations, including Halter Project, the other most known stakeholders for emergency preparedness.

This event would inform and prepare the community & individuals to be prepared for fire season. Partner organizations would be Map Your Neighborhood which is confirmed; spoke to Dana, & Fire Safe Sonoma, DEM, COAD, the Fire District - pending. If approved, will provide more information, confirm to Nancy, and follow up with Karina. If approved, the MAC is also invited to attend, volunteer, have a table, etc.

**Discussion:** Will May 9<sup>th</sup> compete with other events? Possibly, but it's 5 or 4pm to 7pm, only one Tuesday. Whoever wants to be prepared, it's for the Springs specifically. Looking at 4:30 to 6:30, or 5 to 7pm. One of these two times.

Will it be similar to the one at Larson Park? Yes. Have a free space at 22 Boyes Blvd. Just need to get the county permits. Have all the agencies that will be providing the giveaways and the education. The 22 Boyes Blvd. location would be a centralized area where people could actually gather in an emergency, especially in case of an earthquake. Could say – “oh, let's meet by the Post Office.” That space is still there, and it's very usable, and need to make as much use as it is, even if it never does become a plaza. But it's there, and it provides this beautiful space for gathering, especially if there is ever a disaster.

**Chair Iturri**, clarified, we are not approving a budget. We're just approving the date & time and our participation in it. Correct.

**Chair Iturri called for Questions from the Council.**

**Councilmember Winders**, thank you for putting this together, I think it's really important. I want to second what you said re that particular location should we have a disaster emergency of some kind - it is a very good central point that's safe for people to find their family members and to access resources.

**Chair Iturri**, I also want to second that, Maricarmen. Thanks for keeping the emergency preparedness alive and moving; I really appreciate that.

Councilmember Reyes, this conversation came from Dana who said - We have to keep Map Your Neighborhood alive; we can't be relying on anyone else. That's our responsibility for looking out for our area. Anyone else is welcome too; happy to help them.

**Chair Iturri called for Public Comment on zoom. None. Closed.**

**Called for a motion to approve the date of May 9th in collaboration with these organizations to put on an Emergency Preparedness Event. Councilmember Hardeman made a Motion to approve this event. Councilmember Winders Seconded. All in favor. Unanimous. Approved.**

**Councilmember Reyes**, asked for clarification on Budget Request Form. Karina Garcia, yes, will need a signature, please revise w/ "\$0" amount & resubmit.

## **12. Budget Request: Community Picnic (@2:44:49)**

*Discuss and approve sponsorship and on-site promotional opportunities for Community Picnic event in partnership with local non-profit. Event planned for June 2023 at Larson Park in the Springs. Discuss and approve date and time of event. Designate councilmember(s) to work on event*

**Chair Iturri**, re Community Picnic, going to add an art component to it, i.e. Logo Design.

**Discussion.** Councilmember Winders, nothing to approve, more of an update. Reaching out to the Regional Parks it looks like what's needed is a Special Use Permit, because it's a community event, even though it's not ticketed, and there's no cost to get in. But not been able to get a hold of anybody. Contact info?

Karina Garcia, reminder that any communication to other county departments needs to go through staff as well. And then just a reminder that the Budget Request Form on this was not received.

Councilmember Winders, yes, because we're not ready; a few questions for the Council. Does the Council feel that we need additional Porta Potties? Need quotes for that? It doesn't sound like the new bathroom is going to be built in time. It is inadequate. So the answer is, yes. And a sink and a hand washing station? Also yes.

The other question - was the trash and recycling collection adequate? Need additional services for that? Yes, probably need that as well. Remembering at the Fire/Emergency preparedness event there was only one garbage can. There's no a dumpster or anything out there. Went & looked, walked around, feeling is that would need to reach out to Recology.

I don't remember there was a lot of garbage, but the Tacos, I think they do their own garbage. But with a Picnic will going need more.

So I will reach out and get pricing for both of those 2 things & factor them into the Budget Request.

And also probably a Certificate of Insurance? \$200 or so? Does this Certificate of Insurance go through the Fiscal Sponsor? Or us? Karina Garcia, let me check on that, because it might be through Regional Parks.

**First choice date would be June 17<sup>th</sup> because June 18<sup>th</sup> is Father's Day. But will make June 18<sup>th</sup> the second choice.**

Other 2 possibilities June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 11<sup>th</sup> but those are right after when school gets over and people are having graduation dates. So those were backups.

**Chair Iturri, no vote needed on this.**

### **13. Budget Update (2:49:36)**

*Informational budget update from first district staff. Discussion and direction on reporting and record keeping. Designate councilmembers for administrative roles.*



SMAC Invoices  
2022-2023 update 03

Karina Garcia, report: yellow highlighted areas are pending e.g. invoices from interpreters, KSVY. Balance was \$5,293.75 - after some adjusting current balance \$5,464.55.

Projected for this March meeting, a little higher with Minute taking, estimated \$4,700 after March meeting. Will then pay April and May and June; then a new budget.

**Chair Iturri called for Council or Public Comment. None. Closed.**

### **13. Ad hoc and Community Projects Updates (@2:51:25)**

*Council Reports, Announcements, and updates*

**Bicycle Rack Project**, Chair Iturri, update. The bike rack has been moved - thanks to Councilmember Alcaraz! Got an email from Art Escape; finding it hard to find paint that will stick to the bike rack because it's already finished in high gloss. They are experimenting to find right kind of paint. They are innovative and creative folks, have confident they will figure it out. Suggestion made that in the future the remainder of the unpainted bike racks be delivered directly to Art Escape. (Ad Hoc expires on July 13<sup>th</sup> 2023)

**Community Voice**, DISCUSSION. Question as to whether it's done; it was the emergency preparedness. Karina, you have one more month. I show that Community Voice Ad Hoc expires on April 6. You can still plan.

Can we make another AD Hoc to do with the emergency preparedness, even though in the past it already existed? Karina Garcia, you can create as many AD Hocs as you want. It can continue on w/ a different name like Emergency Preparedness 2.0.

I don't want emergency preparedness to die out; because we have the pod, Altamira, and because it looks like we have relationships w/ Sonoma Community Center regarding volunteers.

Need to follow up, re-initiate the conversation with them. Need to talk to Sonoma Valley Collaborative because they have the local there and mentioned the MAC as one of the members. How come the North Valley MAC is there because they have emergency preparedness too. And logically they're part of Sonoma Valley, so they should be on their too. Think we need to do an Emergency Preparedness 2.0, to continue looking into those things. Stability needs to be provided for the Springs. I propose another AD Hoc, to have a formal space for discussion.

So it looks like we're going to have a couple of AD Hocs. Karina, can add that to your April agenda. Community Voice will end on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**MAC Logo & Community Picnic** were discussed earlier.

**Facebook Page, Chair Iturri**, confused, we're not posting a lot, need help.

AD Hoc is Maite, Celeste, with support from Karina. Councilmember Winders, I would just need to be made an Admin on the page so that I could run analytics. And I could also assist with the posting, just don't have access yet.

Chair Iturri, I will work on that.

2 AD hoc proposals for next agenda:

One - potentially a Safety & Traffic AD Hoc. The other - an Emergency Preparedness 2.0

The ones that are sun-setting are Community Voice. Bike Rack expires July 13<sup>th</sup>, the MAC Logo, expires in November.

#### **14. Consideration of Future Agenda Items (@3:01:12)**

*Share ongoing list of future agenda items and note others of interest.*

**Chair Iturri, April 12<sup>th</sup>:** Roads & Traffic; Safety & Health is theme.

Chair & Vice-Chair nominations. Cal Trans. Public Infrastructure (PI) TPW. Sonoma Valley Hospital. AD Hocs. Last round of budget requests for our projects which will be the Logo and Picnic.

**May 10<sup>th</sup>:** Emergency Preparedness. Chief Acre, COAD, CVLN. Springs Fire Council. Sonoma Water. (Request by Sonoma water updating the 2018 local Hazard Mitigation Plan.)

Budget allocation for the 23/24 Fiscal Year.

**June 14<sup>th</sup>:** Economic Growth & Housing. Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce, & EDB.

Chair Iturri called for Council Comments.

**Councilmember Hardeman**, is it a MAC or outside issue to talk about a Community Forum for Plaza? Karina Garcia, clarified question - is there an active AD Hoc? Councilman Hardeman, yes, was it closed? Should we revisit in a different way, new Ad Hoc? Karina Garcia, you can start a new AD Hoc. If you want to add an item to your April Agenda to discuss creating a new AD Hoc for a Public Forum, I'm happy to add to comments/ suggestions.

**Chair Iturri called for Public Comment.**

**Josette Brose Eichar**, I would like the MAC to think about including the following agenda items for the near future. I know you have a lot on your plate.

1. As community members we now channel our correspondence through Susan Gorin's office, through Karina Garcia. I would like to request that the MAC begin to receive correspondence directly from community members via email. If there are worries about using personal email, then perhaps the county could supply email addresses to use, like the Sonoma City Council does. I believe direct communication would create better dialogue and create and promote more community involvement. Plus getting direct responses from MAC Members would build more and more community involvement over time. If done as the Sonoma City Council, and other commissions and councils do, there would be no conflict with the Brown Act.
2. I would also like to request for myself to possibly be on the agenda to present the data from the Plaza Survey that I created with Wake up Sonoma. I could present the data in a brief Power Point presentation.

(final few comments inaudible)

### **15. Adjourned 9:40pm**

Springs MAC Meeting Sonoma TV You Tube March 8, 2023

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQcNW5Enn60&t=1s>

[Springs MAC website](#)

[https://share.sonoma-county.org/link/zM\\_Zkql-nq8/](https://share.sonoma-county.org/link/zM_Zkql-nq8/)

Susan Gorin's website for zoom video

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0dzlO4\\_wWVEgcBB5907iZTimmplqLGhJ](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0dzlO4_wWVEgcBB5907iZTimmplqLGhJ)

Contact: Karina Garcia, Field Representative to Supervisor Susan Gorin –  
[Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org)

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Note: Consideration of items will proceed as follows:

1. Presentation by proponent
2. Questions by Commissioners
3. Questions and comments from the public
4. Response by proponent, if required
5. Comments by Commissioners
6. Resolution, if indicated

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