



**Springs Municipal Advisory Council**  
**Minutes of the hybrid zoom/in-person Meeting**  
**October 11, 2023**



*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.*

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

**For Viewing Purposes. Sonoma TV You Tube Springs MAC Meeting for October 11, 2023**

**English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2aPvOz444h8>**

**Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJCLds5Pb0Y>**

**1. Call to Order & Roll Call 6:35**

Roll Call: Vice Chair Hardeman

Present: Alcaraz, Allan, Winders, Lombard, Iturri

Absent: Reyes

**Chair Iturri:** Hybrid meeting, broadcasting on Zoom, Facebook & Sonoma TV. Acknowledged MAC support staff. Spanish translation available.

**Translators present: Carlos Rodillo, Julie Burns**

**2. Approval of Minutes of September 13, 2023 meeting**

Vice Chair Hardeman moved to approve September 13, 2023 Minutes. Councilmember Winders Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Alcaraz inquired if an amendment could be made to the Letter of Support for Public Infrastructure from the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Since the Letter was approved then & already delivered, it is too late to make an amendment.

Chair called for repeat of Motion to approve 9/13/23 Minutes. Vice Chair Hardeman moved to approve 9/13/23 Minutes. Councilmember Winders seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**File: Springs MAC Minutes October 11, 2023 Hybrid draft can be found here:**

**<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/springs-mac-meeting-october-11-2023>**

**3. Public Comment 3 minute limit (Limited to items not appearing on the agenda)(@5:11)**

**Randy Roberts,** El Verano, Railroad Ave, noticed article in SIT recently, study on East Napa on speed limits. Walks his son to school across Railroad, noticed drivers travelling at high speeds, & CHP stopping drivers for high speed. Can MAC do anything to get a speed test on Railroad to find a solution? Many respectable drivers, not condemning everyone, but some w/ loud vehicles racing their engines. Would hate to have someone hit before a decision can be made.

Unsure how to proceed. Lived there 20 years, speeders not a new problem.

**Jim Scriven, Cherry Ave**, yes, has noticed the same problem w/ speeders, & also people floating through stop signs.

**Zoom (@8:06)**

**Elena**, a student at SSU, requested to show her flyer (@8:24) re Project for Community Policing. “Come & participate in a listening session for a research project on community oriented policing.” Led by Dr Emily Asencio of Criminology & Criminal Justice Dept.

**Josette Brose-Eichar, BHS**, happy that Springs MAC is continuing zoom option considering incidents of zoom bombing at recent BoS Meetings & elsewhere. This is a set-back on ability for public input on most critical issues. Attended the Closed Session Sept 26; learned that county in negotiations to purchase former Uncle Patty property in BHS. Supervisor Gorin explained it is a potential real estate transaction to slightly expand footprint for a community plaza. Count her in as an Ad Hoc volunteer for Springs Plaza Committee. Was asked by Supervisor Gorin to send her the data/survey info from past Springs Plaza project. Still has Survey Template, can provide again. Has been translated to Spanish, but unable to get assistance w/ outreach to Spanish speaking community. Hopeful to connect in future.

**Public Comment closed.**

**4. Chair Iturri, Update(@11:37)**

- **Road safety.** As Principal of el Verano School for many years, watched drivers speed on Riverside Drive. Asked for speed bumps for many years. Told in past that speed bumps couldn’t work in El Verano due to community objections. Just saw article in SIT re speed bumps going in on East Napa. First sentence in SIT says “neighbors couldn’t be happier.” Sees this as inequitable, i.e. many things happening in city limits – lighted intersections, stop signs, etc., but not happening in Springs. Sends clear message to Springs’ community. Something must be done about roads in Springs. Understands there are people working on this issue, but not encouraging.
- **Vacancies on MAC.** Interviewing in near future.

**Chair Iturri called for Council Comments**

**Councilmember Lombard**, described incident she witnessed on Hwy 12 near Donald St. Gap – saw a man in a wheelchair trying to get around oak tree at last street, going south; he couldn’t get around due to traffic. Unsafe.

**5. Supervisor Susan Gorin Update (@14:19)**

- **Hooker Creek Bridge.** Thanked all present & Valley drivers for patience w/ many traffic delays. Took less than estimated 30 days, Hooker Creek Bridge is completed; will survive for next 100 years.
- **Sonoma Creek Bridge**, progress by CalTrans, scheduled 2 years to complete. Rails are removed; will be completed sooner.
- **Donald St Gap**, MAC & community working on this problem for over a decade. Last piece

from Redevelopment era; unknown why it wasn't addressed earlier. Former MAC Member Ellen Conlan focused on Donald St Gap, pointed out it is unsafe for pedestrians. Susan Gorin was one of the pedestrians then, before becoming Supervisor. Asked then - where are sidewalks? Good news - Transportation Public Works/So Co Pi hired consultant to redesign that intersection/area, w/ entrance to mobilehome park & Donald St Gap, research purchase of right-of-way, put in sidewalks along undeveloped hillside. As previously discussed w/ MAC, asked CalTrans to replace the bridge. But CalTrans inspected, didn't recommend bridge replacement. Now looking at barriers & deflectors, some element of safety until another bridge design can be created. Difficult, much vegetation. Can't widen the bridge; what are alternatives? Redesign the entrance, provide sidewalks, retaining walls. CalTrans working on providing sidewalks for first part to where Assisted Living Center is. County working on lighted crosswalk on other side of bridge. Concern over new Homeless Action residents' safety walking along road. Multiple different safety pieces, expensive, multi-jurisdictional challenge - but making progress.

- **To Jim Scriven**, re his letter – he thanked county for pavement, but still concerned about water pooling on streets. Solution to put gradual crowns on all the roads unrealistic. Recommended investing in rubber rain boots to stay safer while walking in rain w/ reflective clothes.
- **Stop signs/Speed Bumps** – re connecting Cherry St. City of Sonoma puts in speed tables, not bumps. Must slow down, or noisy. Many complaints in Santa Rosa re speed bumps. Easier to construct speed tables in city than county. Working w/ So Co PI on Gregor Street, willing to put speed bumps, plastic ones to test. If there is a street to recommend, invite So Co PI to MAC re interest in these options. E.g. if you put a stop sign on road on Agua Caliente, CHP cannot enforce unless support is proved; county Legal agreed. Will be a greater need as Hanna Center development proceeds. How to slow down traffic? Sign up for request for a traffic trailer. Two roads always getting complaints – Riverside & Railroad. Working on Cherry St for 8 years w/ neighbor. Talk to county, have patience.
- **Truth Act Forum**. Required to hold once a year, in relationship w/ ICE. 10-15 attendants, commenting respectfully, calmly about their fear of deportation, & relationship w/ Sheriff cooperating w/ ICE. Not many folks released from jail who are picked up by ICE but some. Supervisors will schedule a conversation next year, re interest in eliminating cooperation w/ ICE in future. Pass an ordinance; there are pros & cons. Mostly a respectful conversation, but had to interrupt due to disrespect by several individuals who veered off topic.
- **Zoom Bombing** - She continues to advocate for zoom option at BoS meetings, so public can comment; but not able to use yet. Zoom bombing is happening up & down the state. We are being targeted.
- **Mobilehome Rent Stabilization Ordinance** update, in unincorporated county. County Legal Dept. working w/ Legal Aid. Will move forward in next month or 2. Unincorporated county has 67 parks. Many in Sonoma Valley. She previously advocated, now enough Supervisors reviewing action steps to help struggling residents w/ evictions, rent stabilization, financial assistance, etc. These are homes to all ages, but especially seniors, low income. In fear of losing homes.
- **Director of Human Services & Director of Health Services – invite to MAC**. County moving

into East Sonoma County Services Center at end of October, Open House in November to welcome community. Expects services will expand. Small turn out at Community Listening Session.

- **Los Guillicos Campus**, transition from pallet shelter home to rehabilitation of dorms at former Juvenile Hall, a greatly improved facility at high cost.
- **Residential Treatment Program** - moving forward, BoS approval for short term Residential Treatment Program, to occupy half of Valley of Moon Children's Center. For youth who are struggling in foster care; children who need extra services, therapy & behavioral management for substance abuse. On same campus, Health Services received an \$18M grant, to construct a new youth psychiatric treatment center; half are six beds for youth who need intensive psychiatric help, other half outpatient facility. These services will be available in Sonoma Valley.
- **Uncle Patty's Parcel, re Public Comment - Closed Session BoS**, are negotiating w/ couple property owners, to slightly expand footprint of future Springs' Community Plaza. In Phase One, Environmental; looking at underground utility lines, etc. Will be a community meeting once negotiations finalized. Encouraged patience.

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

**Councilmember Allan**, re Donald St Gap, noted that he feels safe when road work is going on, because of plastic road dividers, which slowed drivers, safer for pedestrians. Any scope to use that in interim? **Sup Gorin**, clarified they are the concrete barriers. Good question for county, invite them to present. Welcomes ideas how to slow drivers on Hwy 12. And get/use speed trailers.

**Councilmember Alcaraz**, re mobilehome parks. 67 parks in unincorporated county. Community is concerned about development for residential homes; told there isn't enough space. Recalled his father who didn't speak English, had said why not develop 5<sup>th</sup> St West at Leveroni. Property is empty a long time; City of Sonoma says no water, don't want to build. Need to build where there is land. **Sup Gorin**, opportunities coming up. Knows concern for housing, approval of Housing Element, density proposed, and Builders Remedy projects - SDC & Hanna Center. Premature to think about reviewing those developments, too soon. Permit Sonoma in discussions w/ developers, 6 months for comments, project returns. Talking w/ team choosing a January date where two MACs & CAC will do a review of approved Housing Element, hopefully then certified by state. Ask: what Builders Remedy means – the process. Update two General Plans, city & county. City's Plan process shorter, county's took 7 years in past to review update. Good introduction to what a General Plan is; opportunities to address areas of concern. Should areas be rezoned for development; either lower or higher density? Encouraged participation in these opportunities.

It's challenging, w/ no virtual meeting option right now. Will have to meet physically in person; rent auditorium, microphone set up, expense to provide media coverage, etc. Understands serious nature of housing crisis.

#### **Public Comment**

**Randy Roberts**, property referred to on Leveroni Rd. belongs to Leveroni family; not interested in selling. There are other lands; his suggestion - County could put affordable housing in

industrial areas. **Sup Gorin**, challenge w/ industrial area at 8<sup>th</sup> St. - lacks adequate water & sewer. Cannot put affordable housing in area lacking in municipal services.

**Supervisor Gorin**, this is a time of global horror & many difficulties, including exodus from Central America into US which is difficult to understand, also national crisis, & hate speech. Encouraged everyone to find time for healing, to walk, to be w/ families, to find comfort & peace.

**Zoom, none. Closed.**

## **6. Sonoma County Library (@38:32)**

*Receive an informational presentation from the Sonoma County Library about the BiblioBus services and see about potential opportunities that might benefit the Springs from having a library come to them*

**Erica Thibault**, Sonoma County Library Director. Libraries are expanding, increasing access to programs & services & collections due to their Reimagining Plan, debuted in 2021. Sales Tax Measure 2016 passed to fund. Tonight will cover the BiblioBus project. Unincorporated areas under-served, many locations not near a library. BiblioBus helps. Next year budget adding a second vehicle.

**Barbara Maef**, Public Service Division Manager

### **Power Point Resources**

### **Invited responses & suggestions at end of presentation**

Oversees BiblioBus & Sonoma Valley Library

Website: [sonomalibrary.org/bibliobus](http://sonomalibrary.org/bibliobus)

Request Form on website

Services on BiblioBus:

- Sign up for a new or renew a library card
- Learn how to check out e-books & e-audio books
- Browse English & Spanish books, all ages
- Checkout a State Parks Passes
- Learn how to get free Museum Passes
- STEAM activities for youths
- Free printing services up to \$5 a day at library; printer also on bus.

26 BiblioBus Stops (print version available) in cities & unincorporated areas, was one stop in Sonoma at Springs Village, 200 Fuente Ln., looking to add more in Springs.

**Community Stop Schedule.** (See schedule @42:44) Also on website.

Invited submissions for request for bus; available to anyone in community.

One stop, once a month, sometimes two, depending on need & community. Looking into best locations.

**Events.** Previously went to all types of events, e.g. parades, farmers markets, etc. Evaluated regularly to adjust.

How to request BiblioBus: online, type in BiblioBus. Service Map, BiblioBus FAQ e.g. how to park? Community Stops.

BiblioBus Librarian bilingual. Not providing requests for holds; possible to request materials ahead

### **Sample Flyer**

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

**Councilmember Lombard**, re schedule, understands ok to return books 4-5 weeks on bus, no fines. How is it working out; vending machine at library to pick up holds? Would machine be an option? **Erika**, looking into those options, including book lockers for pick up, or book vending kiosks. Need internet connection, to library catalog. In discussion w/ City of Cotati to put in book vending kiosk in plaza area. In process w/ vendor to provide at a discount. Welcomes input.

**Councilmember Alcaraz**, is a frequent library user. Read a recent article that stated there is a lack of representation in kids' books. **Erica**, understands his concern. The Collection Services Dept. has a very ambitious & aggressive policy increasing diversity of collections. Doing well; a robust selection. Other areas can still be improved re diversity. Invited suggestions of specific authors.

**Vice Chair Hardeman**, his experience of 25 years w/ Boys & Girls Club; that would be good partnership, 100+ kids every day of week. Good place to meet valley kids' needs.

**Chair Iturri**, mentioned space that may be the future community plaza. A space there for library? Busy foot traffic.

**Barbara**, has a new county-wide bilingual resource map for distribution. Shows where BiblioBus goes; will get a sticker when visited!

#### **Public Comment**

**Mario Castillo**, Springs' resident, Vice Chair of Library Advisory Board. Meetings on Thursdays, open to public for Public Comment. Member for two years; has been advocating for diversity access, but no library in Springs. Appreciates the BiblioBus but did his own Survey Monkey, 3,000 followers on Facebook, recommended further research, better data re how library services the Valley community. Surprised how little access Latinx community has to library. There is a Friends of the Library Board, but not diverse; well-funded but no representation of Latinx community. As in other valley organizations, limited engagement to community of color. Work to do. Springs overlooked.

**Zoom, none. Closed.**

### **7. Norms and Expectations (@55:05)**

*Item continued from September 13, 2023 meeting. Ad hoc to present final draft document for Council discussion and direction on adopting respectful public comment guidelines and guidance on council communication and general expectations*

*FINAL DRAFT*

#### **MEETING FORMAT**

- Presentation
- Chair asks for comment from Councilmembers

- Public comment (comments, not to be answered)
  - Public addresses Council not presenter
  - If warranted ask staff for more info ○ Chair may ask for any additional comments from Council
- Move to next item
  - Must stay aware of Brown Act violations especially when speaking about things that are not on the agenda. Although our presenters may be connected to organizations we have questions about, if questions are not connected with the topic on the agenda we may not ask. We can ask staff to add questions or topics for future meetings

#### CIVILITY AND RULES OF DECORUM AT PUBLIC MEETING

(A) Volunteer Springs Municipal Advisory Council (SMAC) members and employees of the county will treat members of the public with respect and expect the same in return. The SMAC is committed to maintaining orderly administrative processes in keeping county/school district administrative offices free from disruptions. The SMAC is committed to maintaining a safe, productive, and harassment-free work environment for all of its county employees

(B) This section promotes mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct among county employees, volunteer council members, and the public. This section is not intended to deprive any person of his/her/their right to freedom of expression, but only to maintain, to the extent possible and reasonable, a safe, productive, and harassment-free place for county staff and a safe and non-threatening environment for presenters and public. The SMAC encourages professional, respectful, and courteous communication and discourages hostile, intimidating, or otherwise disruptive actions

#### **(C) Rules of civility**

- (1) All interactions between county staff, volunteer council members and members of the public will be conducted in a respectful manner
- (2) Threats, including threats of violence, will not be tolerated
- (3) Members of the public will refrain from any behavior that disrupts or threatens to disrupt county government operations, including any of the following: (a) Insulting, demeaning, intimidating, or offensive communications; including hate speech and or behavior (b) Harassment or intimidation of any county staff, county elected official, member of the public or presenter; (c) Willful destruction or damage of property; (d) Conduct that threatens or provokes a violent reaction; and (e) A continuing pattern of disruptive behavior

#### **(D) Rules of decorum at public meetings**

(1) The SMAC is committed to the democratic process, individual rights of expression, robust debate, and tolerance for disparate views.

(2) The county's boards and commissions, other public bodies and various community groups all convene public meetings to address controversial issues that engender passionate and often conflicting opinions. An atmosphere of incivility and disrespect at these meetings can stifle participation and debate, threaten the quality of decisions, and undermine the local democratic process. Therefore, adopting rules of decorum applicable to all public meetings will help ensure that civic engagement and local democracy continue

to flourish

**(3) General guidelines**

(a) The SMAC has monthly public meetings, and some special meetings as needed. In order to safeguard participatory democracy in these meetings, all persons attending SMAC public meetings should strive to:

1. Treat everyone courteously;
2. Listen to others respectfully;
3. Exercise self-control;
4. Give open-minded consideration to all viewpoints;
5. Focus on the issues and avoid personalizing debate; and 6. Embrace respectful disagreement and dissent as democratic rights that are inherent components of an inclusive public process and tools for forging sound decisions

**(4) Rules of decorum**

(a) No person attending a public meeting shall engage in disorderly or boisterous conduct - including but not limited to threatening, profane, abusive, personal, impertinent, or slanderous utterance - that disturbs, disrupts, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting.

(b) All persons attending a public meeting shall obey any lawful order of the presiding officer to enforce the rules of decorum

**(5) Enforcement of the rules of decorum**

(a) The SMAC Chair shall be responsible for maintaining the decorum at the public meeting and for uniformly enforcing the rules of decorum.

(b) In the event that any person breaches the rules of decorum in a manner that disturbs, disrupts, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting, the SMAC Chair shall order that person to cease the offending conduct.

(c) If any person continues to breach the rules of decorum in a manner that disturbs, disrupts, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting following an order from the SMAC Chair to cease the offending conduct, the SMAC Chair may order that person to leave the public meeting.

(d) If any person refuses to leave the public meeting following an order from the presiding officer to do so, the SMAC Chair may direct any law enforcement officer on duty to remove that person from the public meeting.

(6) The SMAC and county staff shall promote the use of, and adherence to, these guidelines for behavior at all public meetings within the County of Sonoma

**Ad hoc: Vice Chair Hardeman, Councilmembers Winders & Allan**

Vice Chair Hardeman – brief review of draft, recommends passing, called for comments, or changes.

**Chair Iturri**, these Guidelines & recommendations more important than ever before.

**Vice Chair Hardeman**, recommendation from Councilmember Winders to include reference to hate speech. Noted in “Section 3(a) Insulting, demeaning, intimidating, or offensive communications; including hate speech and or behavior.”



## **Chair called for Council Comments**

### **Public Comment, None**

**Consensus:** at the heart of it, we can disagree w/o being insulting. Everyone's opinions welcome. Be good to each other.

**Karina Garcia,** noted the document was translated into Spanish.

**Chair Iturri,** how will this be used in the future, where posted, etc.?

**Councilmember Winders,** suggestion to have it present for attendees at MAC meetings. This is how a public meeting works, especially for new attendees. On county website.

**Karina Garcia,** on Springs MAC website

**Chair Iturri,** suggestion to point out document at beginning of meeting, & to be respectful.

**Councilmember Alcaraz,** requested additional review of document on Public Comment.

Respectfully disagrees w/ some Councilmembers on how certain Public Comments are handled, i.e. when a person is talking about a topic on Agenda & they are stopped. Wants to be mindful of opportunity for presenters to speak, but sees a problem w/ the long meetings, that some attendees might not wait till the end to present their comment. Suggested a revision to allow a person to make their Comment, & wait for response or not.

**Councilmember Winders,** understands. Frustrating to her too, that in public meetings Council can't respond, answer questions, have a conversation at times due to Brown Act. Problem is that discussion can veer off Item on Agenda, or onto Item Not On Agenda, or into Council discussion on Item not agendaized. So if a conversation ensues, it would not have been posted publicly, & other public who might have wanted to participate, didn't know about it. That would violate the Brown Act. Public could ask for Item to be put on agenda, & Council would do that. Then have the public dialog. Then it would have been posted to public.

**Karina Garcia,** reminder of submitting via email Public Comment, always an option. Also time for comment for Items Not on Agenda.

### **Public Comment**

**Mario Castillo,** Springs' resident. Believes he made Public Comment on this item before. Needs to be a balance. Understands comment re how to be more accessible, have better active public participation, avoid rigid constraints that make it inaccessible. Re question of how will this document be accessible to people? Be able to understand it, how it functions, why it is in existence. Part of bureaucracy of government; make it impossible for people to understand how the system works. Feels government takes advantage, complains of lack of public participation, but purposely makes everything so rigid & bureaucratic that people lose interest. Is this discussion just for the Council to be nice, or to address conditions that make the meetings more accessible?

### **Council Comments**

**Chair Iturri,** agrees w/ challenges to accessibility, can make it difficult. Also bound by Brown Act. What are consequences if BA is violated? Get arrested? It is used frequently. Unknown how to improve this challenge; should take into consideration. Perhaps Outreach can be done

differently, outside of MAC. This is a bureaucratic process.

**Councilmember Winders**, her observation is that MAC does better than other groups re the Brown Act. Good about getting community feedback & placing items on agenda for more dialog, continue to do outreach. Re consequences of violation - there are a few members in the community & Sonoma County targeting council members, elected officials for even smallest inadvertent Brown Act violation, & utilized to abuse them. This is happening; part of recent hate speech, limiting ability at accessibility. Unfortunate. Bigots using/abusing this, harming the community. Impacts those who most need accessibility. Sad to have to create a document like this - should be able to disagree, have healthy debate, request agenda items & follow through, but unfortunately a small handful of individuals sabotaging the process.

**Councilmember Lombard**, two suggestions: if discern a topic may be hot put it earlier on the agenda. Also, create a shorter version of doc that could be an option.

**Chair Iturri**, agreed. Topics such as Transportation, Housing on early, and create an Executive Summary of Norms.

**Karina Garcia**, re outreach opportunities, yes, Council is governed by Brown Act limits, but can promote documents or events. Councilmembers have many responsibilities, can use Facebook as a platform to promote this document. Direct people to look at website. Copies can be made to hand out, perhaps laminate to distribute at events. And Supervisor Gorin's office can help w/ promotion.

**Chair Iturri called for a Motion.**

**Councilmember Lombard made a Motion to adopt the Norms & Expectations document.**

**Councilmember Allan Seconded. Vote. All in Favor. Unanimous. Approved.**

## **8. Goals (@1:12:57)**

*Council discussion and approval on Goals. Discussion and approval of council administrative roles.*

Councilmember Reyes absent; unsure about status of calendar.

**Chair Iturri**, skip calendar for now. Recognition of need to pare down projects, but feels the concerns of Springs often being left behind. Conflicted w/ this Item. People bring important items to address, how to prioritize.

**Councilmember Lombard**, looking at North Valley MAC, noted their purpose – “to promote North Valley community.” Feels that is also what Springs MAC is for; is her goal, perhaps a big canvas, not necessarily bad.

**Councilmember Alcaraz**, also conflicted. Word “promote” to him means to raise your voice, but will that do anything? Springs MAC a great community, MAC delivers. Goal of Springs MAC to serve community, sometimes unable, need a lot of help. Wants to see change. If there is disagreement about value, i.e. 51% approve vs 49% disapprove, it's still 1% more who approve.

**Vice Chair Hardeman**, have already taken on things w/o stating goals - would call them “wins.” Been driven by community. Worked very hard in collaboration w/ community on the Springs' Plaza but it fizzled; but it will return. Also the Verano/Hwy 12 project, brought in CalTrans, pushed hard. That piece will live on agenda till resolution or stopped. The Donald St Gap, put a piece on every Agenda. Gain momentum, even though just a sounding board, can push things through to accomplish. Maybe step back, do something smaller, have some wins, stay focused.

**Chair Iturri**, identified 3 things that repeatedly come up: Road safety, public art opportunities, safety preparedness. Have made progress on these. Suggested when new things come up wait to prioritize. Have 8 active Ad Hocs.

**Vice Chair Hardeman**, agreed 100%. Better to narrow focus; can't make good progress w/ too many projects.

**Councilmember Lombard**, impressed w/ Hwy 12/El Verano progress, has come up consistently. Also traffic safety & Donald St Gap. Clarified "promoting" not cheerleading, rather putting community forward more. Keep voice out more, keep talking about needs.

**Councilmember Allan**, important for everyone to stay aware of personal limitations. Avoid burn out, or will crash; may happen once, try not to repeat. Be conscious of energy use. Do more w/ less.

**Councilmember Winders**, Springs' area different, represent community w/ high needs in significant areas of impact on survival. Not just for things to be nice, but basic human needs and rights. MAC work is hard; all caring people. Often needs brought are urgent. When there are delays due to bureaucracy, people may suffer. MAC role not a decision-making body, are community members, neighbors, advocates. For housing, equity, transportation, safety, children, elders, immigrant neighbors, community members who can't advocate for themselves due to safety concerns. Written letters of recommendations on courageous conversations. Sometimes make government entities uncomfortable. MAC works hard to listen to community, advocate. When not able to do this, potential for neighbors to suffer or be in harm's way. Need more Councilmembers. Also, gentrification is creeping into Springs; important to advocate for Springs diversity. Enjoys her neighbor's having live music; and beautiful, diverse culture.

**Chair Iturri**, basically MAC is advocating for human rights. Good to aspire to; hold as north star.

### **Public Comment**

**Mario Castillo**, MAC goals should be same as his & the community. Should not be in safe place for Supervisor who assigned them to position. Not be gatekeeper for public official, always listen to public. Do study sessions on what public wants. Appreciates MAC advocating for human rights issues, but there is a Human Rights Commission for that. Should focus on Springs' concerns. You are not elected, but picked by elected official who is safe. Advocacy should be to hear Springs' concerns. How to connect – when doing Ad Hocs, community events, choosing themes, etc. should reflect community's needs. Can create a challenging situation for elected official. MAC is mediator between community & elected official. When developing goals, not MAC goals, but goals urgent to community.

**Zoom, none.**

### **Council Comments**

**Councilmember Alcaraz**, re Springs' community needs and human rights. He advocates for elderly, disability, air quality, housing - heard these from community. Access for disabled, eliminate barriers to a successful life, help for elderly - MAC is advocating for decent life w/ a good end to life. Springs' community is trying to fight greed, covert problems, and MAC is also advocating for Springs' rights, everybody trying to survive. Putting art in the Springs can inspire kids for their future, to be decent human beings, have creativity. He represents Springs' residents who don't speak English well. Sometimes he struggles w/ right words to express

himself. Others in community would make same comments that might seem naïve, but should be respected. Goals can be ambiguous; always ever changing. Stay focused on striving.

#### **BREAK - 7 minutes**

#### **9. Budget Request Forms (@1:45.02)**

*Council discussion and approval of upcoming 2023 event and sponsorship budget requests*

##### **Discussion**

**Councilmember Alcaraz**, re Dia de los Muertos/Day of Dead Celebration, will be two altars - Larson Park and 22 Boyes Blvd. Funds/Fiscal Partner w/ Sonoma Valley Grange Hall. \$1,000 requested, half to each event. Seth Dolinsky, contact at Sonoma Community Gardens.

Reported on last year's successful event w/ two altars; do similar process

**Vice Chair Hardeman**, requested clarification on use of funds

**Councilmember Alcaraz**, will have invoice from Seth; equipment, building altars

**Karina Garcia**, clarified, budget typically covers supplies. Labor is volunteer. First year an altar structure had to be constructed; otherwise for supplies. Offered two decorated skulls to MAC for project.

**Karina Garcia**, Seth replied from Grange [see email correspondence below], sponsorship would include items for lighting, altar, shelf, wire, notepaper, flowers, snacks for altar building; coinciding w/ open pumpkin patch at Larson Park Garden. Does not include labor.

**Councilmember Alcaraz**, waiting on confirmation from Seth that he is doing both altars.

**Karina Garcia**, option, Councilmember Alcaraz could request a Special Meeting for this.

**Chair Iturri**, hope to approve tonight.

#### **Public Comment (@1:52:33)**

**Mario Castillo**, has concerns re how things are presented and interpreted at MAC. E.g. hears about la Charla - how is it funded? Or this budget request for altars - is there an actual proposal, specifying details on how money is invested & spent? Other projects in Springs, happen once, no continuation, no sense of building into sustainability by community. Just to celebrate once a year, not attached to other things that are happening. This is an ongoing concern to him. Recommended evaluating projects to see if the community owns, values & fosters them, and that they are here to stay. Appreciates intentions; much potential in Springs.

#### **Zoom, none**

**Karina Garcia**, clarified the Budget Request Form requires a detailed listing of expenses/how money is used; provided by MAC. Noted option for Councilmember Alcaraz to revise, bring back in November, or at a Special Meeting. If there is a detailed invoice from a company, up to MAC to provide. Also, re any questions from community, the public can request review of a project any time; call or email Karina at Supervisor Gorin's office.

Also, Charla event Thursday/s, 6-7pm via zoom.

**Chair Iturri**, requested itemized list in email be made public [see at end of discussion].

**Vice Chair Hardeman**, suggested further discussion of this process at next meeting; had inquired previously. Has concerns over clarification/s.

**Chair Iturri**, suggested revising Budget Request Form for better detail.

**Vice Chair Hardeman made a Motion to approve full \$1,000 for both altars; if only one altar then \$500. Councilmember Lombard Seconded. Vote. All in favor. Unanimous. Approved.**

**Karina Garcia**, reminder that Council received presentation on How to Write Budget Request Forms; also sent via email. Offered to revisit, schedule as Future Agenda Item.

Also, clarified, BR Forms are completed by volunteer MAC members, not through Sup Gorin's office. Publicly approved at meetings, like tonight.

Also, noted there is a second Budget Request Form from Councilmember Reyes who is Absent. Reyes did not hear Council support for Winter Celebration; perhaps cancel? Next meeting make decision if councilmembers step up.

**Councilmember Alcaraz**, volunteered to help w/ Winter Celebration.

**Karina Garcia**, Reyes requested at least two volunteers. Chair Iturri also volunteered.

### **BUDGET REQUEST FORM general**

The Springs MAC has a budget of \$15,000 for Fiscal Year 22/23. This includes all ongoing expenses and any additional special projects or costs as identified by the MAC. Expenditures for special projects are subject to the approval of the District Supervisor. Please complete this form and provide to Karina Garcia for approval by the District Supervisor. Attach any supporting documentation (estimate, cost breakdown, etc.).

Project Title

Description

Amount Estimate

MAC Advisory Topic Area (please check applicable box or fill in for 'other')

Transportation/Transit

Health and Human/Safety Net

Community Projects

Preparedness (Ad Hoc)

Other (please specify)

How will the community benefit from this project?

Partnering Organization(s), if any

### **BUDGET REQUEST FORM - SPECIFIC**

**Project Title:** Dia de Los Muertos Altars 2023

**Description:** Set two altars celebrating Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead. One at Larson Park and another at 22 Boyes Blvd. See attached for more details.

**MAC Advisory Topic Area:** Community Projects

**Amount Estimate:** \$1,000

**Community Benefit:** The altars/ offerings serve as an expression of the Latin community to celebrate their loved ones who have passed. Having public altars as a form of art sends the message of appreciation in our neighborhoods. It can also serve as a means for everyone to remember their loved ones and bring the community together. These cultural projects provide a sense of belonging.

**Partnering Organization:** Sonoma Valley Grange Hall

Return Form to Karina Garcia at [karina.garcia@sonoma-county.org](mailto:karina.garcia@sonoma-county.org). Call Karina at 565-1776 with questions.

**Correspondence sent via email:**

***From: Seth Dolinsky To: Karina Garcia Cc: Yeuri Alcaraz; Maite Iturri Subject: Re: Day of the death celebrations. Date: Friday, October 6, 2023 3:57:13 PM***

Hi Karina, Sounds good I am hoping to have many items for the altar, including a wooden frame, shelves, lights, wire and clips for folks to leave notes of photos, and lots of flowers, marigolds corn etc. We also are hoping to have some snacks for the altar building, coinciding with the open pumpkin patch at the park. We just had a plant and compost giveaway with probably 100+ people, very well received and gave away 1000's of vegetable flower and herb plants, so we are keeping healthy activities going at the park. I can write an invoice with line items... Thanks!

***On Fri, Oct 6, 2023 at 3:36 PM Karina Garcia wrote:*** Thank you Jesus for including me. Seth, point of clarification, Jesus is asking \$1000 budget at the next MAC—agenda attached. It has yet to be approved, but we don't anticipate issues. We encourage you to attend and elaborate on what you plan to bring to the altars with the budget. Once approved, we will need an invoice from you for the approved amount in order to disburse funds—it will be paid with a credit card. Let me know if you have questions. I mentioned to Jesus I have two decorative skulls I'd like to donate. Let me know how I can get them to you. I will be at the Grove St office next Wednesday and you can pick up there or at the MAC meeting. Thank you, Karina Garcia

## **10. Ad hoc and Community Projects Updates (@1:59:57)**

*Council Reports, Announcements, and update*

- **Adopt a road, Councilmember Allan**, need Resolution on date, next month meeting for MAC approval, suggested date of January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- **Bicycle Racks, Chair Iturri, Vice Chair Hardeman**

**Power point**

**Discussion**

- Acknowledged many people involved: MAC, Cal Trans, So Co Transit, Art Escape
- 5 racks placed on agreed locations; images of individual locations
- Sept 14<sup>th</sup> ribbon cutting celebration
- County upgrading bus stops w/ blue pole w/ digital box/button for info; image
- Looking into building shelters for bus stops. Community request. Pending.
- Local businesses on corridor have seen racks; pleased. Find locations near businesses at bus stops.
- Suggestion - put more than one bike rack at spot if possible
- Q: Possible to put racks at non-bus stop locations? A: Unlikely. Question is more how close to a bus stop does it have to be?
- Q: Bike decorating a community bonding experience, but ok w/ Brown Act?

**Karina Garcia**, clarified concern re Brown Act. Would be a work day at rack storage location, do decorating shifts as needed; not violating Brown Act. It is being promoted in advance, like any public meeting or event. Also, reminder, at beginning of project, So Co Transit identified 16

sites.

**Chair Iturri, summary:**

- **Q: Want 5 more racks? How decorate? Material leftover from Art Escape. A: Yes. Interested if there's approved spaces for them.**
- **Q: Use same process for next 5 locations or Ad hoc choose? A: Agreed to defer to Ad hoc i.e. Chair Iturri & Vice Chair Hardeman to decide locations.**
- **Q: date to decorate? A: wait to decide in November**

**Larson Park & Creek Cleanup, organized by Springs MAC**

- **Councilmembers Alcaraz, Allan reported on event 9/23/23**

Power Point

Combined w/ Coastal Clean-up Day

20 yards of trash collected, 30-40 volunteers. Vast majority debris from creek; one resident dropped off large items for bin

Also clean ups at Maxwell Park by Homeless Action Sonoma; Agua Caliente Creek by Sonoma Ecology Center; 500 lbs. additional debris from them brought to Larson Park dumpster  
Thanked Recology for bin. Asked for 30 yard bin, got 20 yard.

Acknowledged Seth Dolinsky, compost and plant starters given out, well received

Acknowledged Partners: Recology, Zero Waste Sonoma, Sonoma Valley Grange, Sonoma Ecology Center, Regional Parks, Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn (shirts, coffee, donuts, volunteers), Supervisor Gorin, Springs MAC, Springs' community

- **Emergency Preparedness 2.0**

**Councilmember Winders**, update, meeting Oct 18<sup>th</sup> w/ Superintendent to discuss MOU, re the Conex container; make plans to access, do inventory, organize, re-stock as needed. November ready to set day to go out.

- **Logo Competition/Power Point**

**Chair Iturri**, update

**Competition is closed; 5 entries; narrow it down to 2 then present to community; \$400 prize.**

Description of five submissions, open order:

#1 – black/white photos of buildings inside 5 circles w/ lettering around center circle of info

#2 – green vineyards under blue sky, mountains in background, old logo very small in corner, water droplets at bottom, lettering of Springs MAC in blue

#3 – banner, Springs MAC attractive lettering, pretty flowers, cactus, mountains, blue sky

#4 - MAC Springs, modern letters in blue and white, bold

#5 – modern illustration, sun w/ hills & a home; blue lettering of Springs, green lettering MAC

**Discussion**

- Goal: present all submissions to MAC, public
- 2 selections to be chosen tonight by Ad hoc - Hardeman, Iturri, Winders
- then presented to community
- clarified what the logo is used for - social media outreach materials, tablecloths, banner, find MAC at events, representation of community.
- considering ease of design reproduction/visibility, will need to be enlarged, high

- resolution images, gray scale/color, shrunk, legibility
- Suggestion: personally acknowledge/recognize ALL entrants, as well as winner. Agreed, need artists names, for next meeting

### **Social Media & Outreach**

- **Councilmember Allan will join Chair Iturri, Councilmember Winders**

### **Public Comment. None**

### **11. SVCAC update (@2:25:07)**

*SVCAC informational update by 1st District staff*

**Karina Garcia** reporting: September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting

- Fremont Ranch Winery Project, second presentation, heard 5 years ago, denied approval then. Applicant made changes, improved. Commission approved w/ concerns re water & traffic.
- Conversations on how to increase community engagement; inspired by Springs MAC examples/projects
- Update/presentation from Sonoma Valley Collaborative re working w/ SVCAC on General Plan input
- Presentation on Fire Service Consolidation, explaining impacts/costs

### **Public Comment**

**Randy Roberts**, attended SVCAC meeting, added a main concern was of egress & exit on Hwy 121, suggesting alternate off Napa Rd due to traffic concerns/hazardous conditions. Said Commission would take into consideration, but not definitive, he agreed w/ suggestion. At least an exit for going towards Napa, left turn onto 121 - dangerous intersection.

### **12. Consideration of Future Agenda Items (@2:28:15)**

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

**Chair Iturri**: hear from Shared Housing, a study session

**Councilmember Alcaraz**, Park & Creek Clean-up volunteers suggested it be twice a year. Larson Park remodel soon; do a clean-up before.

And, suggested invite to watchdog group, Grow Smart - opposing development plans

**Councilmember Winders**, county update/timeline for Larson Park project, details, final plans, maybe Dec/Jan meeting

**Councilmember Allan**, Sonoma County Public Infrastructure (so co pi) re local streets, pedestrian & road safety

**Karina Garcia**, Nov 8<sup>th</sup> meeting: Zero Waste Sonoma presentation; Annual Report.

For December: Positive Image, LGBTQ Connect

Supervisor Gorin's suggestions – invite presentation by Human Services and Health Services; Donald St Gap; So Co PI on speed bumps, traffic signs; Road Safety; Preparedness

### **Public Comment, None**



### 13. Adjourned 9:06pm

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

For Viewing Purposes. Sonoma TV You Tube Springs MAC Meeting for October 11, 2023

English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2aPvOz444h8>

Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJCLds5Pb0Y>

File: Springs MAC Minutes October 11, 2023 Hybrid draft can be found here:

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/springs-mac-meeting-october-11-2023>

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Springs Municipal Advisory Council after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Board of Supervisors' Office located at 575 Administration Drive, Room 100-AI, Santa Rosa, CA, during normal business hours. You may also find them on the Springs MAC website at <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/springs-mac>

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

Web Links: County of Sonoma: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/> select Boards and Commission

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# We want to hear your thoughts on community-oriented policing in Sonoma County

## Come and participate in a listening session for a research project on community-oriented policing

This study is sponsored by the Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach (IOLERO). The goal of the study is to establish what community-oriented policing means in Sonoma County, and how the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department is demonstrating community-oriented policing.

This research project is being done by SSU Students led by Dr. Emily K. Asencio from the Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Department

**All participants receive a \$25 gift card**



Listening sessions will occur at a location near you, or online! **Sign up by using the QR code or the clicking the link below**



<https://tinyurl.com/dcxwpep8>