

MARK WEST CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes, October 13, 2021, 6:00 pm
Zoom Meeting
Video available. Send request to MarkWestCAC@gmail.com

A) Call to Order: Chair Fies called to order, the regular meeting of Mark West Citizens Advisory Council at 6:00 pm.

1. Roll Call: Members present: Chair Karen Fies, Roni Berg, Willie Lamberson, Pete Lescure, Brad Sherwood
Others: Jen Mendoza, Field Representative Representing Supervisor James Gore, 4th District, County of Sonoma; Aggie Maggio, Secretary, Mark West Citizens Advisory Council (MWCAC)

2. Approval of Minutes:

On a motion by Berg, second by Lamberson, the minutes of the regular MWCAC meeting, September 8, 2021, were approved. The motion carried on a voice vote. (5-0)

B) Presentations: Action Items

Procedure: 1. Presentation 2. Questions by council members 3. Questions/comments from the public

1. Mark West (MW) Family Cemetery - Carol Eber.

Carol is asking for the Council opinion about the MW Cemetery. The general agreement she gets from a variety of surveys, is for a historical piece (some kind of marker) and for historical landmark status. They will soon be able to more closely identify where the graves might be.

With the Council's input she will be able to pass on, to the property owners, a statement of the desired end to all the research and discovery of the cemetery.

Council Comments:

- Council has no jurisdiction but, as a community, they can make a statement.
- It's important to identify any significant landmark.
- Thanks to Carol for all her work. Completely support having acknowledgement of the site.
- Fulton has a cemetery with about 90 gravesites, with one person from the civil war. Yes, it should be marked.
- A plaque with our namesake's name is a good thing.
- Full support for history for future generations.

On a motion by Lamberson, seconded by Sherwood it was agreed to write a letter of support, from the MWCAC, as representing the MW community, for the establishment of Historical Landmark Status, for the gravesites of the MW family, on MW Rd. and for a marker of some kind, identifying the property as such. The motion carried on a voice vote. (5-0)

2. Update on Redistricting, Mike Martini, Redistricting Commission

For Review: Examining redistricting is required by law every 10 years. Martini is one of 19 members of the advisory commission working with estimated numbers. County is required by law to adopt the final map by December 15.

The commission now has actual numbers. After going through the census process and other required modifications the count of actual people in Sonoma County is 489,710.

- Hopkins has 1725 too many.
- Gorin is short by 3800.
- Gore is shy by 2400, probably due to fires. No redistricting methodology to deal with that.
- A 10% discrepancy is allowed. All districts are ok as they stand.

The commission is very proactively seeking equity. They are not seeing any way to be more equitable, by moving any lines. The law: Must be five districts with the same number of people within that 10% discrepancy.

- October 15: Deadline for draft maps. Anyone can submit any type of map, even a sketch.
- October 22: Public work shop

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- October 25: Identify two or three focus maps to be brought before the Board of Supervisors.
- November 2: First presentation to the Board of Supervisors

If the council has interest in speaking, now is the time to do so.

Council Comments:

- All the council members wish to keep the Mark West (MW) area intact.
- There is a strong sentiment among Larkfield Estates to not break off from the rest of the Mark West area.

Public Comments:

Ron Calloway, Superintendent, MW Union School District: The MW area is the largest unincorporated area. He does not want the school district to be put into the City of Santa Rosa. If expanding the area is a consideration, expand it to the School District boundaries, which is larger than the Cal American Water area.

On a motion by Sherwood, second by Lamberson, a vote to write a resolution that the entire MW area should remain within the Sonoma County Supervisorial District 4. No part should be removed. And the MW Union School District boundary should remain within that district, was also approved. The motion carried on a voice vote. (5-0)

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/CAO/Policy-Grants-and-Special-Projects/2021-Redistricting/>

3. Discussion of the MWCAC position on the Potential Koi Tribe Casino, Old Redwood Hwy. and Shiloh Rd:
Jen Mendoza: The tribes have to put the land into a trust, at the federal level, and show that the tribe has some historical background in the area. Local tribes are objecting because the Koi Tribe is from Lake County.

Marissa Montenegro, liaison for tribal affairs at the Sonoma County Administrator's Office, is keeping the County posted. The County is basically "not in favor of more gaming in Sonoma County".

Superintendent Calloway: Would like updates from the County. He absolutely opposes any gaming, in the area, because it is so close to San Miguel Elementary. He is not opposed to any tribe building housing in that area.

Council comments:

- In agreement with Calloway and want the MW area to be in alignment with the County.
- It's too soon for any resolution since the tribe has not been taken into trust.
- To avoid any misinformation or rumors, it might be prudent to say something officially at some point.
- Maybe not project-specific, but ingeneral opposition to any gaming
- Housing is OK but not gaming.
- Traffic will be problematic.
- It could affect our water table and really impact MW Creek water shed and sewer issues.
- Press calls this a Windsor project. Important to speak up now and identify ourselves as a community.

Public Comments:

- If you don't officially oppose something it can be assumed, by others, that you do not oppose it.
- Some kind of resolution wouldn't hurt; sooner than later, and strong.
- Suggest take a close look and any large-scale development on that property.
- No reason to discuss anything since the tribe has no historical rights.
- We have to watch the Old Redwood corridor, in general, between Windsor and Santa Rosa.
- Make a statement with strong language against casino but open mind with other developments by the tribe, if they get into a trust.

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On a motion by Sherwood, second by Lamberson, a vote to write a resolution, stating that the MWCAC opposes any casino gaming within the jurisdiction and community and that the Council be kept updated, via Marisa Montenegro, on the project and be included in any other forward projects. The motion carried on a voice vote. (5-0)

More Council Comments:

- The Council should expand its area of influence. Add this subject to next month's agenda.
- Maybe include that in the resolution. Lescure will look at the urban growth boundaries.
- Sherwood: Agreed to add it to the motion. Made it clear that the "community" includes Fulton

C) Presentations of Referrals from Permit Sonoma: ACTION ITEM

Consideration of proposed projects will proceed as follows: 1. Presentation by project applicant 2. Questions by Councilmembers 3. Questions and comments from the public 4. Response by applicant, if required 5. Comments by Council members 6. Resolution, ACTION, if indicated.

1. File Number: ZCE19-0007, 5390 Old Redwood Hwy., Santa Rosa

Project Description: Commercial zone change from C2 (Retail and Business Services) to C3 (General Commercial) to accommodate any future new development. Phil Wright, Realtor/Broker, representing the owner.

Phil Wright, representing the Ramirez family (property owners), said that there are people interested in the property for industrial or commercial use. It's been a storage for many things, kind of junk yard like. This change would allow them to sell or build on the property.

When the general plan was changed the rest of the corridor went to C3 zoning. Then Supervisor Nick Esposti asked Mr. Ramirez if he would object to the same for his property. Ramirez had no objection and thought that it was done. When Ramirez put it up for sale, he discovered that his property was still C2.

They are proposing a landscape easement as part of the approval process. It does back up to residential properties. All interested parties want C3 zoning. Nobody knows why this piece was left off of the original change to C3.

Council Questions/Comments:

- What would be a typical business C2, as an example? Convenience center, small grocery store/apartment above.
- Sidewalks? Yes, part of county requirements, if developed; and widen the road and add sewer and water.
- Who is on either side of that parcel? Petersons Drilling and Pumps on one side, variety on other; pretty junky.
- Possibly require of potential buyers that any development uses native drought tolerant plants and trees.
- This will open doors for potential developers to make improvements.

Public Comments: Looks very light industrial. Should be kept light industrial.

On a motion by Lescure, second by Lamberson, a vote to recommend approval of the application with the stipulation that any development requires drought tolerant plants, was approved. The motion carried on a voice vote. (5-0)

D) Council Member Announcements/Information/Discussions/Disclosures: Information only, unless stated

1. Continuation of Road Diet Discussion: Jen Mendoza

- "Walk-about" is booked for November 3, 11:00 am.
- Sheriff's, TPW, Superintendent Calloway & Cyndi Foreman, Fire Marshal, will all participate.
- Locations to visit: Old Redwood Hwy, at MW Creek bridge and in front of Molsberry's Market, 101 overpass, MW Springs Rd, near Riebli School, River Rd. at Lavell Rd. Possibly Lavell Rd at flood site
- If attendees and public have requests of locations, let Jen or Aggie know.
- Mendoza will get the itinerary out.

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- Meeting site: Bad Ass Coffee. People can also meet up at a particular point they are interested in. Everyone is welcome

2. Continuation of Discussion about the turn lane at Somers St. / Report on results of Somers St. survey
There have been many complaints of road rage and unsafe driving at Somers St.

Berg made and distributed flyers door-to-door to all households and businesses on Somers St. and received five very thoughtful responses.

Nader Dahu, TPW Engineering Division Manager:

There is a left turn lane on River Rd., approximately 100 ft. long and another one into Somers St., very short. The left lane pocket, at the signal, gets full, blocks the left turn into Somers and many vehicles skew themselves into the main lane on River Rd., blocking through traffic. One suggestion was to prohibit the left-hand turn out of Somers and the left turn into Somers. That would improve the intersection. We are looking at the entire problem and will do traffic counts. We asked for input from the Council and the Council turned to the people on Somers. He has not yet read the responses.

Berg: All respondents were very clear and specific about the issues raised and the suggested changes. A concern is that drivers turn into the Friendly Feed parking lot, to turn onto Somers St. More of that will happen.

Dahu: It looks like Fulton and River Roads will benefit more than Somers, because of the volume. We will rely on the community to speak up. It has to go thru the Board of Supervisors process.

Council Comments:

- Wondering about the causes, like the closing of the Fulton exit? Perhaps get Caltrans involved.
- It chokes down into a single lane on other side of tracks. Is that part of the issue? Dahu: Too soon to say.
- Nader Dahu will respond to the Council after further investigation and discussion. It's still preliminary.

Public Comments:

Candeance Nukala:

- Lives on Somers, south end. Suggests the issue is speed on Fulton.
- Traffic would be impacted on a regular basis if Somers is not accessible from Fulton.
- Enforce speed limits. Drivers speed as though it is not a neighborhood. It is a neighborhood.
- Loves that the neighborhood kids play on street. Wants to see mitigation to stop speeding on Somers.
- Maybe B and C streets become one-way streets. She is a tax consultant and understands numbers. Rather than just jam up the light, why not other changes to move the traffic better. Just need to come up with more strategies, rather than eliminating the turns onto and off of Somers.
- Also get some community meeting with Spanish-speaking community members.

Other Public Comments:

- Thanks to Roni Berg for getting the word out to the residents and bringing their responses out.
- Traffic on both River and Fulton Rds. is way too fast. Suggest more stop signs going west.
- Council Member Berg: Fulton speed limit is 25. Fulton, from Fulton Rd. is 45. People do not slow down.
- Commute hours are much worse.
- People and properties have been damaged by speeders.

Dahu asked about the lighting at night in Fulton? Responses were:

- Terrible. Not light enough on the roadways.
- Don't want more light. Like to be able to see the stars.

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3. Need a location for MWCAC meeting for February 2022. All council members agreed it will be Zoom only.
4. Announcement: Zoom through December 2021. January '22 ~ hybrid; March '22 ~ hybrids going forward.

E) Subcommittee Reports & Discussions: ACTION ITEM

1. Neighborhood Improvement Funding Program (NIFP) Subcommittee (Berg/Lescure) **None**
2. Rebuild/Fire Mitigation Subcommittee (Sherwood/Fies)
Re-pavement project is nearly finished.
Mendoza: The first section is the burned section. Others will follow.
3. Community Services District (CSD) Subcommittee (Sherwood/Lamberson)
Continuing neighborhood poll. Have support for CSD and the Water District taking possession of the golf course.
4. Wikiup Open Space (Lamberson/Berg)
The committee is asking for approval of \$145.00 plus sales tax, to purchase three yard signs. They would be placed around the grounds and direct people to the MWCAC website. Accent Printing was the lowest bid.

Sherwood: Can we add some broad language about the community in general and the Council? Berg: Yes.

On a motion by Berg, second by Lescure, a vote to spend \$145.00 plus tax, on three two-sided signs, 24x24; signs to be approved by the Jackson family, was approved. The motion passed on a voice vote. (4-0-1)
Sherwood abstained.
5. Sonoma County General Plan for Mark West Area (Lescure/Lamberson)
Awaiting direction from County. David Hansen wants to work with us. Road Diet should be part of the Plan.

F) Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items: None

G) Pending Items: Updates when available

1. Utilities & Water, Margaret DiGenova: **None**
2. "HAWK" light in front of Larkfield Shopping Center: **None**

H) Correspondence: Information Only **None**

I) Future Agenda Items: Potential projects and/or suggestions for future MWCAC meetings

1. Possibility of an update on the COPE program in Wikiup (TBD)
2. Chamber presentation (TBD)
3. Traffic Discussion Continuation and "Walk-about" report. November meeting
4. Possible speaker on home hardening and vegetation management (TBD)
5. How about a community clean up? Maybe partnership with the Chamber. (TBD)
6. List of unmet needs projects for Larkfield/Mark West/Wikiup (Presentation: Sherwood/Lamberson) (TBD)
7. NIFP Application: MW Village (TBD)
8. Council discussion on expanding the area of influence of the MWCAC

J) Adjournment: ACTION ITEM

There being no other business to discuss, on a motion by Sherwood, seconded by Lamberson, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Approved Date:

Chair

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Zoom Meetings Until Further Notice

Mark West School District Office, The Learning Center, 305 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa

(NOTE: Location or time may change due to anticipated greater community participation.)

Be sure to check the MWCAC website for meeting agenda, location & time

sonomacounty.ca.gov/Mark-West-Citizens-Advisory-Council

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