



Sonoma Coast Municipal Advisory Council
LAND USE STANDING COMMITTEE, BRIAN LEUBITZ, CHAIR

Minutes
October 26, 2021
3:00 – 4:30 pm

Call to Order at 3:04 pm by Land Use Clerk/Mary Agneberg

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Brian Leubitz, Chair, Scott Farmer, Beth Bruzzone

Absent - None

A. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Scott Farmer, Seconded by Beth Bruzzone passed 3-0

B. Statement of conflict of interest - None

C. Correspondence - None

D. Consent Calendar

Motion to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2021 Special Land Use Committee meeting was made by Scott Farmer, seconded by Beth Bruzzone and passed 3-0

E. Public Comment on Matters Not Listed on the Agenda - None

F. Regular Calendar Items

1) Discussion of event review process

Notice is not required for events determined to be ministerial. District 5 staff is engaged in negotiations with Permit Sonoma around noticing of events and permitting: who receives notice, when they receive notice and when the MAC/public can give feedback about events at the coast. Events are posted on the Permit Sonoma special event calendar when they are approved. <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/PRMD/Special-Events/> Agencies involved include Permit Sonoma, CalTrans, Coastal Commission, CHP, fire. All receive copies of the event applications. Beth notes notice is often received a day or two before the event happens. Leo Chyi working already receiving with Permit Sonoma to get timely notices more notices. Looking to get to 100%

2) Bicycle Ride process

Small bicycle events do not require a permit, and larger bike rides will require permits if they have break and water stations The goal is not to stop events – bicyclists have the right to use the roads. The goal is safety, not impeding the flow of traffic and foot traffic with the rides. Sometimes the larger bike rides don't share the road and that is of concern. When come through en masse, they don't clean up after themselves, etc.

3) Public participation in the process

It would be helpful for members of the public to bring notices to the LUC committee. Events are being promoted. .How can the public help the LUC get notice of the events – they're promoting. Promoters are wary of drawing attention to events for fear of being shut down There are websites the LUC can view to see planned rides by different groups.

Post event check-ins with Permit Sonoma identifying problems and giving feedback about which rides went well and which did not go well. The recent bike ride through Valley Ford had fire departments who were not aware of the event. No traffic issues or incidents between 11-12pm and no unusual lack of restroom issues. 2019 event blocked the fire engines at Two Rock and caused distress. Making sure the emergency services are notified of these events is part of the updated plan. Part of the problem may be internal communication with the Fire Marshall and fire departments. Information needs to be timely disseminated within the departments.

People need to know how to contact the committee – add contact the LUC chair for special event/permit issues. Beth Bruzzone likes the idea of a MAC social as we come out of covid? MAC open house? It's part of the public outreach part of the MAC duties to engage the public.

Neighbors are notified early in the permit process the MAC can be more effective if we can get notices earlier. Public feedback could help in this regard. Brian Leubitz will write language for the MAC page. Permit Sonoma is empowered to decide whether a Coastal Permit is needed. That point of contact would be worth pursuing. So it doesn't go back unless there is a problem of some sort. Engineering/Planning have different methodology for notices. How can the MAC be informed when the MAC can still give feedback.

The Local Coastal Plan is being updated and has meetings scheduled, and the process is being slowed down. There are key items that have been brought up but not addressed in the updated LCP. There may not be a lot for the standing committee to consider but we need eyes on the LCP and it is good to brainstorm. The LUC is an operational committee not just ad hoc (one issue) and as long as someone is keeping abreast of the events and permits the LUC should keep meeting every other month.

LUC is looking forward to hearing back about Leo's meetings with Permit Sonoma and receiving expedited notices and updating the website with LUC contact information.

Committee Comments:

Several people have advised Beth Bruzzone about a situation which created some dangerous conditions at the Estero Americano when a Boy Scout troop of about 30 people and canoes went on an overnight camping trip during deer season. The troop was trespassing, making fires and camping, again with no restrooms available. The put in was in Marin county and the camping was on private property in Sonoma County. The adults didn't understand how hard it would be for first responders to reach them, that they couldn't have fires, or that they were trespassing. This could have gone more smoothly if there were a permit process. How can this process be made safer and legal?

Elise Weiland reports that there will be guided access at the Estero. Chair Leubitz suggests signage be installed at the put-in spot (a ditch). Elise will ask for a sign if the committee can put a pin in Google map. The problem is complicated because people put-in in Marin County and the sheriff that will respond is from Sonoma County with back and forth with Marin County. Neither want to respond to landowner complaints.

Elise Weiland reports that the Estero has a ranger who does have enforcement capacity to handle these issues and perhaps they can be relied upon once the park is more official. She is meeting with Marin Supervisor Rodin and his counterpart in Mendocino on a Tri-County Coastal Pledge and collaboration on issues such as these. Beth Bruzzone reports that the Boy Scouts

came from Livermore and felt they had the right to be there and they made the situation ugly. The sandbar they camped on is environmentally sensitive.

Everything will run quite well once the park is up and running. The landowner is an older gentleman in Valley Ford and at one point he blocked access with fallen trees. Collaboration with a property owners, Marin County, the Land Trust, and a conservation easement. Brian Leubitz notes there are a lot of moving parts and suggested talking to property owners. There should be a process for people to visit the area safely and legally.

It didn't help that there were a lot of deer hunters out that weekend. Property owners can go deer hunting on their own property. It's a tragedy waiting to happen. No one who spoke to Beth Bruzzone said they shouldn't be there – there should be a process

Scott Farmer thinks the Estero should be a topic for the Coast MAC. Elise Weiland will report back on her meeting.

Brian Farmer points out the December 28th meeting is between the holidays and obviously not a good time to meet. A special meeting can be called if something comes up to the level of concern where a meeting is needed.

G. Call for agenda items

Staff report about the Estero/Tri-County pledge as a subject for the next MAC meeting.
1/22 training

H. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 4:02pm by Brian Leubitz passed by unanimous consent.

Documents related to open session agendas:

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Sonoma County Coast Municipal Advisory Council regarding any item on this agenda after the posting of this agenda and not otherwise exempt from disclosure will be made available for public review at 575 Administration Drive, Room 100-A, Santa Rosa, CA, during normal business hours.

Disability Accommodations:

The Sonoma County Coast Municipal Advisory Council will make reasonable accommodations for persons having special needs due to disabilities. Please email District5@Sonoma-County.org or contact the 5th District Field Representative at 707-565-2866 during regular business hours at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to ensure necessary accommodations are made.

Sonoma Coast MAC Meetings

Regular Schedule:

Wednesday, November 17, 2021, Location TBD, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 19, 2022, Location TBD, 5:30 p.m.

Coast MAC Land Use Meeting

No December meeting is scheduled
due to the holiday season

Please visit the Sonoma County Coast MAC website for agendas, including meeting location and time:
<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Sonoma-County-Coast-Municipal-Advisory-Council/>

DRAFT