

# **North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council**

## **2021 Annual Report**

prepared by Arthur Dawson, Chair and Vicki Handron, Vice-Chair

### **Summary**

The North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council (NSVMAC or MAC) had a very active year. Three Adhoc Committees were formed in January, focused on: Outreach, Emergency Preparedness, and Transportation and Safety. A fourth Adhoc, focused on the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) transition, was formed over the summer and became fully active a few months later with the release of the Proposed Alternatives for SDC (see page 3 for more information on the activities of all the Adhocs).

The MAC hosted a number of presentations by various county agencies and local organizations (see page 2). These included: Transportation and Public Works, Permit Sonoma, Sonoma Water, Sonoma County Sheriff, Sonoma Valley Fire District, Sonoma Valley Community Health Center, Sonoma Ecology Center, and private consultants Dyett & Bhatia. A notable response to the comments presented at these visits, was the repainting of the crosswalk in downtown Glen Ellen, which has low visibility for motorists. In addition, outreach efforts engaged many more individuals and organizations than were necessarily present at our monthly meetings (see pages 3-4).

Public participation ranged from about a dozen to at least fifty in December, with over 300 public attendees at the joint meeting on the SDC Alternatives that took place in November with the Springs MAC and the Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Council. The NSVMAC also received substantial coverage in the local media, especially in the Kenwood Press.

One councilmember, Melissa Dowling, resigned from her position because of new job responsibilities. After applications for the vacant slot were opened, her position was filled within a couple months by Kenwood resident Susan Oldroyd.

The SDC Adhoc wrote a letter to the Supervisors concerning key elements to be included in a proposed alternative that would have broad community support. This letter was presented to the whole MAC in early January and submitted to the Board of Supervisors, before the Supervisors began considering a preferred alternative.

## Meeting Overview

December 2021: Presentation on Vacation Rental Ordinance Update. **Gary Haflich, Permit Sonoma. Tracy Salcedo** and **Kate Eagles**, Community Visions for the Sonoma Developmental Center

November Special Meeting 2021: **Rajeev Bhatia**, Dyett & Bhatia, **Brian Oh** and **Helen Pierson**, Permit Sonoma Staff (SDC Alternatives)

October 2021: **Steven Lee** and **Erica Warren**, Sonoma Ecology Center (Upper Sonoma Creek Restoration Vision, Creek stewardship program)

September 2021: **Maricarmen Reyes** and **Alvaro Gonzalez**, Sonoma Valley Community Health Center (National Health Center Week partner appreciation) Fire Chief cancelled, held elections

August 2021: **Steve Akre**, Sonoma Valley Fire District Chief (Update on fire district and fire season)

July 2021: Update on Permit Sonoma projects in MAC Area, how to get project information, and how to give input on project)

June 2021: **Marcus Trotta**, Hydrogeologist Sonoma Water (Presentation overview of Local Drought Emergency declaration). **Misti Wood and Nancy Brown** Sonoma County Sheriff, (Overview of evacuation zones/mapping, evacuation planning)

May 2021: **Nina Bellucci**, Permit Sonoma (Scattered Rezoning Project Overview, Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Next Steps and Opportunities for Public Input) **Parastou Hooshialsadat, Kent Gylfe, Barry Dugan Cynthia DeLyon and Carlos Diaz**, Sonoma Water (Sonoma Valley Sanitation Local Hazard Mitigation Plan)

April 2021: Discussed Housekeeping issues: changes to bylaws, Name Change, Emergency Preparedness AdHoc Update

March 2021: **Johannes Horvertsz**, Director, **Janice Thompson**, Deputy Director, Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works (Overview of Pavement Preservation Program for this year, PG&E settlement funding)

February 2021: Name Change Discussion, Ad Hoc Reports

January 2021: Creation of Ad Hocs

## Ad hoc Committees

Over the course of the year, the NSVMAC formed four Ad hoc committees, which accomplished a number of tasks of value to the community:

**The Emergency Preparedness Ad hoc Committee** developed an action plan and timeline to learn, identify gaps, and facilitate emergency preparedness throughout the NSVMAC area. The committee reached out to individuals, neighborhood groups and organizations that have conducted emergency-preparedness actions within our community to learn what works and what doesn't. The committee found a few well-organized neighborhood groups and identified the need for more community-based organizing to facilitate planning, disseminate information, and help establish more neighborhood groups.

It became evident that a larger effort would require funding and that establishment of a Fire Safe Council or Fire Wise Community would be required to secure funding. The committee partnered with **Fire Safe Sonoma** and the **Sonoma Ecology Center** to develop grant proposals to organize and implement emergency planning efforts. **The Glen Ellen Forum** helped facilitate the effort and provided their platform for sharing information.

The partners submitted grant proposals to Sonoma County and to **CALFIRE**. Funding was not awarded from either source and the partners are currently seeking input on how to improve our proposals for future submittals. In the meantime, members of the emergency preparedness ad hoc committee are organizing within their own neighborhoods.

**The Outreach Ad hoc Committee** developed outreach materials in both English and Spanish for use by all council members and the Ad hocs; provided some direct outreach at three public events despite covid restrictions for most of the year; and contacted and communicated with a number of community organizations (list at bottom). The committee also drafted and presented a protocol for the NSVMAC to send official correspondence to agencies, non-profits and other entities relevant to our purview. The protocol was adopted by the full voting membership of the MAC.

In-person public events were:

**Neighborhood Fest** and **Pop-up Vaccine Clinic** in partnership with the **Sonoma Valley Community Health Center** at **Abbott's Passage Winery** on Madrone Road, in close proximity to the underserved population at the **Madrone Apartments**. Flyers were distributed at the apartments to promote the event, which drew participants from the immediate area on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Glen Ellen Village Fair booth** on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Met informally with members of the public at this large event, which draws hundreds of participants. Committee members listened to residents concerns and provided information about the NSVMAC. Passed out flyers and collected a list of names and email addresses.

**Dia de los Muertos**: partnered with and provided funding to the **Glen Ellen Forum** to host this event in early November. The MAC was one of 13 local groups that partnered for El Camino de los Altares, which included altars at sites throughout Sonoma Valley.

**Direct Outreach, in person or via Zoom:**

**Abbotts' Passage Winery**  
**Dunbar School**  
**Food Bank**  
**Glen Ellen Fair Committee**  
**Glen Ellen Forum (bi-monthly reports)**  
**Hanna Boys Center Institute**  
**Kenwood Ed Foundation**  
**La Luz**  
**Madrone Apartments**  
**Rotary Club**  
**Sonoma City Council**  
**Sonoma Ecology Center**  
**Sonoma Mountain Preservation**  
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**Sonoma Valley Community Health Center**  
**Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers**  
**Valley of the Moon Alliance, Kenwood**  
**Brown Baggers**

The **Sonoma Developmental Center Ad hoc Committee** was formed over the summer in anticipation of the release of the proposed alternatives by Permit Sonoma and the consultants. Since that was released on November 1, the committee has begun the task of writing a letter to the supervisors intended to communicate what elements of a proposed Specific Plan are needed for it to have community support. The committee presented ideas and collected councilmember and public input at the MAC's November meeting with the intent of drafting a letter for review and live editing at a special MAC meeting on January 5.

The **Transportation and Safety Committee** was formed to address the topics of road safety, bike paths, sidewalks, pedestrian access, and other areas of community concern. The Committee met with the equivalent committee in the Glen Ellen Forum to discuss outreach and ensure they identify the areas of community concern. The Committee gave valuable feedback regarding the need for continued improvements for pedestrian safety after the sidewalks in Glen Ellen were repainted. The Committee also raised concerns regarding the increased volume of traffic and limited parking at the proposed dispensary site at Arnold and Madrone.