

North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2021



Contact: Hannah Whitman, Board Aide for Supervisor Susan Gorin - Hannah.Whitman@sonoma-county.org

1. Call to Order 5:30pm, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

- Absent: Dawson, Newhouser, Dickey,
- Present: Nardo-Morgan, Doss, Handron, Eagles
- Cooper joined at item 3 by phone

2. Approval of May 19, 2021 minutes

Motion to approve: Handron

Second: Eagles

Motion approved: 4:0

Public Comment: Dawson will read letter after Supervisor's comments.

(Limited to items not appearing on the agenda)

3. Supervisor Gorin Update

- Thank you Hannah for preparing the e-newsletter: Funding for roads, which will be repaved with which funding.
- Starting to work on the Donald Street Gap
- Formally approving the budget. The budget projections and this year was easier because there were not significant cuts and we were able to add back positions so we could have full strength going into the next year. We will have funding decisions on how we allocate 96 million dollars. 16 million goes to Covid funding and that leaves us with \$76,000. Worked with Chris Corsey on Eucalyptus tree removal. Bob Molesworth worked on what it would look like to add signs in front of the fire departments to make LED announcements to the community. David Das and Daron Belleck, and the board agreed to give 500k to monument signs for all of Sonoma County. Chris Corsey and Supervisor Gorin looked at moving the archives from the Los Giliocos location. The library will assume ownership of the collections and the County will pay for it, General Services is tasked with finding a spot for the archives. The board gave us funding for the testing and architectural design for the antennae to expand KSVY communications reach, which is important during emergencies to tune in locally. Kenwood Fire Department has a structural deficit and there will be a conversation with 2 million dollars to come up with funding for fire districts to come back, they will probably go out for parcel tax.
- **Public Comment Comments or Question from the public for the Supervisor:**
- Any response re: the intersection of 12 and Arnold where the collision happened last year. Hill road has been inundated with PG&E workers trimming trees. Is there any notice that they are coming, they would like to have notice that PG&E is coming.
- Larry Davis; concerned that we need to increase the funding for the fire districts in general.

Supervisor Gorin: I will follow up with Johannes and thank you Katie for commenting about the challenges of getting out of Hill Road, and thank you Arielle for responding to the neighbors.

Kubu-Jones: The way the permit works is that PG&E gets ONE permit for the whole county, and PG&E used to notice the neighbors as a courtesy. It may not be able to go in the permit but we can ask them to be better neighbors. They should be finished after today.

Supervisor Gorin: We want them to take care of the trees, but we want them to share the road.

Larry: we have a leadership group from the fire districts meet monthly to speak about funding issues. We want to

make sure the districts are consolidated and we are working toward passing the fire service revenue measure. When talking about funding we all need to come together to protect and aide us during evacuations.

Daymon: Stay tuned as we work on a county wide sales tax (50 million) toward funding.

Supervisor Gorin: We have issued heat advisories. We are talking about opening cooling centers, but we just had a ribbon cutting for the SVVets center with a generator so we will be able to open that for cooling. Check on your neighbors.

Councilmember Cooper is in attendance by phone

Doss Reading public comment letter sent: We the undersigned wish to convey that we are Glen Ellen citizens. We want it noted that we are Glen Ellen not Eldridge. Please be sure that all neighborhoods south of SDC are Glen Ellen, not Eldredge.

4. Local Drought Emergency Declaration Marcus Tratta Principal Hydrogeologist Sonoma Water Presenting

Sonoma Water

- Presentation overview of Local Drought Emergency Declaration
- Drought awareness signs
- **Doss:** Lake Sonoma difference of opinion who prevails? The army corps has the final say during the winter and during the Summer months Sonoma Water has the final say. We've been working closely with the ACE. We have some funding to extend to Lake Sonoma or at least plan for it.
- Has the aqueduct line that goes down through Sonoma valley ever been compromised?
- **Trotta:** It's vulnerable and that is the motivation to make sure we have a sustainable groundwater supply.
- Conservation and other water sources, it may be up to the individual water purveyors whether they make it mandatory or not.
- **Eagles:** Is it typical to have a patchwork of requirements under the Sonoma Water umbrella?
- **Handron:** How do Private wells factor in?
- **Trotta:** Yes absolutely, sustainable groundwater management act in 2015 or as early as 2008 there was a groundwater plan that included GE and there was quite a bit of groundwater monitoring. Groundwater levels are also at historic lows at this time.

Public Comment:

Jay Gammel with Kenwood Press: Will there be help for people who's wells run dry?

Marcus: The groundwater sustainability agency is developing projects and actions that can help mitigate those conditions that cause wells to run dry. We set minimum thresholds for groundwater levels, the main consideration is making sure that GW levels remain above historical lows or don't get to levels that would impact wells. There are tools that have been developed that will help us understand areas that are more vulnerable. This will lead to future planning and education opportunities.

Susan Gorin: We are overly reliant on wells. We are the county with the largest number of wells which points to the vulnerability that we have during times of draught. We collectively need to recognize the finite resources that we have. Kenwood is not part of the plan but if it were, the question is : what would you expect the county to do? Truck in water, dig a deeper well, etc. There are no good answers.

5. Evacuation

Sonoma County Sheriff's Office & Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management

- Overview of evacuation zones/mapping, evacuation planning

Misti Wood and Nancy Brown

Nancy Brown Community *preparedness manager* for Sonoma county presents
Misti D. Wood Presents

COUNCIL COMMENT:

Doss: Misti, do you have any recommendations for us? Would there be multiple evacuation zones or one? Glen Ellen or Kenwood, how specific would the evacuation map become?
Oakmont is broken into three evacuation zones.

Misti: There are several evacuation zones in Glen Ellen. When we make the announcements, you will see the zone, and we provide the general location to give context.

Doss: The alert to leave was very good. The info on which way to go was up to me. Will there be any more information to tell us which way to go?

Misti: If we know the best route, we will tell you.

If you see the smoke, go the opposite direction. Look at the traffic both ways and if you can see a clear route, go that route, to avoid traffic.

Angela Nardo-Morgan: We have air horns in the neighborhood and I am a block captain and we have a plan

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Larry Davis: We want a volunteer force that protect. Do we have some way to bring the neighborhood volunteers into the deputy capacity so they don't evacuate, but put out fires as they begin. We need more people up here on the mountain and we can't rely on the other forces because they're already overwhelmed. Is there a way we can organize a volunteer fire fighting force up on the mountain?

Misti: Talk to you local fire department to see if that is something they would like to consider. Secondly, we can talk to your sheriff department. They can get in touch with us and see if that is a possibility from the law side.

6. NSV MAC Support for Projects

- Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc Actions and Funding Efforts, Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc
- London Ranch Road/Arnold Drive Crosswalk Improvements, Traffic and Safety Ad Hoc

Doss: How do we have an endorsement from the MAC that we have a quick document that we can use.

Mark Newhouser attempted to address this issue. In this document there is enough specificity to tell us what we want to do, but maybe not enough of the math to be helpful in grant situations.

Kubu-Jones: There was a grant where Supervisor Gorin had provided a letter of support we want to know if that would work. Resolution to support the work, and if there is any letter that deviated from this, that would need to come back to the MAC.

* NO MOTION TO APPROVE

7. Reports and Announcements from Councilmembers and Ad Hocs (3 minutes or less)

- SVCAC
- Glen Ellen Forum
- Communications Ad Hoc

- Preparedness Ad Hoc

- Traffic and Safety Ad Hoc - Dispite the repainting of the crosswalk in the middle of GE, there are still some potential improvements that could be made there. Is it OK for the Ad-Hoc to pen a letter with some additional improvements?

- **Cooper:** That intersection is such a busy one that I think our greatest wish would be light flashing there.

- **Angela Nardo-Morgan:** I ran into Jed Brown and he says they went to the County Engineers pre-covid and they told Nick that they're looking at re-engineering the crosswalk. In addition to the letter we should contact those engineers and find out about the plan that they have in the works.
- **Susan Gorin:** When it comes to improvements of the road, I would encourage you to work through our office. We need to procure a grant to look at bicycle and pedestrian safety. I think its time to race out to Johannes for potential grant funding and we absolutely want to be int he loop for any discussion for any engineer. It needs to work for the county and the Mac and our office. We need to put some heft into thinking about this more thoughtfully. Send the letter to the county, but per the suggestion of Supervisor Gorin let's work together to talk about safety through the corridor.
- **Kate Eagles:** The letter has a broader scope now.
- **SG:** It will require funding and we need to start considering how we might accomplish this.
- **Jed Cooper:** Our ad hoc needs to go back
- **Supervisor Gorin :** Send the letter and then Arielle and Hannah might set up a meeting with Johannes and we will report back to the MAC. You can send a letter of thank you, but we're going to be working on parallel paths.

Discussion on Intersection

Eagles: Let's decide if the letter is needed and if not we can table it. Take it back to the ad hoc and talk it through.

Doss: We need more understanding on what is needed as far as recommendation from the Mac. Our chair Newhouser wrote the letter. We need a better understanding of how to bring it to the Mac. We don't actually have a letter to vote on.

Kubu-Jones: Work with the outreach committee to come up with a policy for letters of support. We need some rules and parameters on how we draft a letter and bring it to the Mac for approval.

Handron: In developing policy, how do we know what our parameters are? How do we know what our parameters are? Does the entire Mac need to hear the entire letter before it can go out? How do we know the framework to develop that?

Kubu-Jones: it would come through the bylaws and would only do things that are in your purview. Suggests it should come from the ad hoc. We can always call a special meeting if there is a deadline. We need volunteers or an ad hoc to draft the letter.

Dawson: The safety committee also went out and did their work. There is confusion and a lack of understanding in the process. Suggests we actually hear Arielle's presentation next meeting.

Kubu-Jones: It's more about the letter itself, from the conversation I've had with Mark, is that he wanted a formal letter that he could use in a grant application. Everyone should read the formal letter before they sign it, but she does support the action.

Dawson: That's what he thought he had created, but clearly by lack of action by the council tonight, that was not what was understood, so we will bring it back.

Eagles: I wasn't really sure what we were moving to do. When I opened up the agenda earlier it wasn't necessarily London Ranch Road, it was this preparedness item that we had not discussed. There were some specifics on the fourth bullet that were hard to get your head around. What is the actual ask here? Is it the grant proposal? I do support the document, but it has some complexity that I wasn't sure what to do.

Morgan: I agree with Kate, I was confused on exactly what the ask was. I have a question about outreach. We are joined by a small number of members of the community. I am wondering. The glen Ellen forum sends out their agenda and a link. Could we do something similar and maybe use their list? I would love to see more people. Can we send out an email with a link. I would love to see more people connected to it.

Handron: It's absolutely something that can be done, it's just a matter of hearing from the people who want to receive the information and getting their contact information.

Morgan: It's a great list, maybe we can get that list. Maybe Kenwood has something similar that we can link into?

Kubu-Jones: We have some people on a list already. Hannah will inherit it. If someone wants to get the consent of others to be added to the list, we are happy to have them.

Public Comment:

Larry: I think the distinction between policy and doing an actual program is pretty serious. It's not a matter of a letter, it's a matter of a decision to take a position. Once you take a position, it becomes an official position. Be careful what you put in the letter because it will be used by other people for other reasons. I would like clarification.

Public Comment Closed

8. Kubu-Jones: Update on SVCAC

- At the May meeting they heard a presentation of the Ad Hoc of which Matt Dickey is a part of, of the winery events guidelines, they were a good deal more strict than the stakeholder group had recommended, which caused some consternation, but they were approved unanimously. The next up for that is it is going to go before the BOS. It is just guidelines, they are not binding, they are not regulations.
- They heard an informational presentation from Gary Helfrich from Permit Sonoma about the Vacation Rental Ordinance and he will give a presentation here, too. They are updating their vacation rental ordinance, but there will be a series of public workshops.
- There is no SVAVC meeting this month, it was cancelled because we had no agenda. BJB the Kenwood project is going before the planning commission July 22, public comment is open between now and July 8th. planner@sonoma-county.org
- Nardo-Morgan- spoke on the cemetery project. Above SDC, they want to create a memorial to honor those who are buried there to create a place of reflection. It needs to be ADA compliant. They hired JD Chang and they are building a wall memorial with all of the names of the people buried there. It's over 7,000 square ft. That needs an easement and they're looking for funding for that. The second presentation was on the draught, basically the same presentation we got.
- Communications Ad Hoc- Coordinating for a vaccine pop-up at Abbot's Passage. It is presented as a Neighborhood Fest. They had one in the springs last night. The springs MAC was present with go-bags and evacuation zone maps. Over 100 people were vaccinated. MAC was able to provide some resources and we would like to incorporate those at Abbot's passage. We have a table at 4th of July in kenwood. We are looking for volunteers to hand out information about the MAC and will have sign up sheets for anyone who wants to be on our email list.
- Traffic and safety ad hoc: Kate Eagles, nothing from us.

9. Consideration of items for future agenda

- Traffic & Safety Ad Hoc wants to discuss bike and multi-use paths.
- Permit Sonoma Overview, Project Update and System Tutorial—July 21
- MAC Budget Overview (continued from 5/17/21)
- Fire Agency Update—SVFRA, Kenwood Fire
- Criteria for Bringing things to the MAC for approval (Doss)

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Handron

Second: Eagles

Motion Approved: 8:38 pm

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the North Valley 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-A, Santa Rosa, CA, during normal business hours.

Note: Consideration of agenda items will proceed as follows:

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

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