



Municipal Advisory Council meeting minutes June 16, 2022

Youtube link to view the entire meeting: https://youtu.be/1HEN_nGsDgU

0.0 Call to order
Pledge of Correspondence

4:55 Consent Calendar April 2022 minutes

Council Member Comment: on Matters not listed on the Agenda: Comments are restricted to matters within the Board's jurisdiction. Please be brief and limit spoken comments to one minute.

Representative Mike Nicholls requested Board support to write a PG&E letter objecting to the lack of response to the March letter from the MAC. Lisa Nahmonson and Chair Pip agreed and Mike will go forth with writing a letter to bring to the MAC.

Representative Vesta Copestakes asked for a center turn lane at the entrance to steelhead beach.

14:25 Public Comment: on Matters not listed on the Agenda: Comments are restricted to matters within the Board's jurisdiction. Please be brief and limit spoken comments to two minutes.

Regular Calendar Items

15:25 Supervisor Lynda Hopkins

50 acres acquisition by Wohler Road providing a new access point plus , MOU on Clean Coast California , budget hearings, some key priorities: visitor center funding approved, \$5 million into a water bucket for water solutions. \$2 million into West County infrastructure work. \$1 million on food pantry support. Funds for disaster support. Funding for Guerneville Vets hall ongoing shelter. Goal is to use the shelter until George's highway opens. County moving forward on the Bank of America acquisition. Vacation Rental policy going forward in August meeting. Fire and Homelessness – ongoing outreach services and removal of fire-danger encampments , Thanks to the Forestville Town Hall last month, great job.

Rep Nic Pereira requested we work on the Vets Hall and Guerneville Sub station.

Rep Alice Teeter noted that Caltrans and TPW continue to mow trash into the area – we need to keep getting communication on mowing schedules so trash can be removed before it gets mowed in.

Written comment from audience – Canyon 6 and Canyon 1 road fix in Rio Nido critical. Chair Pip shared that TPW has been working with State and Federal funding to solve underlying issues in Upper Canyon 6 and sequoia, funds have been approved to get underlying work done.

CHP parking enforcement during the season – Representative Wink and Teeter and looking for fine tuning of the program. Rep Naomi suggests adding parking enforcement attention to the roads outside of Armstrong Woods.

CAG report from Leo – 4th Thursday each month. Working on solutions for TMDL / wastewater and septic issues. Contract of study moving forward will help provide foundation for the

[40:40](#) Broadband Access Presentation by Bryan Hughes of the Russian River Alliance on the Free wifi program rollout. Russian River Alliance has received funding from an ARPA grant to bring free wifi with disaster resilience built in to small towns without broadband access. Details available in the recording.

[1:07:25](#) Request from Mike Nicholls, Cazadero alternate, on Proposed letter of support for North Bay/North Coast Broadband funding. Approved.

[1:11:56](#) Discussion on MAC processes. This is a pivotal point for the MAC with the strategic plan launching, turnover from the original MAC representatives, and ideas to make the MAC more effective. Some ideas being discussed are:

- Postcard and Survey to get more input and engagement
- One key question is whether to have shorter meetings once a month instead of longer meetings every other month.
- Adding a new field representative from Supervisor Hopkins office will provide greater support and make more meetings possible.

Mike – support to monthly meeting format and glad for additional admin support.

Alice – monthly is good as long as the meetings get shorter. We need to keep them shorter if they are more frequent.

Pip – yes, we want to keep the meetings shorter, allow for more comments, and having monthly meetings is a way to achieve this.

Vesta – more frequent, one main topic per meeting, addition of more staff, and more time to discuss are all things we need

Naomi – support once a month meeting.

Nic – encourage more in-person outdoor MAC meetings. Guerneville Town Hall outdoors at the senior center brought in more people.

Lisa – support monthly meetings, postcard, and more in-person meetings as well.

Proposed change to the ByLaws allowing for MAC representatives to continue terms beyond 2 terms. Extensive discussion on pros and cons, to be continued at next meeting.

[1:41:50](#) Committees and staff reports: Trash Land Use – need more volunteers on this committee, to reconvene after members through covid, no formal report.

Land Use report in Council packet, no further update.

Vacation Rental – no change from last meeting

[1:43:20](#) Staff Report on ongoing issues: Leo Chyi discussed initiative to have a coordinated map of homeless encampment. Effort is ongoing.

Motion to close the meeting by Kyra Brooks, Mike Nicholls seconded and unanimous acceptance.



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council

DRAFT Minutes

October 20, 2022

5:30 – 7:30 pm

Video Recording: https://youtu.be/_NkRIEWml_0

Call to Order Clerk, Debbie Ramirez

Pledge of Allegiance Vesta Copestakes

Roll Call Clerk, Debbie Ramirez

Present: Pip Marquez de la Plata, Vesta Copestakes, Lisa Nahmanson, Alice Teeter, Naomi Hufstutter, Nic Pereira, Cynthia Strecker

Approval of Agenda Chair Pip Marquez de la Plata

Motion to approve by Vesta Copestakes, second by Alice Teeter

Motion passes unanimously in roll call vote

Statement of Conflict of Interest: none

Correspondence: n/a

Consent Calendar August 2022 minutes – approved with two corrections

Council Member Comment:

- Nic addressed Guerneville Vets Hall / Sheriff's Sub Station building and asked for a briefing
- Vesta thanked Forestville Chamber of Commerce for a successful summer of Farmers' Markets and the Forestville Planning Association for a successful Trash Day
- Naomi reminded everyone that this is the last meeting before November elections

Public Comment: on Matters not listed on the Agenda: Comments are restricted to matters within the Board's jurisdiction. Please be brief and limit spoken comments to two minutes

- Rhonda - spoke about concerns regarding an RV parked in Forestville
- Peter Voorhees – introduced himself and mentioned that he is having trouble with the septic system he is working on getting installed at his home on Moscow Rd.

Regular Calendar Items

- **Supervisor Lynda Hopkins**

- Proposed BIA changes – SCTB proposing removal of \$350,000 threshold
- CHP cleared encampment on 116 within CalTrans right-of-way; many vehicles moved to the Park & Ride and while there are services available there, the sanitation issues are posing a big problem and county staff is working on getting a timeline for enforcement.
- Planning a West County tour in the spring for the new Sheriff and DA
- Overview / preview of Governance Study
- Past Telecom Town Halls: Mental Health Town Hall. future Town Halls
- Upcoming meetings: Housing Element Meeting, Healthy Forest Ad Hoc, CAG
- Happy to answer questions about living wage ordinance or well moratorium recently covered in newspaper articles.
- Re: Peter's comment about septic challenges – county going through a performance management review process for PRMD – that will come before the BOS in early Jan – they recognize that there have been challenges with permitting processes – we are soliciting feedback from the community and will come up with a plan to address these kinds of challenges in the future.
- Public Comment:
 - Eric Frasier – re: BIA changes. Small operators cannot stop the process of removing the \$350,000 threshold and they do not benefit from it. Feels tax is unfair.
 - Mike Nicholls – appreciations for Telecom Town Hall. Unfortunate that Frontier & Verizon did not attend. Notes most complaints to CPUC have involved these two companies. Is there any way to get them to the table?
 - Liza Graves – BIA tax is additional tax paid by visitor, owner collects and passes through

- **Happy Arts Presentation**

- Presentation by Kristen Madsen with Creative Sonoma
- Creative Sonoma created 7 years ago to help support and advance the creative and cultural community in Sonoma County. Do this preliminarily through grant making, professional development and training for artists and arts organization staff. Robust arts education program to ensure that TK-12 students have access to quality arts education.
- Currently in process of developing a Public Art Plan for Sonoma County. Many municipalities have public art plans already.
- Based on surveys, the following values rose to the top:
 - Our Land, Our History, Our Creative Practices, Our Diversity, Our Resilience, Our Hunger for Connection
- Where can the inclusion of art help advance the existing agendas and projects? Eg. Capital projects: buildings, bridges (active project on Hacienda bridge), regional parks, trash cans (change human behavior by making trash cans more fun); Public Health – public information conveyed via art, Transit stops, bike racks, curated art projects.
- Potential funding: developer fees, general fund allocation
- Governance: significant community engagement, transparency,
- Lisa: suggests land acknowledgements incorporated into artwork as well as non-binary language into discussions (vs. he/she)
- Alice: Hacienda bridge: would love in addition to new gate art, the bridge needs repainting. Also, let's be mindful of the artwork (eg. Be kind water drop plastic art) that ends up as trash.
- Vesta: can an art wall be crated that stays white that can operate as an outdoor screen.
- Pip: has there been though about going into areas that are severely disadvantaged?
 - Kristen: yes, art for everybody is critical.

- Public Comment
 - Mike Nicholls: appreciated Kristen's bilingual slides
- **Trash Ad Hoc Committee Report**
 - Lisa Nahmanson / Carol Shumate
 - Carol spoke about Russian River Keepers
 - Lucy spoke about Forestville Planning Assn's Trash Day
- **Presentation by Gary Helfrich from Permit Sonoma regarding implementation of the 2022 Vacation Rental Ordinance (1:12)**
 - Zoning Code (Ch. 26) has been amended to prohibit (new) vacation rentals in R1 zone (low-density residential)
 - Occupancy and parking standards more restrictive
 - Licensing process still in progress, will be limited to natural persons, one per individual
 - 24/7 VR hotline live and working: 707-875-6619
- **Community input planning process for Lower Russian River R1 Resort Area inclusion Zone (1:17)**
 - "Resort Area Combining District" still under development. In these defined areas it would be determined that there needs to be a certain number of rooms available to support the tourism economy of the region. This would be a specific number of units rather than a percentage.

Council Comments / Questions

Naomi: is hotline operational? Gary: yes

Naomi: Is it correct that an ADU cannot be used for short term rental.

Gary: yes, that is in the ADU ordinance

Vesta: when someone calls the hotline about an unlicensed VR, and it is not in the system, what happens? Gary: The report gets immediately referred to code enforcement for an investigation.

Vesta: asked for clarification on the inclusion zone. Gary explained the process of developing the policy option for the board to consider.

Cynthia: asked for clarification on map and zoning. Gary: explained that if a property is on a septic, it is not R1.

Public Comment

David Wabel: owner & operator of The Old Cazadero Cabin. Would like VR license to be transferrable.

Alex: is a vacation rental owner. Would like to see the Lower Russian River continue to be a mix of full-time residents, part time residents, and visitors.

Mike Nicholls: Shared information about Hawaii VR policy & practices. Would like to see similar legislation in Sonoma County – ie. Listing license number in advertisements. (Gary clarified that this is included in current policy)

Eric Frasier: would like there to be fewer VR regulations

Megan Perkins: how do people get involved in the overlay design process? How are hotline complaints being verified? Gary: this new process will allow for verification and documentation of problems. If there is a pattern of frivolous complaints or a pattern of operator / property manager not being responsive it will be recorded. Involvement will be primarily through the MACs.

Committee/Staff/Council member reports

- Staff Report on (s)Election process
 - o There are multiple applicants for Guerneville & Monte Rio. Newsletter coming out soon with info for “meet the candidate” forum and ballots will be available soon and can be returned a number of different ways.
 - o Pip: a person from the Pocket Canyon area has stepped up

Council question / comment

- Naomi: what areas have open seats – Elise: Guerneville, Monte Rio, Pocket Canyon, Cazadero, alternate in Rio Nido
- Alice: appreciations for all for meeting quality over her two years on council

Motion to Adjourn by Alice, seconded by Naomi

Meeting adjourned at 7:35

Note: Lisa Nahmanson left the meeting at 7 PM