

MARK WEST AREA MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

October 9, 2024, 6:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting

Video Available Send request to [MarkWestCAC@gmail.com](mailto:MarkWestCAC@gmail.com)

**A) Call to Order:**

Chair Fies called to order, the regular meeting of Mark West Area Municipal Advisory Council (MWAMAC), 6:00 pm.

1. Roll Call

Members present: Chair Karen Fies, Stephanie Bisordi, Ron Calloway, Heidi Would, Becky Menzel, Haley Skerrett Keith Roberts, Community Relations Specialist for Supervisor James Gore, County of Sonoma Aggie Maggio, Secretary, MWAMAC

2. On a motion by Would, second by Bisordi, the Minutes of the regular MWAMAC meeting of September 11, 2024, were approved, with the following correction: Correct the vote number, on the motion to adjourn the meeting, to (5-0), from (6-0). The motion carried on a voice vote. (6-0)

**B) Presentations: ACTION ITEMS**

To proceed as follows: 1. Presentation 2. Council Member Questions 3. Public Questions

1. Update: Mark West Area Community Park

- Grading plan is almost complete (Pete Lescure)
- Will need to wait until spring to start the work, per County permit rules.
- There are a lot of items happening behind the scenes, in the meantime.

2. Update: Koi Tribe's Casino

- The deadline for comments is over.
- County did submit lengthy comments

Discussion

Lamberson: The community might be living with the casino.

- It's a well-funded operation. We may want to have conversations with them to be able to exist with them.
- Bike lane bridge over MW creek?
- County has a hard time paying for things.
- How will the tribe deal with crime, safety, traffic, lighting?

Catherine Dodd:

- Complemented County staff and Supervisors for their comments. Feeling optimistic.
- Three other tribes looking for approval. Hoping BIA will decline them.

**C) Presentations of Referrals from Permit Sonoma: ACTION ITEMS None**

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

**D) Keith Roberts Announcements/Reports/Discussions:** Information only, unless stated - NONE

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

1. New MWAMAC application from Steve Klick (action)

Application was reviewed by Chair Fies.

- Keith Roberts: was in Windsor leadership class with him.
- Leisure: knows him well. He was on the Council of Engineering and Fire District. Thinks he would be a good candidate

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There was some concern from a member of the public that the application did not come from the recently expanded footprint of the MAC. Chair Fies explained that the MAC can continue to explore avenues to solicit applications from the broader area, but this is in not a requirement.

On a motion by Calloway, seconded by Menzel, the Council voted to recommend, to the BOS, that Steve Klick be appointed to the MWAMAC. The motion carried on a voice vote. (6-0)

2. Chair Fies: attended a meeting regarding the Airport Feasibility Study; comments are due by 10/20.

3. Calloway: school board meeting discussion: moved up Kindergarten enrollment to November this year for the 25/26 school year. Major reason is to try to increase enrollment.

4. Bisordi: Chamber event-Thursdays evening at Fiori Farms.

**F) Subcommittee Reports & Discussions: ACTION ITEMS**

1. Discussion: Fire Wise and if we should create a committee

Calloway: Group met on 10/7, with Ann Dubay, Stephanie and Peter Hobert.

- If we decide to create a Fire Wise plan, it must be updated annually.
- A Fire Wise plan is “owned” by the community.
- The group will meet again at the end of the month, with Fire Safe Sonoma.
  - Where are the Fire Wise communities in existence and where are COPES?
  - How do we educate and do outreach?

2. Neighborhood Improvement Funding Program (NIFP) Subcommittee (Fies/Calloway)

- 10/22/24 Board of Supervisors: Funding request from MWACF, for \$5K annually, for park maintenance.

- Will be going on a consent calendar item.
- Cal Am Franchise Tax Fees: sunsets after 20 years (2029). We will need to go back to the Board and ask that the funding be reestablished.

3. Sonoma County General Plan for Mark West Area (Would)

Paul Hower (Public Infrastructure) is finalizing the agreement for the consultant who will be doing the community survey. The agreement should be completed soon.

4. Communications and Outreach (Bisordi/Skerrett)

- Council discussion and action on the draft postcard

Keith Roberts revised the postcard, based on the work of the committee.

Suggestions:

- Lovely draft of post card.
- the postcard be a larger version
- hope that the postcards will go out after the first of the year, to avoid the election mail period.
- Maybe put out a quarterly postcard?

Public comments:

- Catherine Dodd: suggested adding emergency phone numbers.
- Postcard size be a factor due to postage
- Keith Roberts: Could be smaller if cost is an issue.

On a motion by Calloway, second by Would, the postcard and the funding of it, not to exceed \$2,400, was approved. The motion passed on a voice vote. (6-0)

**G) Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items**

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This time is set aside to receive comments from the public regarding matters of general interest, not on the agenda, but related to MWAMAC business. Pursuant to the Brown Act, the MWAMAC cannot consider any issues or act on any requests during this comment period. Each person is usually granted three minutes to speak; time limitations are at the discretion of the Chair.

1. Pete Leisure: Willie Lamberson is a new director of the Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce.

2. David Hansen. Will you get update on planning of the park in Wikiup? Response: Yes, and can get public input.

3. Catherine Dodd: Schopflin Fields has artificial grass and it stuck to players shoes. It kills freshwater fish. We remain concerned that the county is not acting to protect the children, wildlife and water. Those who clean up the fields should be wearing protective clothing.

4. Lamberson: Has been going down to the CHP office in Rohnert Park, to fill out traffic complaint reports, on Old Redwood Hwy., in Larkfield. Could the council write a new letter to the new captain (Willie will provide the name).

**H) Future Agenda Items:**

Potential projects and/or suggestions for future MWAMAC meetings

1. Community Services District (CSD)

2. Possibility of an update: COPE program (being prepared for emergencies) in Wikiup (or possibly Map Your Neighborhood - knowing where resources and/or community needs are) (TBD)

3. Possible speaker on home hardening and vegetation management (TBD)

4. Possible community clean up? Maybe in partnership with the Chamber (TBD) – Bisordi to take the lead

5. List of unmet needs projects for Larkfield/Mark West/Wikiup (TBD)

6. Supervisor Gore to attend a future MWAMAC meeting

**I) Adjournment: ACTION ITEM**

There being no other business to discuss, on a motion by Menzel and seconded by Bisordi, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm. The motion carried on a voice vote. (6-0)

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Approved Date:

Chair

**MWAMAC MEETINGS: 6:00 PM—SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

**Hybrid 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**

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