



North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council

NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

In Person Meeting: Mayflower Hall

5311 O'Donnell Ln, Glen Ellen, CA 95442

September 17, 2024

5:30 PM



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

As of March 1, 2023, the Governor has rescinded the Emergency Proclamation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. **With this rescission, all Boards, Councils, and Commissions following the Brown Act must return to meeting in person** with some limited exceptions for individual appointed and elected officials on a case-by-case basis.

Remote participation by the public may continue if there are sufficient staff resources to allow this option. For the September 17 meeting of the North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council, we will be offering a hybrid option for the public to view the meeting and make public comment. Please note this is a new development and we have limited staff resources, so this option is subject to technical difficulties.

Zoom Conference Meeting

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/94477826605?pwd=Cb04MJqjBvglpq4vz37zTwB3RaBo1.1>

Passcode: 959844

Meeting ID: 944 7782 6605

Dial by your location: +1 (669) 900-9128 US (San Jose)

Due to the potential for technical difficulties, it is recommended that members of the public who wish to address the commission consider attending in person, or submitting comments in advance via e-mail to Hannah Whitman, Board Aide for Supervisor Susan Gorin, at hannah.whitman@sonoma-county.org

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

Start: 5:33pm

Eagles: Good evening, welcome. Call to order. Pledge. Land acknowledgement: We acknowledge that the citizens and community served by the NSV MAC, occupy the unseeded ancestral lands of the Coast Miwok, closely related to neighboring indigenous peoples: Pomo, Wapo, and others. Asking forgiveness for past transgressions they and their ancestors experienced, we humbly invite them to join us in person or in spirit as we give gratitude for their ongoing stewardship of this place since time in memorial. Recognizing how much we benefit from their continuing presence as culture keepers and teachers, we commit ourselves to building positive and lasting relationships with our local indigenous community and to honor all the diverse peoples in our region. Roll.

Present: Dawson, Dickey, Eagles, Nardo Morgan, Newhouser, Peña

Absent: None

Eagles: Councilmember Galindo no longer able to join us due to some scheduling conflicts, trainings in the evening. Couple of MAC openings, please join us. Can be up to nine people. Patricia had to step down, Arthur is stepping down after four years. Founding MAC member, done two terms. Want to mention, if it's not you, maybe a friend or neighbor. Contact Hannah, simple application process.

2. Approval of July 16, 2024 minutes

Resolution

Eagles: Anyone have any changes or additions to minutes?

Motion:

First: Nardo Morgan

Second: Newhouser

3. Public Comment

Receive

(Limited to items not appearing on the agenda)

Eagles: Public comment, limited to items not on the agenda.

Public Comment 1: Tracy Salcedo, resident here in Glen Ellen. Here for two reasons. PG&E has felled six trees on my property, siting fire hazard, then left wood on property, which has caused fire hazard. Have contacted PG&E, understand this is a problem throughout the area. What I was told was, they're responsible for the trees, I'm responsible for the wood. Hoping you will write letter to PG&E. Second want to compliment county road guys, Chauvet Rd has been mess since the fires. Was supposed to be repaved with PG&E funds that came from the fire. Wrote, why isn't it on there, apparently water issue up there. After complained, came up the next day and put asphalt on the road, better but not paved. Hoping MAC can send a letter, that road in response to fires should be paved.

Dawson: I won't be on MAC, won't be drafting letter. If you could send us your letter that would help.

Newhouser: And any documentation. What we've found with roads department, respond well to photo documentation, submitting to department.

Eagles: Other comments?

Public Comment 2: Gary Johnson, Sonoma Valley Fire. Based off PG&E, I've made contact with them, awaiting response. Happening throughout valley. Don't know if you want to wait on letter, waiting to hear back.

Newhouser: What's your read, who should be responsible?

Johnson: Think depends on where tree lies, the base. County owned trees, versus landowner trees. Will be between county and PG&E to determine whose responsibility. Cost of moving those big rounds. Supposedly, PG&E will chip anything four inches or smaller, trying to figure that out. I'm working on it.

Newhouser: If you hear back, could let us know?

Johnson: Yes.

Eagles: For those who don't know, when we have letter to approve have to do it in live session. That's our process.

Public Comment 3: Alice Horowitz, resident of Glen Ellen. Notice that next Tuesday on 24th, joint meeting of Springs MAC and North Sonoma Valley MAC. Wanted to remind everybody Safe Study commissioned by VOTMA coming to an end. Final report by end of October. Wondering if finalization with input from MACs about safety element, can be delayed in order to take this important comprehensive study into account.

Dickey: Not a resolution, just a hearing. Preparation for the General Plan update. State requirement, don't normally require this kind of update. All it is, just a hearing for information.

Horowitz: Good to know. As far as brief update on study. Roll out of results, bringing that to attention of public, officials, government entities, all in the works. Contemplating having big community forum.

Dickey: Want to make presentations to MACs and CAC?

Horowitz: Having a meeting tomorrow to discuss. With safety element of General Plan, saw October meeting, nothing being finalized, just information gathering?

Eagles: Might be nice to clarify after meeting next week, what opportunities will be.

Nardo Morgan: Just want to say to Alice, all who spearheaded fire evacuation study, thank you.

Eagles: Any further comment?

Public Comment 4: Nicolas Johnson. Family has lived in Glen Ellen since 1932. What are we going to do with O'Donnell Bridge?

Eagles: Going to have update on that today, Item 6.

Johnson: Not here to argue, here to have solutions. We all love Glen Ellen. As a spokesperson for all those out there who are regular people, want to make sure on the same page. Number one thing I've been hearing is the bridge. As long as can make that bridge still usable, whether that's vehicular or pedestrian access. Also read in Kenwood Press, meaning of this meeting was to address transportation throughout Glen Ellen. Curious to address that.

Newhouser: Thank you for your input.

Eagles: Wrote a letter, have a couple copies if you want to take a look at it. Transportation, can't get into discussion on something if not on agenda tonight, but can think about it for a future meeting.

Nardo Morgan: Bridge very important to community and also, in my opinion, historical resource, should consider that factor also.

Eagles: Anyone else? Zoom?

No further public comment.

Eagles: Comment on process tonight, going to try to keep to time, stick to protocol. Want to limit back and forth, have received a few comments on that.

4. Supervisor Gorin Update

Receive

Eagles: Supervisor Gorin not here tonight, Hannah going to pass over to you.

Whitman: Unfortunately Supervisor Gorin unable to attend, submitted written update I will read into the record on her behalf.

Supervisor Gorin update:

I am traveling and unfortunately I can't be in attendance tonight, but I wanted to share a few written updates from the Board of Supervisors.

On September 10th, our Board approved the Climate Resilience Comprehensive Action Plan, a plan to make Sonoma County government operations carbon-neutral by 2030. Climate action has been one of my top priorities throughout my tenure as Supervisor, including my time serving on the Climate Ad Hoc, and I'm so thrilled to see this plan come to fruition as I near the end of my term. The plan itself is a roadmap that outlines strategies for reducing carbon emissions, increasing carbon storage on County-owned lands, and building resiliency in the face of natural disasters and other climate hazards. We directed staff to develop a community outreach strategy on the action plan, so please keep an eye out for opportunities to stay engaged.

Speaking of actions plans, on the 10th we also approved the new Sonoma County Master Plan for Aging. I have been working with the county's Adult and Aging Division over the last year as part of a steering committee toward the development of this plan, and I'm excited to see it cross the finish line. The plan outlines how the county and our partners can work together to address some of the most pressing issues currently facing seniors, including: affordable and accessible housing, health care, transportation, caregiving and more. Given that the First District is the oldest of the five Supervisorial Districts, I am sure this will be of interest to many, and I encourage you to take a closer look.

Lastly, I'm excited you'll have Supervisor-Elect Rebecca Hermosillo at your meeting this evening. Additionally, I'm glad you'll be hearing from Deputy Director of Sonoma County Public Infrastructure Janice Thompson tonight, as I am well aware there is still a lot of community interest and concern regarding the O'Donnell Lane Bridge. Thank you to both of them for taking the time out of their evening to join the MAC, and I'll see you next month!

End Supervisor Gorin update.

Eagles: Usually, when Supervisor Gorin here, ask her a couple questions. Any comments?

Dawson: Thank her for representing us on climate.

Nardo Morgan: Can we see climate resilience plan online?

Whitman: You can, and if topic that's of interest to come before MAC, can look into that too. I'll send a link.

Eagles: Anyone from public?

No public comment.

5. First District Supervisor-Elect Rebecca Hermosillo (15mins)

Receive

- Brief introduction and Q&A with Supervisor-Elect Hermosillo

Eagles: Pleased to introduce Supervisor-elect Rebecca Hermosillo.

Hermosillo: Great to be here, thank you for inviting me. Excited to take office in January. My understanding that Supervisor Gorin's last day will be day I'm sworn in, either the third or the seventh. Since March, since won election outright, made priority to meet with department heads and stakeholders, currently still working full time for Congressman. Love to just say hi, you'll see me here more often, available if you have more questions or if the public has questions?

Eagles: Councilmembers?

Newhosuer: Want to acknowledge you, Susan was telling us you were proactively meeting with everyone before taking office, thank you for doing that.

Dickey: Suggest you were meeting with stakeholders, could you define more clearly?

Hermosillo: MACs, part of the Supervisorial work, MACs will continue on. Stakeholder meetings with folks with environmental ties to talk about impacts of General Plan, getting their feedback and suggestions.

Dickey: Informal groups?

Hermosillo: Generally. It's General Plan, housing, roads. Stopped those meetings last Thursday, just because need to prioritize meeting with department heads first.

Dickey: Expect to be finished with Congressman Thompson before taking office?

Hermosillo: Last day November 30th, taking vacation December 1st. Challenge to juggle both.

Dickey: We as group, obviously concerned about SDC, development through the valley. Opportunity to talk to you about our concerns? Sure you're aware, in the meantime there's a lot of stuff that arises, traffic safety evacuation study. This may not be the place to meet with us, MACs more formal body. Town Hall type meeting, opportunity for us as community to vent a little bit.

Hermosillo: SDC is part of the Congressman's district, I'm still heavily involved. Alice generously working on scheduling meetings. Happy to meet with folks, challenge to fit in all in this year.

Dickey: Here in the public now, asking these questions gives people opportunity to see you are accessible. Important for us. To speak plainly, feel like Sonoma Valley has become dumping ground for housing requirements county to meet. Having access to you important for us, speak to you about our concerns.

Hermosillo: Can express concerns constituents have about SDC. Senator McGuire convened meeting with likely incoming Senator Cabaldon and other stakeholders, I was able to share concerns hearing in community.

Eagles: Do annual report for the MAC, list speakers we have, attach any formal letters we have. Can dig those out.

Dickey: Seen the movie?

Hermosillo: Have not.

Nardo Morgan: Coming again in October.

Newhouser: Do you anticipate participating like Susan has at these meetings, doing update?

Hermosillo: My hope is to continue on with MACs as they have been meeting. Exception, January, will be a lot for new Supervisor and new MACs that month, will start in February.

Newhouser: Generally, so many issues board has to address. Housing versus overdevelopment push and pull in our community. Which issues do you see that you think will be challenging, which are you most familiar with or passionate about?

Hermosillo: Entire First District, county, here?

Newhouser: Governing, whether county itself or specific to this valley.

Hermosillo: Think it's going to be a lot about land use and development. Projects in pipelines, what does that look like. Guardrails so that whatever is being developed more reflective of the community, anticipating future needs. Overarching for First District, 37, SDC, Hanna, Elnoka, Kenwood Spa, making sure Bennett Valley stays energized, loses power less often.

Newhouser: One last follow up, touch of irony. Some concerned about PG&E removing trees, hear from fire department that this is ongoing issue. Yet, here we are approving climate resilience plan. Irony isn't lost on us, all that trees and vegetation losing to fire safety, losing carbon capture. How do you square this opposition of objectives.

Hermosillo: Trees not new, been around since '17. After '17 fires, would take Warm Springs Rd and tell them where they left their trees.

Newhouser: Challenge, any thoughts on that?

Hermosillo: Working with Government Affairs toward solutions, meetings need to be had to come up with good plan.

Dawson: Welcome and congratulations. What are you looking forward to most?

Hermosillo: Making government more accessible, think there are demographics that don't know how to access government. Excited about creating office hours, evening hours, help direct constituents to get the help they need. When I was on the campaign trail, group from West County that were monolingual to walk for me in Oakmont. Being able to communicate with Supervisor in native tongue much easier.

Eagles: Involve any additional development of Sonoma hub?

Hermosillo: Yes, have been meeting with department heads on what I'd like to see in January.

Nardo Morgan: Thrilled your with us, community very lucky to have you. MAC doesn't meet every month, doesn't meet in January?

Eagles: Does.

Whitman: Not in 2025.

Eagles: Public comment?

Public Comment 1: Recognize the good work you're doing. Remind us, why should vote for you?

Hermosillo: Why people voted for me in March, born and raised in First District. I've been in the First District, last twelve years worked for Congressman Thompson, know how to navigate challenging issues. Care about the community I live in, that's why I got about 79% of votes.

Public Comment 2: Love that you're talking about increasing access. I used to be librarian at Dunbar, would ride my bike up and back. Now librarian at Altamira, can't ride my bike there. People I see riding bikes along Arnold Dr are folks trying to get to school and back. Pet project of Supervisor Gorin's, would love to help you. Let's get some safe bike lanes.

Hermosillo: Think we're on the home stretch with that project.

Public Comment 3: Our community is very intent on working with our government, want you to know, not expecting "what's she going to do for us," what can we help you to achieve? So many talented, intelligent people who are involved and want to be involved. Please call on us to help you out.

Eagles: Further public comment?

No further public comment.

Dickey: Did you go to Altamira?

Hermosillo: Yes.

Eagles: Any other comments? Thank you.

6. Sonoma County Public Infrastructure: Update (15mins)

Receive

- Receive update from Sonoma County Public Infrastructure on the following topics:
 - i. Bridge decking in Glen Ellen
 - ii. O'Donnell Lane Bridge

Eagles: Joining us online, Janice Thompson, Deputy Director from Sonoma County Public Infrastructure, going to give us an update.

Thompson: Thank you for having me, I'm Deputy Director, oversee engineering and road maintenance. Bridge updates, I'll start with current project we have, bridge deck maintenance. Two bridges in Glen Ellen. Downtown bridge, Arnold Dr over Sonoma Creek. Deck work completed, we'll be returning to do striping and minor asphalt work. Eldridge bridge scheduled to begin tomorrow Wednesday, continue through Friday. 30 minute delays on that route while we do that work. O'Donnell Bridge, traffic accident there December 2023, large vehicle struck the bridge rail and did some damage. Bridge engineer went in January, inspected bridge, department made decision to close the bridge to vehicular traffic, keep it open to bike and pedestrian traffic. Installed temporary barricade, sandwich board, reported to me that those barricades were being altered in field. Temporarily placed some concrete k rails there, temporary. Plan, coordinated with local fire, is to install lockable bollards at either end of the bridge, to prevent vehicles but to keep open to bike and ped. On order, have been informed important community event October 13, told crews to install bollards by October 11th so bridge is ready for community event. That's my update.

Eagles: Questions?

Newhouser: Can you tell us about who would unlock bollards if there was a fire, vehicular access during an evacuation?

Thompson: Coordinated with local fire who would be able to unlock and remove the bollard.

Newhouser: And vehicles could use it?

Thompson: During evacuation route yes.

Newhouser: Single bollard on each side?

Thompson: Yes.

Newhosuer: Curious about the material used to cap the bridges. Smelled like epoxy, what was that?

Thompson: Called methacrylate, similar to epoxy. Eldridge bridge is getting thin layer of polyester concrete.

Dickey: When they're out here doing striping on bridges, able to redo striping adjacent to saloon, market at three way intersection. Worn out, almost invisible.

Thompson: Bridge decking is a federally funded project, limited to confines of bridge area. Can take note looking for striping refresh in downtown area.

Dickey: Other day, had to go down O'Donnell Ln in a car, somebody almost whacked me when came out on Warm Springs Rd. Noticed how narrow the entrance is. Wondering if there's any opportunity to make it safer at the Warm Springs, O'Donnell, Henno intersection. Tough corner.

Thompson: Can definitely look into that.

Dawson: Does county install mirrors?

Thompson: Mirrors aren't really a standard traffic safety item, having said that, if community is interested in mirror, one could be installed through encroachment permit process.

Nardo Morgan: Mark brought up question of bollards being unlocked, curious how long would take to get to them to unlock them. If big event, can't get to it, tiny little one way area, how are they getting there?

Thompson: Might be best handled by first responders.

Nardo Morgan: Have one in the audience.

Johnson: Obviously we'd all love to drive out, would be optimal. Not all the time can we drive out, just like San Francisco fire did that night. Sometimes have to abandon our vehicles. Open our eyes to other forms of travel, versus thinking we're going to drive everywhere need to go. Obviously, going to get there as fast as we can. Concerns heard from residents on O'Donnell, backed up to get onto Warm Springs. Evacuations are handled by law enforcement, way different times when fires happen 2017 to where we are today, have evacuation zones, pull trigger a little faster. Going to do what we can to get there, but know that, if first car and this is all blocked up, may have to abandon vehicle. Another option, haven't talked to Janice about, Jack London Estates mounted bolt cutter in cabinet, something to open up lock if somebody gets there first. Waiting on report saying ok to go across that bridge, don't want to send people across and bridge falls, bigger problem. Working since June with PI for best process to stop vehicles from coming over, but allow for evacuations. Removable bollard works at regional parks, bike paths. For right now, best solution to at least not have k rails blocking the bridge.

Eagles: Thank you. Janice, bridge decking mentioned Eldridge bridge - is that Jim Berkland bridge. Closed, or open to one way traffic?

Thompson: Yes, Jim Berkland bridge, report I have says 30 minute delays, which tells me it's potentially open to one way traffic periodically.

Eagles: Ok, back to O'Donnell bridge, just so everyone knows, we submitted letter to you on July 17, did have some community driven suggestions that came out of two meetings, suggestions for improved visibility. Some of them might be ideas you'd consider. Second thing is, bollards that would be removable think would be in keeping with community feedback.

Dawson: Bollards, originally thinking could be removable with no locks, maybe concern thrown over bridge. Chained with enough chain to put on side of road? Question for Janice, planning on sticking around for next item, pedestrian friendly community idea?

Newhouser: Follow up, since Gary used our neighborhood as example. If bollard is locked, typical lock on the bollard, if neighborhood itself takes some responsibility. Don't think county provide us with box with bolt cutter. Community take responsibility, have own backup plan, has to be well thought out. Reason why locking bollard, keep people from taking out and throwing in the creek. Happens all the time, has to be secured. Sure O'Donnell folks will come up with a plan, very motivated to have redundancy. Janice, paving that was redone on Arnold stopped and eliminated section where London Ranch Rd comes down. Still decrepit asphalt, wonder if there was a plan to complete that section.

Thompson: Don't have those answers tonight, will follow up.

Newhouser: If you have update paving plan, know this county has more roads than people, helpful for us to communicate to constituents when their road paving next.

Thompson: Can share 2025 paving plan.

Eagles: Turn it over to public comment.

Public Comment 1: Love that we're addressing bridge. Don't think we need bollards. Know that it's been damaged, no more vehicles traveling over it. My suggestion, can't fix it so leave it be. Why waste time and resources, idea of bollards, sounds like a good idea at first. When think of it, no vehicles going over the bridge. My brother and I first ones to report that damage to the fire department, that's why it got shut down. Agree with Arthur, pedestrian only bridge. Just leave it be. Hear any words against it?

Public Comment 2: Curious, what is the final stage? Bollards it, done, or plans to fix it further to at some point operate vehicles over it?

Public Comment 3: Regarding repair of the bridge, my name is Steven Chapman, something I brought up last meeting. Request the Supervisor that some historical resource report be conducted for the bridge to guide repair, wondering what account has been given for historical restoration. Would be shame to repair the bridge and not restore it to former glory, remove coat of concrete slathered over at one point. Restored, could be beautiful iconic structure for community.

Public Comment 4: Pat Carlin, live here in Glen Ellen. Mention October 11, fair is October 13. Could we count on bollards being installed, and if not, can k rails be removed?

Public Comment 5: Katie Everidge, resident of Glen Ellen, former resident of O'Donnell Ln. Know you've been working with Pat. Other people who use that bridge, owner of Glen Ellen Inn, use that bridge previously at the fair to get the guests out of the property. Has emailed us how do I get the guests out during that day. Same issue employees of the fig getting out during that day. Also, as far as repair, understand changing to pedestrian only bridge except for emergencies, also would like to see bridge repaired. Who has responsibility of fixing bridge, and cost. Know Supervisor Gorin has said in past, county does not have money to fix the bridge. Possibility for private funding, wondering if cost has been researched at all.

Eagles: Anyone online?

No further public comment.

Thompson: I took notes. Comment about no bollards at all. County would require level of insurance where we would install a measure to prevent vehicles. Understand your statement, but relying on people to always do the right thing, need a little more insurance. This is not final. I would define next steps, county takes care of large number of bridges, high number of bridges for a county, one of the highest in state, 328. Currently working on 15 bridge repair projects, determined to be at risk earthquake, at risk of scour. That's where federal funding is focused, county relies on federal funding for bridge repair projects. Common thing you'll find across state and nation, bridges are extremely expensive. Consider repair project in the future, working through backlog of existing workload right now. This bridge will rise in priority, will look at repair project in the future. Not a final situation. Next one was about restoring to beautiful condition it was, that would be our desire as well, but also our problem. Restoring a historic bridge is very expensive, complicated, long process. Have hopes to begin a repair project in the future, would also be our desire to restore it, real asset to your community, would try to restore it but contributes to its expense and complication. Next was about could we remove k rail by 11th. Bollards on order, item that is out of my control. If get them in time, install them, can be removed for your event. If do not get materials on time, our time will do something: will remove k rails, coordinate with this community. Committed to that, have heard the importance of that from this community. Last one regarding bridge funding, think I answered that, reiterate that county does not have bridge funding, historic nature of this bridge makes that expensive, complicated, doesn't mean we don't do it, but don't have estimate at this time.

Hermosillo: Deputy Director Thompson, it's Rebecca Hermosillo with Congressman Thompson's office, if you do apply for federal funds for the bridge, Congressman Thompson would be happy to write letter of support.

Johnson: Janice this is Gary with Sonoma Valley Fire. Just want to clarify, are you allowing for that fair day vehicle traffic, or just pedestrian thoroughfare.

Thompson: It's open for pedestrian access now, it's my understanding that the community is asking for vehicular access for that one day. Let's be careful, that bridge is ten feet wide, let's be careful for that day.

Newhouser: Follow up question, idea of having public private partnership. Wondering if the county would be open to having some private funds raised and if so, could county develop a budget in order to help understand what a fundraising goal would be.

Thompson: Always open to variety of funding options and resolutions to problems.

Newhouser: Budget?

Thompson: Don't have that developed.

Dickey: Going to open up, vehicular traffic, how manage what size vehicles go in and out of there.

Thompson: Won't be managing that.

Dickey: Possibility, maybe fair folks managing that?

Eagles: This is not really the MAC's focus, don't have much sway here on that portion of things. Thank you everyone, going to keep us moving.

7. Resolution Declaring Glen Ellen a "Pedestrian-Friendly Community" (15mins)

Resolution

- Review and approve resolution proposed by Councilmember Dawson
- Consider creation of Ad Hoc committee

Eagles: Resolution declaring Glen Ellen a pedestrians friendly community, Arthur, going to let you lead this discussion.

Dawson: Incremental improvements to improve pedestrian safety. Got feedback from members of the public about the declaration, one of the comments was that people wanted to expand size of pedestrian friendly community. Originally thinking, live a half mile from town, thinking people who live that close to center of town should be able to walk in. Goes

with some things found online about walkable communities, that's why shaped the Glen Ellen core the way that I did. Not against making it bigger, but making it relatively small allows us to focus our efforts. Can move out from core, but good place for initial priority. Live edit, read through it?

Eagles: Can we talk a little more about what this is, and what this is not? Declaration of intent, versus detailed.

Dawson: Keep really simple. More aspirational document, framework we can work under. Assuming this passes, would be for transportation committee to develop a report, places where improvements would be especially beneficial. This would be, declaring ourselves pedestrian friendly community. Janice, this is partially inspired by your department's response to the downtown crosswalk, didn't take much, being aware of places we could change things. Moving that sign has had significant effect, cars slowing down more. That's the idea I want to work with, small change can improve pedestrian safety. Over number of years, small changes can make improvements. Section on incremental improvements. Janice, would like to sit with you, what is low hanging fruit. MAC does have a little bit of funding, if matter of buying signs, maybe MAC would buy signs and county would install them.

Eagles: Tonight, just to clarify, looking at this declaration and potentially approving this with any changes council members or members of public recommend. If approved, ad hoc would develop more comprehensive white paper/plan, is that how you see it?

Dawson: Yes, like to hear from Janice on how we'd go about that.

Eagles: Our task as a MAC is to edit this, Janice if you're inclined to comment in any way please interrupt.

Thompson: Still here, I'll listen in and see how it goes.

Dawson: Update based on Katie's email we could start with, Mark made some edits.

Newhouser: Sent Hannah word version of it. Want to preface my comments by countering your concentration on the core. Those of us who do not live within a half mile would also like to be included in this planning and declaration, benefit from larger study. Know design guidelines only focus on the core. Know that a lot of people would like to be able to walk, bicycle, even if farther away than half a mile. Could be a minor detail, also had some specific input.

Dawson: Should we just go through each whereas, people comment.

Eagles: If really important to you, let's do it, otherwise we start to lose everyone.

Dawson: WHEREAS: Walking is the oldest and most common form of human transportation; WHEREAS: it is well documented that walking benefits individual health as well as the social, environmental, and economic health of communities; thank you Katie for suggesting environment. Everybody ok with that? WHEREAS: Glen Ellen residents and visitors commonly use walking for transportation within the community. Mark, you had a comment?

Newhouser: Not all of us have access or can walk the community. Just added, where pedestrian access is available. Some people have, some people don't.

Dawson: Don't want to get down in the weeds. Ok to move on? WHEREAS: California has one of the highest rates of pedestrian fatalities and injuries in the U.S and the state reports a continuing rise in these numbers. Other thoughts on that? WHEREAS: the Glen Ellen core* and surrounding area poses conditions and hazards which put pedestrians at risk. These include: narrow or non-existent shoulders, inconsistent speed limits, speed limits that do not account for the presence of non-motorized users, signage that is lacking or hidden, blind curves, distracted drivers, and other hazards. Did not include Kenwood, fully support them having their own declaration. WHEREAS: a variety of modest changes would incrementally improve pedestrian safety in the Glen Ellen core and surrounding areas; any suggestions?

Nardo Morgan: I think environmental is good term but super broad, doesn't focus on one of the core things, multiuse trails are part of the climate change solution, having walking trails, decreasing reliance on automobiles helps us generate carbon sink.

Dawson: Agree, on page two you'll see identifying and protecting walking paths.

Eagles: Could write a whereas?

Dawson: Think we're getting into weeds.

Nardo Morgan: Climate change one of the biggest issues facing our species at the moment.

Dawson: Fuzzing focus at moment?

Peña: Strong justification, adds validity.

Dawson: Trying to keep it simple.

Eagles: Agree with you Arthur, slightly out of the core focus.

Dawson: Don't object.

Newhouser: Gave Arthur my input, he can decide what goes in.

Dawson: Don't think of it as my resolution, can take a look. Does Glen Ellen core and surrounding area meet your comments?

Newhouser: Thought about referring to it more generally, you don't define core until the end. Think transportation corridors are what you're referring to, that was my rationale.

Eagles: Not concerned, if we agree this is a good framework, not too worried because general framework of intent. Unless something that distracts, makes it lesser?

Newhouser: Just fundamental; focus on core here, or Glen Ellen at large.

Eagles: Can't do everything, all about priorities. At some point someone has to figure out what's first, then expand out.

Dawson: WHEREAS: a variety of modest changes would incrementally improve pedestrian safety in the Glen Ellen core and surrounding areas.

Nardo Morgan: Take out modest?

Dawson: Can take that out. Very modest things that can be done, not that expensive or take that much time, that's my thinking.

Newhouser: I suggested adding a study and implementation of pedestrian friendly transportation infrastructure recommendations.

Dawson: On page two. Think study would be good?

Peña: Isn't resolution a North Star vision, intent of where we want to go? Don't need to worry about implementation, worry about direction.

Dawson: Yes. Good there? THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council declares Glen Ellen to be a "Pedestrian-Friendly Community" and will pursue this as a long-term aspirational goal; THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Advisory Council commits itself to working with county agencies such as Sonoma Public Infrastructure, local citizens and local organizations to prioritize and implement incremental improvements** to pedestrian safety in the Glen Ellen core. Down below, *The community core is defined as the priority roadways within the Glen Ellen core (subject to adjustment), are: Arnold Drive from Hill Road to Gibson Street

(0.8 mi); London Ranch Road from Arnold Drive to Chauvet Road (0.3 mi); and Warm Springs Road from Arnold Drive to Saddle Road (0.5 mi). And then down below. The basic issues affecting pedestrian safety in Glen Ellen are: Speed, Space, Awareness. Goes for both drivers and pedestrians. An incomplete list of possible incremental changes to improve pedestrian safety: Place "Pedestrian-Friendly Community" signs at key locations, Placing "Watch for Pedestrians" signs at key locations, Placing advisory speed signs at key locations, Adjust speed limits for consistency, Lower speed limits in portions of core, Improving visibility of signage (moving signs, trimming foliage), Improving visibility of crosswalks, Flashing STOP or CROSSWALK signs, Rumble strips on roadway at key locations, Identifying and protecting walking paths, Widen shoulders, 'No Parking' signs at strategic locations (e.g. NW corner of bridge), Pedestrian Education (e.g. brochures at lodges & restaurants), Develop community bike path from Eldridge to Glen Ellen. At the bottom, some things that have already been done: Chauvet/Arnold STOP sign, "Love Our Town Slow Down" signs, Signage improvement and painting for downtown crosswalk, O'Donnell Bridge bollards (in process), Walking path from Carmel to Sonoma Valley Regional Park. A lot of things have been done already, which is encouraging. Any other ideas for incremental improvements?

Peña: I would say again, do we need to include any of this? Resolution is to declare pedestrian friendly environment, not to say these are things we are endorsing, designating, or planning, barrier to do that?

Eagles: Think you added those later for a reason, do you want to?

Dawson: Wanted to give an idea of what an incremental change could be. Roadmap of where we might go.

Peña: But then you say roadmap.

Eagles: A little bit in between, list things that you might include, but not comprehensive list.

Peña: Get from an educational perspective, but danger to putting it in this document, asking us to go through and improve it. Could be separate letter you send?

Dawson: Get that. It is framed as possible incremental changes, not in concrete. Do we want to do a motion on including the incremental changes page?

Peña: Up to you.

Nardo Morgan: Wrote a whereas.

Eagles: Let's put in and people can see nah if don't like it: WHEREAS: walking is part of the climate change solution, resilient communities, and decreasing dependence on cars and fossil fuels;

Newhouser: To get to Martin's point, what is the purpose of this. In the declaration, declares Glen Ellen to be a "Pedestrian-Friendly Community" and will pursue this as a long-term aspirational goal. Do we want to say aspirational?

Nardo Morgan: Agree with you Mark.

Eagles: Just goal, Mark?

Dickey: Goal, what it is.

Newhouser: Bringing the resolutions with all the whereases is kind of a mystery to me.

Dawson: Bruce Goldstein advised me when we did the Glen Ellen boundaries, should make it look like this.

Newhouser: Adds clarity. Where I'm a little bit stuck, what we're actually going to produce.

Dawson: Saying this is a long term goal.

Dickey: Inherent in that there is going to be a study.

Nardo Morgan: Part of the pursuit of the goal.

Newhouser: One last thing. Do we need to say incremental, can we just say improvements?

Nardo Morgan: Agreed.

Dawson: Sure.

Peña: Don't mean to open up another can of worms, does this avoid bicycles intentionally?

Dawson: Yes and no. Think these improvements will help cyclists, adding in bikes into this gets kind of clunky. Cyclists already have bike lanes, parts of Arnold, pedestrian friendly part hasn't been brought up.

Nardo Morgan: Really calling these multi use trails now, you're really looking at places to walk?

Dawson: Improve safety for cyclists as well.

Peña: Think for goal of reducing carbon emissions, doesn't matter if bike or walk.

Eagles: Doesn't preclude other improvements, just focus of where we started with this one.

Newhouser: I appreciate you asking the questions Martin, should be prioritizing both, really.

Nardo Morgan: Could be limiting, funding, cyclists jumping on board with you.

Dawson: Legally there is a difference. If you're a cyclists, you're legally a vehicle. Different kettle of fish.

Newhouser: Once we finish our discussion, might want to ask Janice Thompson.

Whitman: Unfortunately, she had to drop off.

Eagles: What MAC can do is set intent. Intent is to make it a safer area, trying to focus a little bit. Doesn't preclude other activity, but sets a goal for us, don't think we should worry limiting ourselves in any way. That's my view.

Newhouser: Suggesting that we add it?

Eagles: Suggest that we don't add it, don't worry that we're limiting ourselves. Where are we, we did add a whereas even though slightly off topic on climate change.

Dawson: Can we say walking is part of the climate change solution?

Nardo Morgan: Take out paths.

Dawson: Go to public comment?

Eagles: In a pretty good place with this?

Newhouser: No comment.

Eagles: Public, if there's something you think is important that we haven't included here?

Public Comment 1: I came here tonight to support this resolution, think it's great that you're doing this. Will say, one thing with the county that I find frustrating with these planning issues, how uncoordinated the departments are. For instance, bicycle access for the O'Donnell Ln bridge, but don't have comprehensive bike master plan. Resurfacing the

bridge next to the market, but still no accessible path of travel. Take a little issue with Arthur's suggestion that we can fix things incrementally, what we need is a planning process. Maybe with federal funds, get consultants in, community feedback. Create a process that leads us where we want to go. Suggestions on the list seem like band aid solutions. What I think Glen Ellen needs is engineering solutions. Resolutions are always good, lets us know where we want to go, but how do we get there.

Dawson: May I respond? Public meeting early in this process, that could be a part of it. In the meantime, within my lifetime, I'd like to see something happen.

Newhouser: Thank you for your comments, that's what I was trying to get at with some of my silly wordsmithing. Identify planning and implementation, with emphasis on planning, most feasible. Know Arthur is being realistic when he's trying to do incremental change.

Public Comment 2: Thank you Arthur, one item I wanted to bring up for consideration. Think it's important to include as part of core from Jim Berkland bridge, increase that scope there. Would be nice to have safe way with signage to walk to Jack London Village, all the way to the bridge in the future when there's development at SDC.

Dawson: Thank you Katie.

Eagles: Further public comment?

No further public comment.

Eagles: Let's talk about the suggestion Katie made.

Dawson: Slightly different idea, build a bridge from Regional Park path to Jack London Village.

Newhouser: To answer question Katie, I think adding "and surrounding areas" addresses that.

Eagles: Ultimately, I know Supervisor Gorin has said she would like to see larger plan. Going to leave it with surrounding area. I think we're about there, any other comments?

Dickey: Very difficult process, the word aspiration is exactly what this is. Hope is that we can bring this to the attention of the county through our Supervisor, thank you Rebecca for being there. Takes so much lobbying, but it's a first step. In the long run, all the definitions are going to be done because of what the study provides and what is affordable. I think it's wonderful to go about these efforts, but to wordsmith them into clear definitions at the beginning is so difficult.

Nardo Morgan: Just a little thing, last sentence, since taken incremental out of everything else, might want to take it out too.

Eagles: Always reserve the right, Chair, if there's any big typo or glaring error, can fix it. Motion?

Motion: Accept as edited.

First: Nardo Morgan

Second Peña

6-0

8. Election of Chair & Vice Chair (15mins)

Resolution

- Annual election to select Chair and Vice Chair

Eagles: It's 7:47, alternative, could kick election of Chair and Vice Chair to next meeting?

Dickey: Move that we continue this item to the next meeting.

Eagles: Public comment?

No public comment.

Newhouser: Process question, need to recruit some new people?

Eagles: Do we need to appoint a temporary Vice Chair? Chair special meeting?

Dawson: I can chair.

Newhouser: Question for Hannah, has your office put a notice out looking for new members?

Whitman: Supervisor Gorin has a monthly column in the Sonoma Sun that gets republished in her newsletter, the topic is recruiting for the MACs. Comes out Friday.

9. Reports and Announcements from Councilmembers and Ad Hoc

Receive

Eagles: Reports and announcements?

Nardo Morgan: Saturday, Glen Ellen Historical Society having lecture in this room, Bonnie Portnoy talk about her grandfather who was a famous Glen Ellen artists. Afterward, reception across the street will have art showing of local artists in Glen Ellen.

Dickey: CAC, General Plan, think county has now hired their consultant. Will start to have public hearings, only for hearing purposes, no resolution. All of us are the public, general plan is a big deal. Face a lot of things related to planning and land use of the last four years. Encourage everyone to participate. Don't have to be a planner, can think about it as a person and the things that impact you. General Plan update, big deal, takes a long period of time. Will be lots more in the local media about it. In the meantime, I was named the CAC Chair.

Eagles: CAC meeting, is that the equivalent of the join MAC meeting?

Dickey: Yes, I told Hannah I would join the one for the MACs so we have a quorum.

Newhouser: What's the timeframe, has it been established yet?

Dickey: I think it's 24 months. Rebecca, correct me if you know this and I'm wrong.

Newhouser: Starts after the consultant is hired?

Dickey: Starts after the first of the year. The reason that they're doing this, state is requiring it as an addendum to the General Plan process, new things to be examined under the General Plan, state is requiring these extra hearings. Just informational. There will be multitudes of opportunities.

Eagles: Any other announcements?

Dawson: Should point out this is my last MAC meeting, hoping to participate as a citizen member of transportation committee.

Eagles: Thank you Arthur, from all of us. This was Arthur's brainchild, you led the charge, served for the four years we've been a MAC.

Dawson: Thank you everyone on the MAC for your commitment and participation, sure we'll cross paths all over the place.

Eagles: Public?

No public comment.

10. Consideration of items for future agenda

Receive

Eagles: Any agenda items we should look at for our October meeting?

Newhouser: Presentation on climate item?

Whitman: Got it.

Eagles: Think early on traffic study, check with Alice.

Newhouser: Road work for 2025, think people would come out for that.

Nardo Morgan: Invite Diana Roten, talk about ropes course.

Eagles: She's working through state hoops. Agreed if there's a strategic way the MAC could help advocate with the state, don't see one now.

Nardo Morgan: Want to give shout out to Rebecca, staying the whole time.

Dickey: Rebecca, the MAC receives \$10,000 that it can allocate to different causes, know it's up to Supervisor as to whether or not that would continue. Do you anticipate that would continue? Reason I ask, when we go out to encourage people to participate, just having that money as a resource to our community is useful.

Hermosillo: TOT funds, from the budget cycle, it's half Supervisor Gorin's term, half mine. Depends on how much is left.

Eagles: Anything else for the agenda?

No public comment.

11. Adjourn

Resolution

Eagles: Motion?

Motion:

First: Newhouser

Second: Dawson

6-0

End: 8:02

COMMITMENT TO CIVILITY: The North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council has adopted rules of procedures which include a commitment to civility. To assure civility in its public meetings, the public is encouraged to engage in respectful dialog that supports freedom of speech and values diversity of opinion. Councilmembers, staff, and members of the public are expected to establish and maintain a cordial and respectful atmosphere during discussions; and foster meaningful dialogue free of personal attacks. Members of the public must also adhere to the speaking time limit.

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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