

MARK WEST CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes, November 10, 2021, 6:00 pm
Zoom Meeting
No video available this month

A) Call to Order: Chair Fies called to order, the regular meeting of Mark West Citizens Advisory Council at 6:00 pm.

1. Roll Call: Members present: Chair Karen Fies, Roni Berg, Willie Lamberson, Pete Lescure, Brad Sherwood
Others: Aggie Maggio, Secretary, Mark West Citizens Advisory Council (MWCAC)

2. Approval of Minutes:

On a motion by Lescure, second by Berg, the minutes of the regular MWCAC meeting, October 13, 2021, were approved. The motion carried on a voice vote. (4-0) Lamberson, having connection issues, was unable to vote.

B) Presentations: Action Items **None**

Procedure: 1. Presentation 2. Questions by council members 3. Questions/comments from the public

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

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

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

1. Continuation of Road Diet Discussion:

Jen Mendoza was not available to attend the Council meeting. Some who walked reported some of the issues that were pointed out to the county officials on the walk.

- Mark West Springs Rd. at Riebli School: Parents parking in bike path south of Riebli School. Congestion at drop off and pick up times.
- Old Redwood Hwy. in front of Molsberry's Market: Hawk light, traffic light and traffic calming. Fire trucks have been hit, entering onto Old Redwood Hwy. It was noted that the Fire Department would like to be able to trigger the lights when entering onto Old Redwood Hwy. possibly be part of the Hawk Light. The easement for the Hawk light has been approved.
- St. James Dr. at corner of Old Redwood Hwy: Hard for pedestrians, especially handicapped, to cross St. James. There are two stop signs, one before the corner and one after the corner, extending further up onto Old Redwood Hwy. There are no crosswalks there. It was noted that this would be a good place for stop lights. Also, at the exit from the gas station, onto Old Redwood Hwy. the Right Turn Only sign and Exit Only signs have been removed, causing traffic problems.
- Bridge on Mark West Creek: Too narrow and in need of repair.
- The flooding on Lavell Rd. was not part of the "walk about". The council members discussed that it is an urgent and fixable situation.
- It was pointed out that at the exit from North Bound 101, onto River Rd. there is a new right turn arrow that is red. The Council is asking for clarification, as the red right-turn arrow would indicate that there should be no right turn when the arrow is red. However, Council members pointed out that there is no sign stating such.
- It was not part of the discussion but mentioned after the meeting that the "walk about" also included, River Rd. at Lavell Rd. It is very dangerous for exiting and entering Lavell Rd. and traffic in front of Sutter is excessive.

Jen Mendoza will be writing up an "after action" report to summarize the walk-about.

2. Continuation of Discussion about the turn lane at Somers St. on results of Somers St. survey

Council member Berg and Nader Dahu, TPW Engineering Division Manager, walked with residents on Somers St. They all felt positive about speed humps and speed limit signs on Somers St. to control the speeding. She will contact Highway Patrol to discuss speed humps on Somers Rd. and neighbors will do a petition for speed limit signs. TPW still needs to do a full assessment and report.

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3. Reminder/Announcement:

Zoom meetings through December 2021. January '22 ~ hybrid. February 22 ~ Zoom. March '22 ~ hybrids going forward.

4. Council discussion on expanding the area of influence of the MWCAC

Due to recent discussions about the Koi Tribe's desire to potentially build a new casino, some Council members are interested in expanding the area covered by the MWCAC to broader than the area covered by Cal Am Water. Is there an urban growth boundary? There are over 10,000 residents (3800 households) in our area, but only 2400 are covered by Cal Am Water (per Margaret DiGenova). The Council needs to do some homework before exploring this item further; will want to discuss also with Jen Mendoza.

E) Subcommittee Reports & Discussions: ACTION ITEM

1. Neighborhood Improvement Funding Program (NIFP) Subcommittee (Berg/Lescure)

The Larkfield Resilience Fund received their final check on 10/21/21 – yay! Berg reached out to Community Soils for follow-up on their already approved proposal. No response.

2. Rebuild/Fire Mitigation Subcommittee (Sherwood/Fies) **None**

3. Community Services District (CSD) Subcommittee (Sherwood/Lamberson) **None**

4. Wikiup Open Space (Lamberson/Berg)

Ag & Open Space is working on an easement. Things are moving along.

Mosquito and Vector Control says there's never been a mosquito problem at the pond.

5. Sonoma County General Plan for Mark West Area (Lescure/Lamberson)

Haven't talked to anyone at the County yet. David Hansen is going to meet with Lescure and Lamberson soon.

F) Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:

1. Philip Farber: Petition for Old Larkfield repaving.

The condition of the streets is deteriorating. The neighborhood wrote a petition seeking repaving of the streets. Council Chair Fies shared the photos of the very chewed up streets. They have 170 signatures. The process of gathering those revealed to Farber how strongly the neighbors feel about the issue. The neighborhood feels neglected and forgotten by the county.

The intent is to send the petition, signatures and photos to Supervisor Gore and the Board of Supervisors.

Council Comments:

It was suggested that the funding came in from PGE law suits. Some was left over and it is set aside for Old Larkfield. Farber might want to talk with Jen Mendoza and Supervisor Gore.

Lescure, a civil engineer, stated that there is more than normal wear and tear. Base failure is causing the cracking. It will be a little more expensive to repair.

Sherwood, Sonoma Water: Supports the petition and suggest considering putting sewer in the neighborhood, it might help get the work done for the streets. It leverages money with the county.

Farber: Heard rumblings about sewers coming but no action. Many are not interested. He will discuss with Sherwood.

Lamberson: Comcast bill has a Taxes, Fees and Other Charges category. They are franchise fees. That authority is Department of Public Works. Ask where that franchise fees money is going, and how to get it to the streets.

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Lescure: Some neighbors, especially along the creek, may be losing some of their leach fields.

Sherwood: It's a huge concern.

Sherwood will guide Farber how to follow up. Chair Fies will bring it up to Jen Mendoza, Field Representative, 4th District, Sonoma County. The Council will communicate to Farber through the Council Secretary. The Council appreciates Farber advocating for his community and the members will continue to advocate on their behalf.

2. Catherine Dodd sent an email to the council members:

Chair Fies summarized her points, sent in an email to the Council Secretary, prior to this meeting.

- Shout out to Mendoza responding to the culvert issue.
- Shout to Phil Essner who raked up west side of Carriage Lane.
- She supplied a Water quality data base link. This first link explains why the Environmental Working Group (EWG) standards are stricter than the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards.
<https://www.ewg.org/tapwater/ewg-standards.php>
- The second link, allows you to put in your zip code and see which contaminants are in the water we drink here in Larkfield Wikiup.
<https://www.ewg.org/tapwater/system.php?pws=CA4910023>
- Discussed Brown Act concerns

G) Pending Items: Updates when available

1. Utilities & Water, Margaret DiGenova:

Turf rebates are now available. They are valid for green or dead grass. Send to <http://www.californiaamwater.com>

Sherwood: Be aware we are still in a drought.

2. "HAWK" light in front of Larkfield Shopping Center: See above under D1.

H) Correspondence: Information Only

1. Sherwood Comment: Congratulations on District 4 not being split. It shows the value of the Council work.

I) Future Agenda Items: Potential projects and/or suggestions for future MWCAC meetings

1. Possibility of an update on the COPE program in Wikiup (TBD)
2. Chamber presentation (January?)
3. Traffic Discussion Continuation and "Walk-about" report. (TBD)
4. Possible speaker on home hardening and vegetation management (TBD)
5. How about a community clean up? Maybe partnership with the Chamber. (TBD) Discussed possibilities
6. List of unmet needs projects for Larkfield/Mark West/Wikiup (Presentation: Sherwood/Lamberson) (TBD)
7. NIFP Application: MW Village (TBD) (No Word Yet) (May remove until further notice)
8. Council discussion on expanding the area of influence of the MWCAC (Jan or Feb)
9. Budget for next fiscal year (Dec)
10. Recognition of terms running out for Berg and Lescure (Dec)

J) Adjournment: ACTION ITEM

There being no other business to discuss, on a motion by Lescure, seconded by Berg the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.

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Approved Date:

Chair

MWCAC MEETINGS: 6:00 PM—SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Zoom Meetings through December, 2020

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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