



**Springs Municipal Advisory Council  
Minutes of Hybrid Meeting In person/Zoom  
October 9, 2024**



*The Springs Municipal Advisory Council represents the people of the Springs in Sonoma Valley as the voice of the community to elected representatives. SMAC is committed to engage with all community members in meaningful and inclusive ways to promote the health and wellbeing of the Springs.*

**Contact: Zaira Enriquez, Field Representative to Supervisor Susan Gorin**  
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**For viewing purposes: Supervisor Gorin's YouTube page w/ all meeting videos.**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AA\\_EnxdzEng](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AA_EnxdzEng)

**Springs MAC Meeting 10/09/24 - Sonoma TV You Tube**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srhu2R9NFgU>

**1. Call to Order & Roll Call 6:30pm**

Roll Call: Councilmember Reyes

Present: Lombard, Dong, Fernandez, Norman, Iturri, Winders

Absent: none

**Staff Present: Zaira Enriquez, Admin/Field Representative to Supervisor Gorin**  
**Lupe Alvarez Tovar, Field Representative, [lupe.alvareztovar@sonoma-county.org](mailto:lupe.alvareztovar@sonoma-county.org)**  
**Lin Marie deVincent, Minute Taker**

**Chair Iturri:** Acknowledged MAC's support team. Broadcasting hybrid meeting on Facebook & Sonoma TV. Spanish translation available online; headphones available in room. Reminder that the Springs MAC is an Advisory Council, all Councilmembers serve in a volunteer capacity.

**Translators online:** can be heard on zoom broadcast **Carlos Radillo, and Ricardo Delgado**

**2. Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2024 Meetings.**

Councilmember Lombard moved to approve September 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes, Councilmember Norman seconded. Councilmember Dong abstained. Motion passed.

**File: Springs MAC Minutes October 9, 2024 Hybrid can be found here:**  
<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/springs-mac-meeting-october-9-2024>

**3. Public Comment/zoom Items not on Agenda. 3 minutes**

**Josette Brose Eichar**, RE: the elephant in the Springs' Hwy 12 corridor. The LeFever/Mattson properties in default, bankruptcy, decrepit disrepair. Vacant Lanning structure lot w/ signature cyclone fence, flapping green plastic, a hazardous spot w/pitfalls, protruding stuff; a danger to people and animals. There are abandoned homes at the Boys Food Center filled w/ rats. There are vacant & decaying buildings at corner of Boyes/Hwy 12. At some point these commercial properties will be on the auction block as LeFever/Mattson continues to implode at some point in the near future. Buyers must be found to unwind the foreclosures, lawsuits, money owed to those that were duped by so-called investment gurus and so-called developers. So where are the real developers? Those that will take our properties, turn them into something that is viable and benefit those of us who live and work in the Springs. It's time to start thinking outside the box. Time for county to act and do something that has never been done before in the Springs - to look into the feasibility of buying these properties and/or partnering with real developers who have a proven track record of building to benefit the people of the Springs, not just to make promises or to build only for profit. Something to think about, something to take seriously and stop saying it can't be done. Who can I give this document/info to? We have the Lanning structures. We have the Notice and Order of Substandard Housing on Premises issued by the county on 9/4, and for Unsecured Construction Site, foundation, open trench, trip and fall hazard, high weeds, overgrown vegetation, rubbish, abandoned portable toilet. We have the Notice of Abatement that just came out yesterday from the county, which now means the county can clean it up and charge them, or they can clean it up. People are already using it as an informal parking lot. The time has come. Who would like this document?

## **Zoom, none**

### **4. Chair Iturri Update (@6:33)**

- Special Meeting 9/24 of North Valley & Springs MACs RE: General Plan Update. Focus on Quality Housing, Overcrowding, Emergency Prep, Wildfires. Substantial Discussion.
- SVCAC Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting, same presentation by Permit Sonoma. Encouraged all to attend.

### **5. Supervisor Gorin Update (@7:46)**

- BoS 10/8 Meeting
  - **Discussion RE: request by Generation H Housing** for county to significantly reduce Impact Fees for new housing. Limited ability – can only reduce for traffic or Parks, consider one each. Concerned about request, worked hard for funding for Parks, i.e. Larson & Maxwell. Also aware of housing needs. BoS recommended a modest approach. Reevaluate if slight reduction in fees would spur housing. Encouraged public to review Power Point on BoS 10/8 Agenda. Final in-depth discussion next week.

- **RE: Wastewater Treatment Systems/Septic Systems.** Primarily affects West County more than Sonoma Valley, but many properties w/ septic systems. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Board taking firm response due to many leaking, outdated, insufficient septic systems. Looked at a number of neighborhoods w/ some concentration – suggestion - maybe need to form a Sewer District in this area, or, need to hook up to existing Sewer Districts. While this more West County now, a time could come when will be looking at the same kind of situation in Sonoma Valley.
- **RE: Cell Towers.** Cell service widely available. Aware of dependence on them for emergency preparedness and information, & aware that the cell towers burned down during the fires. The Telecommunications Companies very active in the State & Federal Government restricting local ability to say No to cell towers, but there are a few reasons can say no. BoS had a split vote yesterday at a cell tower - ugliest cell tower ever seen - and firmly related want to revise and update County Telecommunication Policy that would provide more discretion re co-location. Can require one carrier to locate on another carrier's pole, but it's not as revenue beneficial for the company. So they resist that for many reasons. But at some point that will come forward. This issue causing concerns - whether about the electromagnetic pulses coming out of the cell towers or the visual impacts. It is a significant challenge to address.
- **Next Week's BoS Meeting:**
  - **Living Wage Ordinance** Labor groups advocating for \$4 hour increase. County can weather that storm; only a few employees earning less than that. If county approves a contract, with a community-based organization, they will have to pay whatever that going rate is i.e. the living wage, including the Fairgrounds. Concerned if escalate too high, even though \$22 an hour is reasonable, not a living wage - but if escalate too high the community organizations may not respond to the requests to provide services. These challenges going on with the project.
  - **Labor Agreement also coming forward next week.**
  - **MEHKO/Micro Enterprise Home Kitchen Operations.** State Legislation authorizes MEHKOs. Coming to the BoS, which rejected it some time ago, due to concerns about impacts, particularly on dense neighborhoods and cities. Sonoma strongly rejected it. But, want to encourage folks who have great cooking skills, want to prepare food for the community, for takeout. There are restrictions in preparing that food in their kitchens and serving it for takeout or a little pop-up restaurant. That Item/Topic will be coming forward on the 22nd. If it is approved, there are very few mechanisms for Code Enforcement, e.g. have their home inspected. They can provide takeout, and/or have a pop up restaurant. Then there are concerns dealing w/ lights, music, traffic, trash, parking. In a dense neighborhood like the Springs. It's both an economic opportunity & a challenge. Encouraged following this Item/Topic; send a message to BoS if interested.

- **Plaza/Parklette Springs** Moving forward in closing off most of the Boyes Post Office parking lot w/ big concrete blocks from Roseland to be delivered this Friday. Thanked District 1 Staff for notices - leafletting cars, posting on Post Office, at Andy's Liquors, Valley of the Moon. Aware that parking is a premium. Also aware of challenges with people camping there. Deputies want to help enforce rules, address dumping of trash, illegal parking, camping. There will be no vehicles. Ron Wellander, landscape architect from the City of Sonoma, working with us on planter boxes & trees. Different visions unfolding, e.g. hopscotch painted on the asphalt and foursquare, and anything to encourage community to be there. Two picnic tables ordered & will be delivered, possibly next week on Tuesday. These are built by folks on probation w/ carpenter skills. A bit pricey; hope to get more furniture. Look to partner with MAC on activities. What can we do that's fun and brings the community out? Suggested a discussion at next MAC meeting. Looking forward to be ready for the Day of the Dead Altar at that parking lot. Invited participation. Acknowledged Parklette idea proposed by Tim Zahner.

### **Council Comments**

**Councilmember Norman**, will the tables encourage vagrants; how will homeless be kept out of new Springs' Plaza/Parklette? **Gorin**, will be folks buying food from the food trucks who will enjoy the tables. Will need trash cans. Enrique from Wine Country Tires offered to provide a water hookup to irrigate some plants, & maybe electricity. Could get twinkle lights for winter, and Public Infrastructure is looking at solar lights to install on the buildings or around the community plaza. Commented that when people in downtown Santa Rosa were frustrated by the scruffy looking kids hanging out in Courthouse Square, the city started playing classical music. Did the kids disappear? No, they loved it. Need to put hearts and minds together to figure out how we actually get families there e.g. kids' events. **Norman**, noticed there are cameras there now; but may be Mattson owned? **Gorin**, doubt that he's looking at any video cameras. **Norman**, just shot a video there and witnessed disturbing things. Proposed some kind of cleanup w/ volunteers, to coincide with what you're doing. **Gorin**, yes, have asked Public Infrastructure to have regular cleanups, not weekly, but maybe once a month to come in with a truck. There are still broken bicycles, garbage bags, along the fence line. But any community support would be great to keep that going. Suggested have some painting days too. Get planters in there, paint something fun on them or on the asphalt, anything to liven it up and make it welcoming to humans.

**Councilmember Fernandez**, acknowledged long process & wait for plaza. Imagining the cement barriers & asphalt, how can it be made more appealing, to create feeling of community pride? **Gorin**, welcomes ideas from public & MAC. Perhaps a welcome archway, or fence or banner – *Welcome to Springs Community Plaza!* **Fernandez**, want it to welcome families. **Gorin**, acquire a used piano, painted bright colors? **Councilmember Lombard**, suggested banner say - *Springs*

*Community Plaza, a Work in Progress.* **Gorin**, yes, Staff noticing to community was in Spanish too.

### **Public Comment**

**Josette Brose Eichar**, will there be an Ad hoc?

**Gorin & Chair Iturri**, yes, will discuss.

### **6. Supervisor Elect Rebecca Hermosillo Update (@25:02)**

*Receive informational update from Supervisor Elect Rebecca Hermosillo on office transition.*

Will be sworn in on January 7, 2025. Plan to continue w/ Springs & North Valley MACs. Have hired half her team. Starting recruitment for Sonoma Valley Staff; job description in process. Encouraged applicants from Valley, preferably bilingual. Looks forward to being in hometown, representing it well, and working to increase access to government. Aware of challenges to a Latina; will work to make changes.

### **Council Questions**

**Councilmember Lombard**, RE: county goal to reduce emissions 50% by 2030. Request for better bus service in valley; inadequate. How to reduce emissions w/o efficient public transit? Need better sheltered bus stops; and more stops. Suggested specific locations: a couple North of Boyes Springs, Boyes Boulevard near the markets, near Republic of Thrift, & West Thompson. **Hermosillo**, yes, let's discuss further.

**Councilmember Norman**, how familiar w/ the Springs? **Hermosillo**, born & raised in southern end of valley, moved to Springs after Middle School, went to local schools. Lives in Springs.

**Councilmember Reyes**, welcome.

**Chair Iturri**, request to have MAC meeting in January? **Hermosillo**, not possible. Perhaps have two in February. Won't have Staff ready.

**Councilmember Lombard**, RE: MAC county website. Terrible time finding anything. No consistency re posting of Minutes or Agendas. Couldn't find Budget Reports, Annual Reports.

**Councilmember Fernandez**, also had problems w/ website. Not user friendly or easy to navigate. Needs updating. Took two months to get response to inquiry. **Hermosillo**, recalled discussion at public meeting on website, perhaps part of problem had to do w/ access via log in credentials. Will look into it.

**Councilmember Reyes**, clarified website had Staff representation from District 1 Office.

**Councilmember Lombard**, uses [sonomacounty.ca.gov/springs-mac](http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/springs-mac) Recommended training new Staff better. Other communication problems, e.g. updated list of MAC members.

**Councilmember Reyes**, suggested making a list of recommendations to Supervisor Elect Hermosillo.

**Councilmember Lombard**, what is on new Supervisor's to-do-list? **Hermosillo**, excited about representing her home community, increasing access to local government, and opening the

pathway to other elected officials i.e. Federal or State representatives. Also helping constituents get services in a language they are more comfortable in.

### **Public Comment, Zoom**

**Tom Conlon**, serves on Sonoma County Transportation Authority Citizens' Advisory Committee. Working on improving name of group. Reported from last week's meeting, update from Bryan Albee, the head of Sonoma County Transit, as well as other county bus operators in Petaluma and Santa Rosa City Bus. We actually have a Net Zero by 2030 goal. It's not 50% reduction. It's interpreted as 80% reduction with a 20% sequestration goal. Yes, need to reduce our Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) to get there, and buses, active transportation - bicycles and pedestrian are ways to do that. Good news is that our quarter cent sales tax, which we've all been paying for many years - most of which was going to highway 101 widening - is sun setting this year, & beginning next year will be called the Go Sonoma Measure. Essentially doubling funding from that sales tax to the Transit Services. Excluding SMART Train which has its own quarter cent sales tax. These are things that Sonoma County Transit is doing: continue the funding of the Fare Free Transit program. E.g., Bus 32, the route that goes into downtown Sonoma and circulates around, that route is currently free and will continue to be free with this new funding. County will see an additional \$1.6 million dollars in transit spending. Talking about increased service along the Highway 30 to Santa Rosa, as well as Bus 40 to Petaluma. Haven't finalized exactly which routes are going to be added.

Also, you may recall, there was a bus operated by Golden Gate Transit that took commuters into San Rafael & San Francisco, and that bus has been eliminated. The problem has been that Golden Gate Transit, based on a 1996 Agreement, was granted a 25% of all State Gas Tax Transit funding that comes into the county & has to go straight to Golden Gate Transit. That's become a lightning rod, because they've reduced their service to Sonoma County since the pandemic.

**Chair Iturri** suggested he come in and present to MAC.

### **7. Local Roadmaps to Community Resilience (@41:26)**

*Receive informational presentation from **The Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)** on their Local Roadmaps to Community Resilience project.*

**Zoom Presentation by Christophe Arnold** Regional Project Mgr.

### **Power Point (full text available in supplemental pdf doc)**

We are a Regional Grants office that works from Bay Area from Napa to Monterey. Also covers the 3 core cities of San Francisco, San Jose and Oakland.

This is part of one Component of a larger Project; that project folds into a Program.

We worked with 10 "Disadvantaged Communities" - as defined by the Feds, throughout the Bay Area over 14 Jurisdictions. Worked with Sonoma Valley & basically developed a Roadmap to community resilience.

The Roadmap was Phase One; half of the project complete so far.

**Phase One consists of 4 Milestones: Preparation, Assessment, Planning, the Document & Share.** It is a methodology that was developed by the International Federation of the Red Cross, where communities go through a self-assessment process to identify hazards, exposure, vulnerabilities, capabilities, or capacities in the community and identify risks.

Following Identification, Action Planning is done to mitigate those risks that were identified.

**Project Overview (slide @ 45:37)**

UASI Staff – himself & one colleague/the Sponsors. Apply for these grants from the Federal Government. Hire Consultants/Teams and work closely with our Jurisdictions, i.e. the local governments and our Community Representatives. E.g. for this particular project working with community-based organizations within Sonoma Valley that do Preparedness work.

**The Process (slide @ 46:20)**

**Preparation** The Consultants gather all the data available on the community, whether through government or various websites, e.g. American Survey, CDPH Data, Rising Tides.

Is comprehensive; 12 to 20 different websites. Also, through the specific local plans as well.

Now to create a map of the community. Goes through all the hazards and exposures i.e. assessing the community, the social vulnerabilities that exist within the communities, etc.

Preparation Phase is pulling it all together and compiling it into a presentation.

**Assessment (slide @ 47:20)** With local governments and subject matter experts, i.e. community based organization representatives. Then go over this data, look at the maps and everything that exists. Cross check all the information, make sure it's valid or challenge it, change it when needed. That will be the information that's used on the following steps. Then an entire session of identifying and understanding the risks i.e. the hazards, vulnerabilities, and capabilities.

**Planning (@47:58)** Identify the different actions that the community can take; can vary in scope/size. E.g. if you live in San Rafael by the canal, & want to build a boardwalk. So from large engineering to very small actions, like an event or door-to-door awareness campaigns to mitigate these risks.

**Document & Share (@48:27)** This is all developed & rolled up into the Roadmap i.e. a physical document. Councilmember Reyes has a physical copy of this, and whoever did participate has access to this Document. It's their document - not UASI's. Can do whatever they like with it, but it has a list of Actions, and all the body work that builds up to it and it is digitalized. It's also put onto an online platform where you can go and click onto it and have a CEJST view of that specific community.

**Next steps.** Kicking off hopefully in November, starting a bridge activity.

**Phase 2 (@49:19)** We are going to be funding activities directly that are within that list of Actions in the Roadmap. And then also provide technical assistance. Basically provide contractors that are grant writers to help apply for grants to get the larger price tag items that are in those Action Plans. So e.g. if somebody did want to do a \$5 million dollar engineering project against flooding of a river, would apply for grants, or get technical assistance to apply for those grants.

**Councilmember Reyes,** requested viewing of Map of Census Tract chosen that is in the Springs. Why that Census Tract specifically chosen when presented to organizations? Can also show the Report?

**Slide @51:09 Census Tract 06097150305, April 16, 2024**

**Arnold**, This is the Report, or Roadmap for Sonoma Valley. Essentially Grant requirement from FEMA/The Federal Agency of Emergency Management. In that Grant there was a requirement to pick - on the county level - communities that are considered Disadvantaged using a specific tool that they have called the **CEJST i.e. Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool**. It's a map that highlights which Census Tracts – because they consider the community Census Tract at the Federal level. It's a Census Tract community, not a community, doesn't take into consideration everything else about the community to define what the community is. Is based on social vulnerability as well as exposure to different hazards.

The Report has different sections: **Slide @52:42** list of participating organizations in building out of the Roadmap, including Springs MAC.

Definitions. Project Overview. Overall Process.

Community Profile. This explains what makes it Disadvantaged, or where? Why it's considered a socially vulnerable community. You have this first Map, and a second Map.

**Councilmember Reyes**, noted the important reason for the community to learn about this was because one of the top hazards for that Census Tract was earthquake. Please speak more to that, and why or how it was in terms of hazards.

**Arnold**, yes, the group itself identified earthquake as the hazard. So everybody that was participating in the development of the Roadmap picked as a group which hazard i.e. everybody that's in the meeting will write on a sticky note which hazard they would like to address. Some communities said flooding, others had heat and air quality, so it depended on the group itself that was developing this Roadmap. And the majority of people in that group on that specific day picked earthquake.

**Councilmember Reyes**, I remember that we chose that because we were given information by the presentation that there was a 95% risk if there was a huge earthquake that this area would be 95% affected. I think that's based on what the consultant presented to us.

**Arnold**, possibly, I don't have the whole data in front of me. The priority hazards or exposure to the different hazards is outlined. I think the highest risk or the most likelihood of the hazard was an earthquake, and I think fire was next, and then you had electrical cuts, etc. That data is also available if anybody needs it. And it's on that online tool as well.

**Councilmember Reyes**, can share it with Admin/Zaira, and if you can send that out to the MAC. **Arnold**, yes, we can give you the link to the tool itself, and you can have a deep dive.

**Arnold**, a final, fast scan of Report pages.

Different risks identified. Capabilities in every different kind of aspects. At the end, there's the description of all the different types of projects that the community had wanted and identified for these different grant streams.

He is available for further discussion.

**Chair Iturri**, clarified, risks were identified by community members in the group, and your organization acts as a liaison between the community and funding opportunities?

Is that what your organization does? I don't know anyone in this community that could handle a multimillion dollar FEMA project; do you connect with people who can help support the things that are being identified as areas of need?



**Arnold**, yes, it does. So typically my organization works with local Jurisdictions i.e. with the County of Sonoma, and then the County of Sonoma will be the ones that are the liaison. We go through the County of Sonoma to work down the line with all the community members. But as a governmental organization UASI doesn't work directly with the community based organizations. But depending on what the grant is and what they've Identified – have worked with several communities across the Bay area - a lot of these bigger grants like a Brick Grant a community based organization wouldn't be eligible to apply - would have to be through the County of Sonoma.

**Councilmember Reyes**, suggested MAC invite Nancy Brown, who was the contact and the one present for Department of Emergency Management, and they could speak to their role and how they would be able to get grants and then direct them into working with local CBOs.

**Chair Iturri**, clarified that Sonoma Valley is one of the 10 communities that was identified as a priority in this funding. Is it safe to assume that we would receive priority in a funding situation?

**Arnold**, Phase 2 of the project is going to be kicking off in November. There is already smaller reserved funds for the actual community based projects. And then there is going to be technical assistance provided to apply for the larger grants.

**Councilmember Reyes**, once I know the dates & get the information I will invite those on the Emergency Ad hoc who are interested in attending. And then share the information with the MAC as well so we can be ready for the next steps.

#### **Public Comment, Zoom**

**Gary Johnson, Sonoma Valley Fire**, requested document be shared. **Arnold**, document not public. Belongs to participants who developed the Roadmap. Recommended to contact Councilmember Reyes. Will provide links to online tool; that is exportable.

**Councilmember Reyes**, yes, important to bring this topic to the public; will share w/ Gary & via the MAC, Admin/Zaira.

#### **8. Housing Ad Hoc Priority List (@1:02:32)**

*Council discussion and approval to decide which items from the Housing Ad Hoc Priority list to proceed with.*

**Vice Chair Winders**, priority list in development, overview - notes from meeting

Slide of draft list of housing or living in poor conditions. **Protect, Preserve, Produce**

- Suggestion for MAC to hold community meeting on Housing issues - not just lack of but also conversations around ways to support improvements and holding standards regarding substandard housing as well.
- Also address issues of people being doubled & tripled up because they're not able to find their own housing or afford their own housing.
- Discussed making a request to see if there are Deed Restricted properties in the Springs' area, and could we be given a list of their status?

- Suggestion to pick something for MAC to focus on, set a goal & accomplish it. Many layers & needs, all equally important. Is clear that this work will need to continue
- Suggestion that the MAC consider looking at Hanna Boys Center and their housing specifically around our transitional age youth. They're currently housing them but how can to get funding from the county to support the transitional age youth who have not aged out of foster, or don't have foster care and don't have those funds attached to support their care and program towards independence.
- Conversation around Sonoma Developmental Center as essential piece of housing topic; already being widely discussed. Is there a more Springs' specific focus?
- Initially wanted the county to present RE: Just Cause Ordinance, but placing that request on pause because the county was going to already be presenting. Need clarity for the rest of the MAC on that, because that particular item was time sensitive. It's impacting people in real time.

**Admin/Zaira**, clarified the county is doing a workshop/webinar countywide; coming soon. Will get the date. Clarified it's not going into effect until January 2025. There was confusion that it was already in effect, but it's actually not until 2025.

**Vice Chair Winders**, recommended MAC entertain a conversation about continuing to make a request or have a presentation specifically to the MAC. So MAC can ask questions and have a discussion about that particular item and issue. Need to begin there; will inform MAC on selection/s from priority list.

**Councilmember Lombard**, supports idea for a Just Cause presentation. It's quite pertinent. Knowledge is power

**Chair Iturri**, add to Future Agenda items.

### **Public Comment**

**Caitlin Cornwall**, Sonoma Valley Collaborative. The Collaborative is looking forward to assisting the Ad hoc & the Springs MAC in whatever way is helpful working on housing issues, i.e. affordability, quality & justice. Offered to provide staff help as needed. Looking forward to decision or informing it in any useful way. Also, if it is a challenge to get the county to present at MAC re Just Cause Provisions - recommended inviting Legal Aid as they built an amazing coalition to design it & will make an extremely well-informed presentation. Perhaps easy for them to meet on zoom.

**Mario Castillo**, Chair, Sonoma Valley Housing, thanked MAC for continuing the conversation on housing. Urged MAC to act fast in terms of getting information out. Oftentimes information in Sonoma Valley is disconnected or inadequate. Thanked Supervisor Gorin for supporting Just Cause Eviction. Was one of the 3 Supervisor votes that supported and passed Measure. Two Supervisors voted against - Gore and Rabbit. Important to keep in mind who supports these type of initiatives. The SV Housing Group has been working on these issues and rights of renters in the valley for many years. Have collaborated closely with NBOP [North Bay Organizing Project: *google - A grassroots, multiracial, and multi-issue organization comprised of twenty faith, environmental, labor, student and community-based organizations in Sonoma County*] and Legal Aid to make sure that these kind of protections will take place. Understands that

NBOP are trying to do some work in collaboration with La Luz; however, that hasn't crystallized. The Ad hoc could be having meetings, like Caitlin suggested, with individuals that pushed for these protections. Will get information that is true to what it is, and also get a perspective of how to get it out to the community. Don't have to be waiting for the county; know how long it takes for the county to actually get things done, especially in Springs.

Zoom, None

**Vice Chair Winders**, clarified, Ad hoc will meet in Oct, reach out to Legal Aid & have a conversation with them. No intention to wait on doing this work, or waiting on county. Specifically recommended getting a presentation from the county regarding Just Cause to help better inform our work. But continue to meet with different community partners and Collaboration. Will reach out to Legal Aid to get on a zoom with the Ad hoc, then invite them to present on this item to MAC. **Chair Iturri**, will discuss w/ Admin/Zaira.

**9. Bike Racks: Identify potential preferred locations for installation Bike Racks (@1:13:36)**

*Council discussion of potential locations for remaining bike racks to be installed. Finalized list will be shared with Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) for consideration and approval.*

**Councilmember Norman**, report - in final phase. Installation of last 5 bike racks. August Event finished decorating. Installed locations listed on slide. Welcomed suggestions from MAC & public for final locations. Then send to Admin/Zaira, then to Sonoma County Transit Authority for approval.

VIDEO from bike decorating event shown (@1:16:08) Acknowledged Karina.

**DISCUSSION/LOCATION SUGGESTIONS**

Is there a list of bus stops?

List missing for new places. Send list to Transit.

Finished racks waiting at East County Services Center. Suggested put 2 at bus stop behind Boyes Blvd parking lot.

Larson Park? Gorin, will be under construction. Hold another decorating party in spring?

Request for bid went out this week; renovations in December. Good news - EIR for Arnold Drive bike lane approved by BoS.

Near Flowery, el Cielito

7/11? A bus stop there. Bikes have been reported stolen from there.

Near Sonoma Eats. Admin/Zaira, one already there.

**Chair Iturri, summary: 2 at Plaza, 1 at SOS, 1 at Maxwell, 1 at 7/11, 1 at Larson Park**

Supervisor Elect Hermosillo, near Operation Bicycle Shop, or put outside gate of Larson Park to avoid construction?

**Public Comment**

**Mario Castillo**, doesn't see people using the bike racks. Understands MAC wants to do something for the community, get people to engage & participate. But if people are not using it, the next thing that happens is vandalism, they will be destroyed. The county takes the trash cans away so they don't have to deal with people kicking them and not maintaining garbage of the area. There is an issue in Boyes Springs; this area has a lack of maintenance and sustaining projects. Concerned that people are not taking advantage of it, and then this investment becomes pointless. It's great for PR, but it's not beneficial for the community. Sorry to bear bad news or seem negative, but still important to make the comment.

### **Zoom**

**Gary Johnson**, suggested locations - Boyes Blvd North, county lot/bus stop at East Thompson.

**Tom Conlon**, glad making progress on bike racks. To Mario's good comment, offered experience as an almost daily bicycle rider. When looking for a rack that is close to destination e.g. going to get bike worked on at Operation Bicycle - know they have great bike racks in the back. Knows that these bike racks are attractive and have a dual purpose - as PR i.e. promotional purpose. Thinks they would probably welcome one in front of the store, and it would be used for folks that are using El Cielito as well. Suggested location down at Donald Street, where the new village is; that area has a lot of bicycle traffic. No good place to lock your bike near that bus stop on either side of the street. Strongly encouraged bus stop-based bike racks, because that's a connectivity opportunity. Mario's got a good point that if the racks in the wrong place they won't be used. But if they are in the right place, it will get a lot of use, and it will encourage people to bicycle.

### **Council Discussion Cont.**

Suggesting business locations because bus stops are not being well used.

Clarified racks originally were required to be at bus stops.

Did any businesses ask for racks?

Gorin, ideally have wider sidewalks, not possible. Barely any room on sidewalk, have ADA needs.

Request/s to look into option of shelters for bus stops. Gorin, county hesitated to do shelters in residential area; wants them maintained by commercial entity due to vandalism. Encouraged MAC to write a note to Brian Albee & Janice Thomson, both retiring at end of year, grateful for all their support. Requested county consider shelter at Hwy 12 w/ new Springs Plaza; have inquired. Unsure if adequate room. Plus other up valley locations. Definite need for shelters, for protection from sun and rain.

What is defined as "commercial?" Isn't anything on highway commercial? Gorin, yes. May need property owners' permissions. Grants possible. Will get location options.

Is Hwy 12 at Lichtenburg a possible shelter location? Gorin, directed MAC to send her list of possible shelter locations.

Do this sooner than later.

The lack of public transportation from the schools for high school students results in them using the public bus; & those buses are getting full.

Suggestion/s to make Future Agenda Item. November.

Chair, agreed.

## **BREAK**

### **10. Council discussion and approval of funding request for 2024 Winter Celebration event.**

**(@1:41:35)**

**Councilmember Reyes**, reporting

**Slide of Budget Request Form, for 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Winter Celebration.** Dec 7<sup>th</sup>. From noon to 3pm. Request \$2,000. Family friendly community event. Providing refreshments, Santa visit & photos, tent rental, decorations, DJ, gift bags. Outreach opportunity for MAC. Fiscal Sponsor Sonoma Immigrant Services/SIS. Partner w/ Sonoma Valley Fire Dept. & Sonoma Mission Inn, support of Supervisor Gorin's Office. At 22 Boyes Blvd location.

**Chair Iturri**, is Fairmont still partnering; under new management? **Reyes**, yes. Will provide further update on partners.

**Vice Chair Winders**, well attended in past. People can walk in, opportunity for holiday gathering in Springs, feedback from families appreciated free photos w Santa.

**Councilmember Reyes**, last year had many volunteers. Will need help w/ decorations; last year's may not be available. **Winders**, suggested asking Sonoma Community Center to help.

**Lombard**, suggestion for loan of straw bales from Broccos Old Barn.

**Councilmember Dong**, clarification on process for Funding Request. Do we need to keep going with the requests until we have the new process in place? **Chair**, the Ad hoc recommended we continue w/ prior process until new process is in place. **Reyes**, followed prior process for this request.

#### **Public Comment, Zoom**

**Tom Conlon**, supports expenditure [for Winter Celebration]

**Chair called for further comments, or motion. Vice Chair Winders made a motion to approve Budget Request for 2024 Winter Celebration. Councilmember Lombard, seconded. Vote. Approved.**

### **11. Create new Ad Hoc: Springs Community Plaza (@1:49:10)**

*Council discussion of the planning and design of the temporary Springs Community Plaza.*

Potential actions include formation of an Ad Hoc to help with design elements for the temporary plaza.

**Chair Iturri** invited questions, comments, discussion from Council.

**Councilmember Norman**, volunteered to be on Ad hoc. Suggested creating group to clean up area; determine when & how. Get community involved. Councilmembers Lombard, Fernandez, & Reyes volunteered.

### **Public Comment**

**Josette Boise Eichar**, surprised to see flyers up today, w/ this happening tomorrow. Spoke on April 10<sup>th</sup> about this being a temporary & community driven project, rather than waiting for a giant plaza waiting for a developer. Also spoke about forming partnerships with the merchants, with local startups and pop ups, Art Escape, etc. Mural painting would make for a vibrant center. Unfortunately, the Mattson building is still there. Ideally, it would be nice if it was covered with murals, but that's probably not a realistic expectation. Had asked at one time to be a community member and be on the Ad hoc Committee, and I was on, and then the community committee was dissolved because it was considered unrealistic. Asking once again to be a community member, on this Ad hoc. As an artist, designer & activist I have a lot to contribute, and would gladly help work on anything. This year I worked with La Luz's Noche as the head of their decorating committee. Learned that they are partnering and helping a lot of small mom & pop startups. These are the kind of people that we could have every weekend, and every week at that location which will bring people there. Strongly emphasized, increase Outreach to everyone in the community & could do this without waiting for Godot.

**Chair Iturri**, thank you. Make sure that Admin/Zaira has your information

**Mario Castillo**, El Verano/unincorporated Springs' area resident. Supports doing something while waiting for that giant plaza, if you can fit it into that small piece of property. Interested to know how this effort doesn't become an effort to gentrify that area i.e. displacing people who use that space. That's really important - how do you work with people who have used that space as residents of that area. And yes, it might be people who hang out in the afternoons and have a beer or two, or something to that effect. Like to remind people that on the Sonoma Plaza downtown, people are allowed to drink wine there. Keep that in mind, so we don't go about criminalizing people who use that space in an effort to make it a welcoming place for families, because there are families who have been using that space.

Zoom, None.

**Chair called for final comments, motion to approve Ad hoc for Springs Community Plaza; includes Norman, Lombard, Fernandez, community member Bose-Eichar. Councilmember Dong moved to approve Community Plaza Ad hoc, Vice Chair Winders second. Vote. Approved.**

### **12. Dissolution of Ad Hoc(s) (@1:56:20)**

*Council discussion and approval for dissolution of specific Ad Hoc(s).*

**Councilmember Reyes, Adopt a Road** has passed year term; dissolve so next year can create new Ad hoc for 2.0, then continue project. Requested list of dates of Ad hoc expirations.

**Councilmember Dong**, suggested combining it with the plaza for doing the cleaning, because of same purpose i.e. sprucing up the plaza? **Reyes**, no, Adopt a Road is different, because there's paperwork specifically for a list the county has for roads. Specifically adopted section of Highway 12; different process w/ rules by Public Infrastructure. Sounds logical but not the same.

**Councilmember Lombard**, wondered about continuing w/ the 2.0 version. Didn't seem like the project was met w/ enthusiasm; so many requirements for doing it – i.e. gathering together people to watch the videos, the trainings, etc. sounded arduous. Can see why somebody would do it all by themselves. **Reyes**, yes, but it's already been approved. Councilmember Allan was leading, and I was following his lead then he stepped down from MAC. I plan to continue and take leadership. Also going to ask Councilmember Norman to join. If any third Councilmember is interested that would be great. Can please add to November Agenda.

**Public Comment, Zoom. None**

**Chair called for Motion to dissolve Adopt a Road Ad hoc. Vice Chair Winders made the motion, Councilmember Dong second. Vote. Approved.**

### **13. SVCAC update (@2:00:11)**

*SVCAC informational update.*

**Councilmember Norman**, liaison. Main topic - Outreach. Basically all Commissioners will be more actively promoting SVCAC, not done in the past. Public not clear what Commission is. Meeting attendance is down. Goal is to encourage to get the word out. "Who is the SVCAC? Sonoma Valley Community Advisory Commission, advise the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors on matters affecting the Sonoma Valley including Land Use, Public Safety, Sustainability, Environmental Policies and Community Development. Explaining *why your voice matters*. "Your input directly informs the recommendations that we provide to the county. The feedback you share will influence important decisions that impact your community." Key information to share with everyone is that October 23rd is the next meeting, a gathering of public input for Public Safety and Environmental Justice Elements of Sonoma County General plan. So if you missed the MAC meeting please attend. Community voices important. "The feedback from this meeting will help shape the drafting of these Elements which will be available for public review later in the fall. We want to hear your concerns, ideas, and suggestions. This is your opportunity to make sure your voice is heard by local decision makers; with your participation priorities will be decided. Your input helps ensure the development of the policies that benefit your entire community and can help shape the future of Sonoma Valley." Questions to Supervisor Gorin's Office.  
Additional topic - a review for a cell tower.

**Public Comment, Zoom. None**

### **14. Ad hoc and Community Projects Updates (@2:04:51)**

*Council Reports, Announcements, and updates*

**Adopt A Road**, dissolved.

**Funding Requests for Community Projects/Councilmember Lombard**, things to bring to Council to get consensus on how to do the process: a timeframe, local sourcing of food, gifts, toys if possible. Other considerations: positioning of Springs MAC in an event to prioritize recognition of the Springs MAC & support from First District Supervisor. Numeric impact of community participation and issues important to the community. Have done public health events, safety, fostering community service, spirit and cohesion. Has an incomplete list of past events/activities for review. Question whether to bring forward for MAC discussion, or Ad hoc decide? **Chair Iturri**, need to bring it forward for MAC discussion in future.

**Emergency Preparedness 2.0** Reyes, Winders, Dong. No update

**Springs Farmers Market**, no update until 2025

**Utility Boxes**, Chair Iturri, Admin/Zaira: received notification from Janice that Application was submitted to Cal Trans on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Quoted 3 to 4 weeks to hear back, hopefully will have an update at next meeting or before. Approaching Year 3 of this project. Art Escape working hard to get this done before the weather changes.

**Housing**, covered

**Public Comment, Zoom. None**

**15. Consideration of Future Agenda Items (@2:08:29)** *Share ongoing list of future agenda items and note others of interest.*

**Admin/Zaira:**

Presentation from the county on the Just Cause Ordinance and Legal Aid

Conversation on the sheltered bus stations

Ad hoc creation of Adopt a Road 2.0

Funding Request discuss Process; and Current Budget

Update/timeline/Master Plan review on Larson Park

Nancy Brown presentation re CBOs

Tom Conlon to present on Transportation

Councilmember Fernandez, discussion on food vendors w/o permits in Springs. Concerned; how MAC can help/have presentation. Lombard, suggested Health Dept.?

Councilmember Dong, ties in to county issue of people cooking at home. Noted it is 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 2017 fire; reminder that Supervisor Gorin lost her home. Emergency

Preparedness still priority. Thinking of all those currently suffering in destructive hurricanes.



## Public Comment, Zoom

**Mario Castillo**, comment in terms of Future Items. Appreciates event being held to celebrate spirit of the holidays; need more events in Springs. But given that La Luz has moved Cinco de Mayo back to the Plaza, and Mexican Independence also happens at the Plaza, there aren't any events in the Springs that celebrate the people of the Springs' pride. Why is that? This is an opportunity for the MAC to look into sponsoring events that highlight the culture of the Springs. Not putting down Farmers Market in the Springs, or the holiday event. But if doing the bike racks, & trying to do cleanups maybe this is an opportunity to create events that are culturally sensitive & inclusive to the community of the Springs. **Chair Iturri**, will add to Future Items list.

**Chair Iturri**, meeting dedicated in remembrance of all those who lost homes & lives in 2017 fire, and those at risk in Florida storms now.

## 16. Adjourned 8:48pm

**Contact: [Zaira Enriquez, Field Representative to Supervisor Susan Gorin](mailto:zaira.enriquez@sonoma-county.org)**  
[zaira.enriquez@sonoma-county.org](mailto:zaira.enriquez@sonoma-county.org)

**For viewing purposes: Supervisor Gorin's YouTube page w/ all meeting videos.**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AA\\_EnxdzEng](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AA_EnxdzEng)

**Springs MAC Meeting 10/09/24 - Sonoma TV You Tube**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srhu2R9NFgU>

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Springs 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-AI, Santa Rosa, CA, during normal business hours. You may also find them on the Springs MAC website at <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/springs-mac>

Note: Consideration of items will proceed as follows:

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

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