MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Roll call Attendance, Acknowledgement of Indigenous Lands, Flag Salute, MMAC Meeting Rules.

Members Present: Kevin Jenkins, Pat Kaspari, Twila Sanchez, Bonnie Oliver, Kevin Dreyer, Maya Conrad and Scott Binder (MCSD Board alternate for Greg Orsini).
Members Absent: Lisa Dugan

2. Review and Approve Minutes: January 24, 2024

The minutes of the January 24, 2024 Regular MMAC Meeting were reviewed. Maya Conrad recommended one spelling correction. Pat Kaspari moved to approve the minutes with this correction. Kevin Dreyer seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Maya Conrad, Pat Kaspari, Twila Sanchez, Kevin Dreyer, Bonnie Oliver.
No: None
Abstention: Kevin Jenkins and Scott Binder

MOTION APPROVED

3. Community Safety Updates:

Arcata Fire District’s Fire Prevention Specialist and Public Information Officer Alyssa Alvarez reported on AFD statistics and events for the month of January 2024. Of the 3520 calls for service in their jurisdiction, 237 were fires, including 36 structure fires. They performed 551 inspections on local apartments, hotels and schools and found many non-functioning smoke detectors. She reminded the community that smoke detectors are required in every bedroom and within 20’ from the kitchen. Fire Chief MacDonald is retiring, and Assistant Chief Chris Emmons will be taking over as the new Chief. They are looking to hire a new Assistant Chief. She also shared that she is working on a newsletter for local business owners related to fire safety and regulations.

Humboldt County Sheriff’s Office’s Lt. Josh McCall also reported on their statistics for January 2024 in the greater McKinleyville area. The overall number of calls for service (80) were down but arrests, thefts, vandalism and disturbances were all up slightly. The number of traffic stops also was up and he reminded the community that deputies are out there and active in McKinleyville. The department is preparing for the storm that is coming in tonight and he reminded the community to be prepared for possible power outages and to stay off the roads when possible. The Sheriff’s office is happy to announce that they are getting a new boat for patrolling the bay and coastline, which will be more weather protective for the deputies working aboard. Kevin Jenkins asked whether he had any data on the statistics for shoplifting in our area. Lt. McCall did not have data on hand but could provide some at a future meeting.
4. **Public Comment on items not on the Agenda:**

A community member asked about fire protection services where Arcata Fire District and State Regulation Areas (SRA) meet up in McKinleyville. They expressed concern related to firefighter access in the proposed Valadao Subdivision on Pickett Road which will include a narrow road right of way within the site. They also raised questions about fire truck access and vehicle evacuation in a fire if Central Avenue is reduced to two lanes.

5. **Discussion / Information / Action Items**

**A. Presentation on New Interpretive Installation at Lhiwetgut:** Mary Burke, Alme Allen

Mary Burke of California Trout gave a power point presentation on the new signage for the trails at Lhiwetgut, which is located on MCSD property at the southwest end of School Road. The park area includes abandoned reclamation ponds that are being transformed into habitat for salmon. The new signage was designed by artist, Yurok Tribal member and McKinleyville resident Alme Allen. Alme explained the processes for developing the signage and the significance of the symbolism on the signage and the “guardian stones” themed sign supports. MMAC members thanked Mary and Alme for their efforts in making this project come together for McKinleyville, and for sharing their presentation with the MMAC and community.

**B. Quarterly Financial Report (continued from 1-24-24):** Kevin Jenkins

MMAC Treasurer Kevin Jenkins presented and explained an Income and Expense Statement for the 2023-24 fiscal year. MMAC is on track for operating within our budget for the year.

**C. Review and Approve Applications for Committee for Active Transportation (CAT):** Maya Conrad

Maya Conrad shared that the Committee for Active Transportation has applications from three community members to serve on the MMAC subcommittee as allowed in our Rules and Regulations for Operation. The applicants are Mary Burke, Megan Blumenstein and Ciara Torres. MMAC members discussed whether the committee should be considered an Ad Hoc committee or a Standing committee and the differences in meeting requirements between these two options. Maya suggested that the committee contact County Counsel to clarify which would be most appropriate. Community members asked whether the subcommittee meetings are open to the public. Maya shared the time and location of our next meeting (March 8, 1:30 pm at the HCAOG Office conference room) and will get back to interested parties on whether the meeting space will accommodate additional attendees. Bonnie Oliver mentioned that the Clerk of the Board’s office indicated that they did not want to be involved in receiving and distributing MMAC subcommittee member applications. Bonnie will work on a new application form for this purpose and present a draft to the MMAC at a future meeting.

Kevin Dreyer moved to approve community members Mary Burke, Megan Blumenstein and Ciara Torres as members of the (sub) Committee for Active Transportation. Kevin Jenkins seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:**
Yes: Maya Conrad, Kevin Dreyer, Kevin Jenkins, Pat Kaspari, Twila Sanchez, Bonnie Oliver, Scott Binder
No: None
Abstention: None
MOTION APPROVED

D. Community Activities of MMAC Members: Twila Sanchez

Twila Sanchez shared information from two presentations that she recently attended. The first was the Yurok Tribal Wind Summit which included presenters from Federal, State and local agencies. The Yurok Tribe representatives stressed that they want to be involved in planning and making decisions related to offshore wind turbine development within their tribal ancestral waters. They also noted that electrical and other infrastructure will be travelling through both private and public lands along the coast as part of the development. Effects on birds, who do travel in the area where the offshore turbines are being proposed, is also a concern. There are at least two more years of study to go and there will be more public meetings on the subject coming this fall.

Twila also attended a talk by Environmental Planning Consultant Aldaron Laird about Rising Sea Level and its effect on Humboldt Bay. He has been working with the Wiyot Tribe and the Blue Lake and Bear River Rancherias on planning for sea level rise from Centerville Beach to Little River. Humboldt Bay is already experiencing issues related to sea level rise which is affecting transportation, utilities and development along the bay. He noted that Humboldt Bay has already risen 1.5’ in the last 100 years.

E. Subcommittee Reports:


2. Incorporation Exploration (MIESC):
   Kevin Jenkins reported that the subcommittee met with Scott Adair, Economic Development Director for Humboldt County. The biggest challenge the committee now faces is getting funding sources to hire someone to write a grant to pursue more funding for the required preliminary LAFCo study. They are considering the Headwaters Fund as a possible funding source. They anticipate needing around $500,000 to complete the required studies (dependent on CEQA requirements).

3. 2 x 2: No report.

6. Committee General Comments & Event Announcements:

   Kevin Dreyer announced an upcoming Fieldbrook Fire Dept. Chili Feed, Maya Conrad announced the annual McKinleyville Chamber dinner on March 25 and Twila Sanchez announced the McKinleyville Family Resource Center recently honored Barbara Georgiana for her service to their programs and our community.

7. Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be March 27, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at McKinleyville Middle School, 2285 Central Avenue, McKinleyville, in the portable trailer meeting room at the rear of campus and Zoom format.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Oliver