

McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee
ZOOM PLATFORM - ONLINE MEETING
April 28, 2021 6:00 pm

MINUTES

1. Attendance

Members Present: Maya Conrad, Bonnie Oliver, Kevin Dreyer, Twila Sanchez, Pat Kaspari, Kevin Jenkins, Barbara Georgianna and Scott Binder, alternate member from the MCSD Board of Directors.

Members Absent: Greg Orsini

Guests: Steve Madrone, 5th District Supervisor, Lt. Kevin Miller, Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, Colin Fiske, Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities (CRTP), Andrea Hamre, Jonathan Fisher and David Kack, Western Transportation Institute of Montana State University.

2. Review and approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 24, 2021 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Pat Kaspari and seconded by Kevin Jenkins to approve the minutes as submitted.

VOTE:

YES: Maya Conrad, Barbara Georgianna, Pat Kaspari, Kevin Jenkins, Twila Sanchez, Scott Binder and Bonnie Oliver.

NO: none

ABSTENTION: Kevin Dreyer

3. Community Safety Updates

Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Kevin Miller:

Lt. Miller reported on their activity statistics for March 2021 within the greater McKinleyville area. Numbers were similar to the previous month with 961 total calls for service resulting in 68 reports, 18 arrests. The calls included 8 vehicle burglaries and 24 calls related to campsites. Maya Conrad asked whether PSA signage about not leaving valuables in your car at the local parks, beaches and scenic turnout could be in place before the summer tourist season. Kevin Jenkins reported that Mad River Rotary may look into funding these as a future project. He added that MMAC may want to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors asking for help with speedy permitting of such signage. A community member inquired whether the county has resumed releasing people from jail at night. Lt. Miller said he would look into this and get back to us next month.

4. Public Comment Period for Items not on Agenda:

Maya Conrad read a letter received from a community member which included thoughts and ideas related to the McKinleyville Town Center.

A community member asked whether the County Planning Division could respond to recent changes in the housing element, particularly related to changes within the Coastal Zone and the comments provided by the Coastal Commission.

5. Event Announcements:

- Colin Fiske announced that May is bike month and information about local special events and the Bike Month Challenge 2021 can be found at <https://bikemonthhumboldt.com> .
- Maya Conrad shared that the State of California, including our north coast area will be facing a water shortage emergency in the coming months and she shared a list of water conservation tips and recommendations. Pat Kaspari confirmed that Ruth Lake is running lower.
- Pat Kaspari announced that the McKinleyville Senior Center will be opening on June 1.

6. Discussion / Information / Action Items

A. McKinleyville Transit Study update:

Colin Fiske of the Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities (CRTP) and Andrea Hamre, Jonathan Fisher and David Kack (Executive Director) of Western Transportation Institute of Montana State University gave an update and a power point presentation on their progress in the McKinleyville Transit Study. Their Draft Report will be released next month and they will be taking feedback online at their project website <https://www.mckinleyvilletransitstudy.com/> after the draft is released. They also introduced Thomas Tu, a masters student at Humboldt State University who will be working on a data based simulation related to the project.

The power point slides included a Project Timeline, Guiding Principles from the public outreach phase, McKinleyville's Transit Peers, Situating McKinleyville Among Community and Regional Peers and McKinleyville Transit Investments recommendations. They will be recommending a 2 year Pilot Program based on these recommendations.

- Maya Conrad noted that with 4000+ McKinleyville residents going to other communities to work it would seem that there could be a demand for more transit service. Colin Fiske concurred that we need more frequent Redwood Transit service, with buses coming through every 30 minutes rather than hourly.
- Maya also commented on the poor walkability score McKinleyville has compared to Arcata and Eureka.
- A community member asked about whether HSU and College of the Redwoods participated in the study as the bicycle and pedestrian intersection with these local colleges is significant. Andrea Hamre said that they contacted HSU but their involvement in the study thus far has been minimal.
- Supervisor Madrone said he would support and recommend a 3 year Pilot Program and commented that a McKinleyville Transit Center is required.
- Kevin Jenkins shared that the demographic study information presented is very similar to studies done by the Ace Hardware Corporation. He commented on the effect that HSU's reduction of parking lots has had on parking within the City of Arcata.
- Twila Sanchez shared the local United Indian Health Services clinic's efforts to encourage carpooling and biking to work were not well received and observed that a change of culture will be required to get McKinleyville residents to use transit. David Kack agreed that America is a car culture and we have to make driving and parking more costly if we want to change that.

- Kevin Dreyer observed that the rural character of McKinleyville comes into play on transit issues as well.
- Bonnie Oliver asked whether the project recommendations will include recommendations on McKinleyville’s walkability issues.

MMAC thanked the Transit Study team for their presentation and work.

B. Town Center brief update

Maya Conrad reported that Michael Richardson of Humboldt County Planning Division is working on the Town Center Ordinance Draft text and that architect Kash Boodjeh is working on east-west connection options across Central Avenue. Maya and Michael Richardson have scheduled a meeting with Hillarie Beyer and Aristeia Saulsbury of the McKinleyville Family Resource Center to discuss how to engage the community members they work with in the Town Center Ordinance review. Twila Sanchez requested that they also reach out personally to the Wiyot Tribe for their input and participation in the review, and volunteered to help with contacting tribal leadership.

C. Rules and Regulations Subcommittee Update:

Barbara Georgianna led the MMAC through the subcommittee’s April 21, 2021 Revised Draft of the Rules, Regulations and Procedures for the Operation of the McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee. Input was gathered from MMAC members and Supervisor Steve Madrone on the first 11 sections of the document. The review process will continue at our next meeting for sections 12-16.

7. Subcommittee Reports:

Kevin Jenkins reported that the Roadside Landscaping Committee continues to look into the complex issues involved including the poor enforcement of the Landscape Element in the Humboldt County Zoning Code. The committee would like to propose that MMAC look into develop an ordinance on Roadside Landscaping Maintenance sometime in the future. He acknowledged the good work of many community volunteer groups in trash removal and care of our public right of way areas.

Maya Conrad reported for the Trails and Multimodal Transportation Committee that Emily Sinkhorn, who was working on community outreach for the Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant on connectivity in McKinleyville, will be leaving Redwood Community Action Agency for a position with the City of Arcata. Maya will keep us updated on her replacement.

8. Board general comments: none

9. Next Meeting

Our next regular MMAC meeting will be Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 6:00 pm, Zoom format.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Oliver