

McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee
ZOOM PLATFORM - ONLINE MEETING
June 24, 2020 6:00 pm

MINUTES

1. Attendance

Members Present: Maya Conrad, Kevin Dreyer, Bonnie Oliver, Greg Orsini, Mary Burke,
Barbara Georgianna, Twila Sanchez

Members Absent: Kevin Jenkins

Guests: Steve Madrone, 5th District Supervisor, Emily Sinkhorn from Redwood
Community Action Agency

2. Review and approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 27, 2020 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Greg Orsini and seconded by Kevin Dreyer to approve the minutes as submitted.

VOTE:

YES: Maya Conrad, Kevin Dreyer, Bonnie Oliver, Greg Orsini, Mary Burke,
Barbara Georgianna, Twila Sanchez

NO: none

ABSTENTION: none

Unanimous Approval

3. Community Safety Updates

a. Humboldt County Sheriff's Office – Sheriff William Honsal:

The Sheriff's Department has been focused on education and listening in response to the community reactions to the death of George Floyd, with the goal of building and maintaining trust and relationships in the community. He recently met with True North of Humboldt County to discuss homelessness in McKinleyville. Deputies are being assigned in a community for 6 months to make them more invested. Sergeant North is based in McKinleyville along with at least two deputies. Training happens at least once a quarter with a goal of once per month. (The State of California requires 24 hours of continuing education every 2 years.)

In response to questions from the MMAC:

-Some of the subjects addressed in training include de-escalation, domestic violence and abuse, court appearances, forensics, driving techniques, firearm use and crisis intervention. Training methods include online, face to face and active training.

-The department continues to work towards diversity in its staff. All races are currently represented. They are always hiring and looking for community minded candidates with a servant heart.

-The citizens' complaint process can be done by visiting the station and reporting it to the sergeant or filing an online complaint on their website. The department is mandated to follow up on all complaints and the Sheriff is ultimately responsible to deal with complaints. In California personnel files can be made public if the case requires it.

-Currently body cameras are worn by staff working in detention facilities but they are not worn by deputies yet. They hope to have the budgeted funds for the equipment and the personnel required to review the film soon.

The Sheriff also reported on the current Covid 19 situation in the county. We have recently seen an increase in the number of cases and the numbers are predicted to continue to go up. An overflow treatment area is available and ready to go should the local hospitals require it. The masking order is still in place and now state mandated and enforceable by local law enforcement. There are reports of travelers from outside of the county not using facial coverings in public, especially in Trinidad. Signage is needed to help address this. Contact tracing is happening and public notification of cases in people who may have had significant interface with the public (e.g. Aztec Grill in McKinleyville). The Humboldt County mobile test lab at Redwood Acres averages 2-4 days for results. On Monday, June 29, 1-4 pm there will be a mobile test lab in McKinleyville, at The Club near Mill Creek Cinema. Go to Humboldt.gov or call (707) 268-2503 to schedule an appointment. If we get a surge of cases with hospitals filling up then the County will stop certifying new businesses to open and may have to shut some back down. Supervisor Madrone thanked Sheriff Honsel and Dr. Frankovich for their unified messaging to the community related to Covid 19 and stated that he was not in favor of defunding the police.

b. Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Kevin Miller:

Lt. Miller reported on the statistics for their service calls and actions in the McKinleyville area, comparing the May 2020 numbers to May 2019. There were 1062 calls for service in May, up from 921 in May 2019, but the arrests were the same at 22. The greatest increase was in pedestrian checks which was 91, up from 36 in May 2019 and vehicle traffic stops which was 127, up from 70 in May 2019. MMAC Chair Maya Conrad asked Lt. Miller what McKinleyville citizen could do about all the fireworks activity, especially with the approach of July 4. Lt. Miller suggested talking to your neighbors, particularly about the effect of their fireworks on people with PTSD and trauma to pets. It is also ok to call the sheriff's office if illegal fireworks activity is suspected.

c. Arcata Fire District Battalion Chief Sean Campbell:

Chief Campbell reported on the statistics for calls in May. Of the 237 total calls, 99 were from McKinleyville. This is down from the usual 300 calls per month, probably due to the Covid 19 shelter in place order. The typical response time is 9 minutes. Two calls in McKinleyville were for fires, one for a vehicle fire that was threatening a home and a redwood tree fire that threaten surrounding wildland. They continue with plan check and R-2 State inspection work and are handling shop repairs on equipment when possible for savings. Rotating closures of the three fire stations are ongoing as a way to work within budget constraints. The next scheduled closure for the McKinleyville Station is the week starting on Sunday, June 28. The McKinleyville Station is scheduled to be closed 17 weeks out of the year. Chief McDonald and Campbell will continue to do administrative work out of the McKinleyville Station even when it is closed for service calls.

The Arcata Fire District's Board of Directors has approved putting a funding measure proposal on this November's ballot, similar to the measure that was narrowly defeated

earlier this spring. They hope to make a better effort to get real information and numbers out to the public and are looking for community members to help them in this outreach. MMAC members asked about whether our homeowners' fire insurance is apt to go up if the ballot measure is not approved and Arcata Fire would have to continue cost cutting measures. Our rates are likely to go up eventually (2-3 years down the road) if our local fire service rating goes down. Maya Conrad reported on an e-mail from Fire Chief McDonald that if the ballot measure passes in November the anticipated increase in fees is \$30 for vacant properties, \$118 for single family homes and \$192 for rural residences. The measure would "sunset" in 10 years and the funds would be monitored by a Citizens Review Committee. Chief Campbell has written an article for this week's Mad River Union to help educate the public on the ballot measure. They are also pursuing informational inserts in local billing mailers. (McKinleyville Ace Hardware is already doing this.) Supervisor Madrone and the MMAC thanked Chief Campbell for his report and work in our community.

4. Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

A community member informed the meeting attendees of a Facebook petition they have started for a referendum on the November ballot to change the name of McKinleyville. Another community member voiced a desire to reinstate active patrols by the Sheriff's Department on the 4th of July weekend to address fireworks related violations of the law.

5. Discussion / Information / Action Items

a. MMAC discussed preparing a letter in support of Arcata Fire District's new ballot measure for the November 2020 election. MMAC members discussed how we, as an advisory committee to the Board of Supervisors, can support the ballot measure. Barbara Georgianna suggested that we could all individually write letters to local papers' editors in support of the measure, noting that we are residents within the Arcata Fire service area as well as MMAC members. Kevin Dreyer suggested that we could write a letter to the Board of Supervisors asking them to support the measure in the interest of keeping the McKinleyville Fire Station open full time. There was some tangentially related discussion of fire hydrants in McKinleyville, which are installed and maintained by MCSD, and how we might get more in the McKinleyville area. Maya Conrad expressed an interest in getting more information on the boundaries of the SRA (State Regulated Area for fire protection) around McKinleyville.

A motion was made by Kevin Dreyer and seconded by Barbara Georgianna that the MMAC Chair is to draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors urging them to make a resolution in support of the upcoming Arcata Fire Funding Ballot Measure, slated for the election this fall, which will allow Arcata Fire to fully (re)open the McKinleyville Fire Station and restore the required staffing levels to keep it open.

VOTE:

YES: Maya Conrad, Kevin Dreyer, Bonnie Oliver, Greg Orsini, Mary Burke, Barbara Georgianna, Twila Sanchez

NO: none

ABSTENTION: none

b. Homeless Organizing Subcommittee Meeting Report:

Barbara Georgianna reported on the subcommittee ZOOM meeting that was held on June 3, 2020. It is estimated that there are 80 – 120 homeless individuals staying in various locations in McKinleyville. Participants agreed that we need to change the community narrative regarding homelessness. Building relationships with the homeless is important and having appropriate staff to work with them is important. The group discussed CA bill SB2 regarding emergency shelters and the current statewide shelter in place order and its implications for the homeless. Supervisor Madrone suggested that the MMAC ask the county for more assistance in McKinleyville for provision of services to the homeless. Discussion followed Barbara’s report. Supervisor Madrone reviewed the current community efforts in McKinleyville including weekly meals at The Church of the Joyful Healer, the mobile shower facility by AHA and the portable bathrooms and hand washing stations, but no shelter at this time. He mentioned that the Board of Supervisors may pursue funding through Public Local Housing Assistance (PLHA) program, approximately \$350,000/ year, and the MMAC and community citizens can write letters to the BOS suggesting that they give half to McKinleyville for emergency homeless shelter and services. The possibility of tapping McKinleyville Area Fund for money for another mobile shower unit was discussed. Sixteen people used the AHA provided shower the one time it was in McKinleyville last month.

c. Town Center Update:

Bonnie Oliver reported on the work of the Town Center Subcommittee in the month of June. Members of the MMAC and County Planning Staff met with Greg and Ann Pierson and architect Kash Boodjeh. The Piersons shared some of their thoughts on how they would like to develop their McKinleyville Town Center properties in the future. Kash has been tasked with envisioning and drawing up some options showing how the Town Center Ordinance could shape development in the area, drawing on all the community input over the past 8 months as well as the input by the Piersons. The presentation of these conceptual drawings and County Planning’s draft of an ordinance was originally scheduled for July 15 but will be delayed because of unforeseen personal circumstances affecting work schedules.

A community member asked how the community input was being synthesized into the mission, vision and goals for the town center ordinance. Bonnie shared that all the community input from meetings and the survey have been received and reviewed by Kash and his drawings are meant to help the community with envisioning their desired character mission and goals for the Town Center.

6. Ad Hoc Trails and Multimodal Transportation committee report

Emily Sinkhorn from the Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) announced that the CALTrans Grant application was granted, one of two awards in the county. The project will focus on getting community input for safe bike and pedestrian connectivity at McKinleyville’s Central Avenue south entrance and connections from the Hammond trail to the Central Avenue along Hiller and School Roads. This is the 2nd attempt for the grant which was submitted by RCAA and Humboldt County Public Works in the fall. Emily will be serving as the lead for gathering community input which should be starting this fall. Involving “disadvantaged” McKinleyville community members in the input process will be a

key component. MMAC expressed their thanks to Emily and County Public Works for their efforts in securing this grant.

7. Ad Hoc Roadside Landscaping Committee Report

Maya Conrad read notes provided by Kevin Jenkins. The county has been doing a better job of mowing the right of ways but more needs to be done, especially on School Road. Community efforts to beautify the island near Roger's Market on School Road were noted and lauded.

8. Event Announcements and Board general comments

Mary Burke requested that we do a MMAC role review including further definition of our operating rules. She recommended that we try a formal request for more administrative assistance funding from the County Board of Supervisors. Also we should consider the question of whether we should expand our role so we as MMAC can do our own letters of support and weigh in on community issues without having to go through the Board of Supervisors. Many MMAC members expressed support for this to be a discussion item on a future agenda. Twila Sanchez requested that we get an update from County DHHS on when the new resource center in McKinleyville will be open.

9. Next Meeting

Our next regular meeting will be Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Oliver