McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee
In person at MUSD Conference Room at 2275 Central Avenue, McKinleyville and
ZOOM PLATFORM - ONLINE MEETING
June 28, 2023  6:00 pm

MINUTES

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

   Members Present: Lisa Dugan, Kevin Jenkins, Twila Sanchez, Kevin Dreyer, Greg Orsini, Maya Conrad.
   Members Absent: Pat Kaspari, Bonnie Oliver.

2. Review and Approve Minutes: May 24, 2023

   The minutes of the May 24, 2023 meeting of the MMAC were reviewed. Greg Orsini moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Twila Sanchez seconded the motion.

   Roll Call Vote:
   Yes: Lisa Dugan, Kevin Dreyer, Kevin Jenkins, Greg Orsini, Twila Sanchez.
   No: None
   Note: Maya Conrad was not yet in attendance at the time of this vote.

   MOTION APPROVED

3. Community Safety Updates:

   Arcata Fire District’s Assistant Chief Chris Emmons reported on AFD statistics and events for the month of May. There were three structure fires which included assisting with a fire in Blue Lake. They received 280 calls for service, 11 of which were “good intent calls” reporting potential hazards like trees around wires. They are getting more overlapping calls (79) where more than one person calls in to report the same incident. Their average response time for McKinleyville in May was 4 minutes, 18 seconds. The department logged 275 training hours which included a class on Wildland Fire Behavior.

   Chief Emmons announced that, in spite of our wet winter, fire season has started. Kevin Dryer asked whether a “no burn order” had been issued. Chief Emmons said not yet but it will likely be coming soon. No special patrols are planned for July 4 (in response to a question from Maya Conrad). A community member asked whether there was data on what starts most of the fires they respond to. Chief Emmons said they do keep data on this, but he didn’t have it available for this meeting.

   Kevin Jenkins reported that Sergeant Kevin Miller, who often reports to MMAC for Humboldt County Sherriff’s Office is retiring from that position and will become the Chief of Police for the Blue Lake Rancheria.

4. Public Comment on items not on the Agenda:
McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jesse Miles expressed thanks to all who helped make Pony Express Days such a success. She also announced the continuation of the summer program of Community Concerts in Pierson Park on Thursday evenings, and a Chamber Mixer coming up on August 24. Maya Conrad asked whether MMAC could have a table at the Chamber mixer and Jesse answered that we could, as a non-profit group. She also announced that the Chamber is planning to host a “State of Education in the Community” program in October. McKinleyville Union School District and McKinleyville High School both plan to participate. Details to follow.

5. Discussion / Information / Action Items

A. Humboldt County Grand Jury Report on McKinleyville Incorporation:

Kevin Jenkins explained a proposed response to the Grand Jury Report prepared by the McKinleyville Incorporation Exploration Subcommittee (MIESC) and how MMAC is invited, but not required, to respond within 60 days of the publication of the Grand Jury Report. The MMAC response is to address the specific Findings and Recommendations at the end of the report and will be forwarded to the Grand Jury via Board of Supervisors Chair Steve Madrone and the County Administrative Officer, Elisha Hayes.

MIESC is in agreement with the Report Findings F1 – F4, with added clarification text recommended for our response to F2 and F3. MMAC concurred with MIESC’s agreement on the Findings.

Kevin Jenkins continued to explain MIESC’s proposed response to the Grand Jury Report Recommendations R1 – R5. MIESC supports these Recommendations with some clarifications added to R-3. MMAC members discussed issues of concern with R1 as it appears to give the MMAC and its subcommittees authority (to seek other sources of funding) beyond its scope of work as defined in our Rules, Regulations and Procedures for Operation established by the Board of Supervisors. It was agreed that changing the wording from “authority” to “support” would be more in keeping with our Rules which state that “County staff will be directed to seek available grant funding to support the committee’s efforts.”

Maya Conrad moved to approve MIESC’s recommended response to the Humboldt County Grand Jury’s Report on McKinleyville Incorporation with the following change to R1: “By no later than November 1, 2023, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors provide the McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee and any of its subcommittees with the authority support to seek other sources of funding to assist in the creation of the in-depth Initial Feasibility Analysis” and to authorize Lisa Dugan and Kevin Jenkins to submit the response with this revision, for the MMAC. Greg Orsini seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Maya Conrad, Lisa Dugan, Kevin Dreyer, Kevin Jenkins, Greg Orsini, Twila Sanchez
No: None
Abstention: None
MOTION APPROVED
B. Indigenous Land Acknowledgement: (continued from 5/24/23)

Twila Sanchez reported that she discussed the current Indigenous Land Acknowledgement we use at the opening of our MMAC meetings with Carrie Tully of the Wiyot Tribe. Carrie had some suggested revisions and additions to recommend, including adding reference to the Blue Lake Rancheria, being more specific in describing the geography of MMAC’s “territorial jurisdiction”, and considering adding some action items to it (for example, working toward land back efforts). We returned to the question Twila asked at our May meeting of why we do the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement. Maya Conrad said it was an important reminder of who we are and builds awareness in our community. She added that we could work to incorporate indigenous names for our places. Greg Orsini and Kevin Jenkins observed that we really have no power to give back land as the MMAC but the acknowledgement is important for remembering our history and for looking at current events with an awareness of Indigenous Land issues. Community members commented that the Indigenous Tribes of our area have much to teach us about being stewards of the land and that we should keep this, and our area’s history, in mind, especially as we work on land use and zoning issues.

Twila Sanchez and Lisa Dugan agreed to work on a new Indigenous Land Acknowledgement for the MMAC, possibly in consultation with additional Tribal resources, and bring it back to the MMAC for review and approval at a future meeting.

C. Passing the MMAC Annual Budget:

Treasurer Kevin Jenkins presented a proposed MMAC Annual Budget for the 2023/24 fiscal year. The budget includes $5000 approved by the Board of Supervisors for MMAC Expenses and $3000 of in-kind support services from the McKinleyville Community Services District. MMAC discussed developing a MMAC Brochure in the future to pass out at community events. Maya Conrad suggested that we take $80 from the “Office Supplies budget number and designate it for “Dues and Subscriptions” (like membership dues for the McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce)

Kevin Dreyer moved to approve the MMAC Annual Budget for the 2023/24 fiscal year as proposed with the revision to take $80 from designated “Office Supplies” line item and add a $80 line item for “Dues and Subscriptions”. Greg Orsini seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Maya Conrad, Lisa Dugan, Kevin Dreyer, Kevin Jenkins, Greg Orsini, Twila Sanchez
No: None
Abstention: None

MOTION APPROVED
D. Dan Burden Visit:

Lisa Dugan announced that Dan Burden, renowned Urban Planner specializing in walkability and human-scale development, would be visiting Humboldt County July 22-25 and is planning to do walking tours of Eureka, Arcata and McKinleyville and share his insights with each community. The schedule of activities is still being determined.

Kevin Jenkins moved to authorize Chair Lisa Dugan to work with County Planning Director John Ford in arranging a Special Meeting of the MMAC on July 25 which would include a McKinleyville Walking Tour with Dan Burden followed by a meeting for a Community Presentation by Dan. Maya Conrad seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Maya Conrad, Lisa Dugan, Kevin Dreyer, Kevin Jenkins, Greg Orsini, Twila Sanchez
No: None
Abstention: None
MOTION APPROVED

E. MMAC Meeting Schedule for the remainder of 2023:

Various possible adjustments to the MMAC meeting schedule were discussed. Discussion will continue as the year progresses.

F. Subcommittee Reports:
Kevin Jenkins presented McKinleyville Incorporation Map Options developed by Cal Poly Humboldt students working with Cal Poly Humboldt Professor Josh Zender. They are working with MIESC on a preliminary report on Local Government Data to Inform Decision-making on McKinleyville Incorporation. The next MIESC meeting is July 19.

6. Board General Comments & Event Announcements: - None

7. Next Meeting: Our next regular meeting will be Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 6:00 pm, at the MUSD Conference Room at 2275 Central Avenue, McKinleyville and Zoom format. A Special Meeting / Presentation with Dan Burden on July 25 will be pursued by Chair Lisa Dugan. Final details to be announced.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Oliver