

McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee
ZOOM PLATFORM - ONLINE MEETING
August 26, 2020 6:00 pm

MINUTES

1. Attendance

Members Present: Maya Conrad, Bonnie Oliver, Pat Kaspari, Mary Burke, Kevin Jenkins, Barbara Georgianna, Kevin Dreyer

Members Absent: Twila Sanchez

Guests: Steve Madrone, 5th District Supervisor, Chris Jones from Environmental Science Associates and Cody Roggatz from the Humboldt County Airport Advisory Committee, Michael Richardson and John Miller from the Humboldt County Planning Division, Misha Schwarz with GHD Consultants and Johnny Calkins, local homeless services advocate.

2. Review and approval of Minutes

The minutes of the July 29, 2020 meeting were reviewed. One correction was recommended by Bonnie Oliver. A motion was made by Mary Burke and seconded by Kevin Jenkins to approve the minutes as corrected.

VOTE:

YES: Maya Conrad, Bonnie Oliver, Pat Kaspari, Mary Burke, Barbara Georgianna, Kevin Jenkins.

NO: none

ABSTENTION: none

Note: Kevin Dreyer was not yet in attendance for this vote.

3. Community Safety Updates

A. Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Corporal Scott Aponte:

Corporal Aponte reported on the statistics for their service calls and actions in the McKinleyville area. There were 874 calls for service in July, down from 1045 in June. Felony investigations, at 16, are down and misdemeanors were up. The Mill Creek Falls area, accessed by a private road, has been closed due to illegal camping in the area. Chair Maya Conrad asked about how the Sheriff's office is dealing with the influx of folks coming to the county to escape fires and smoke conditions. Cpl. Aponte said they continue to emphasize education on the County's Covid 19 protective requirements (PPE etc.) versus writing tickets.

B. Arcata Fire District Battalion Chief Sean Campbell:

Chief Campbell thanked the MMAC and the County Board of Supervisors for their support of Ballot Measure F for funding the Arcata Fire District and feels like there is a good level of support for the measure in the community. He reported on the statistics for calls in July. Of the 238 total calls for service, 109 were from McKinleyville and 19 were for fires, including a vehicle fire in McKinleyville which is still being investigated. Call volume continues to be lower than in 2019. In-house shop repairs and maintenance of

equipment is ongoing. At this time 2 engines are out of service for repairs bringing the percentage up to 44% of the fleet out of service. They are weighing various repair or replacement options. Chief Campbell also reported on some August events that they were involved in responding to including the hay bale fire and explosion on Mad River Road in Arcata, the active shooter situation on Thiel Avenue in McKinleyville and a fire at the Six Rivers Masonic Lodge on Bayside Road in Arcata.

4. Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

Maya Conrad read an email letter that was sent to the MMAC, as well as to representatives of other county and state agencies, from a McKinleyville resident who is expressing concern and requesting mitigation for traffic and parking issues that may arise in the area of Verwer Avenue with the further development of the School Road trail to the Mad River. The letter included some recommended mitigation measures.

5. Event Announcements

Kevin Jenkins announced that Mad River Rotary Club is running a fundraiser for the “Community Law Enforcement Appreciation Fund”. They are hoping to raise \$10,000 to use for gift cards for Humboldt County Sheriff’s lieutenants and deputies to express appreciation for their work in our community. Donations can be made at any Coast Central Credit Union branch.

6. Discussion / Information / Action Items

A. MMAC discussed the response to our request to Humboldt County Board of Supervisors for additional administrative support of MMAC:

Supervisor Madrone reported that although the Board of Supervisors expressed general support for the MMAC request, they raised questions about whether it should be put in as an annual budget request and decided to delay further discussion and making a decision until after the first quarter budget review which will likely be part of one of their November meetings. The county soon will have a ZOOM-Pro account that will be available to all the County committees. Clerk of the Board Kathy Hayes indicated that she was ok with adding 10 hours/month of staff time to MMAC if authorized and that they currently spend approximately 8 hours/month on MMAC. Setting up Gmail accounts specific to MMAC members was recommended. Some on the Board expressed worries about setting a precedent related to support of appointed committees. Supervisor Madrone suggested that MMAC revise and update our request and resubmit it for the November meeting when the first quarter budget review will take place. Chair Maya Conrad will draft up a revised proposal /request for support, referencing our bylaws, for MMAC review and consideration at our September meeting.

B. Town Center Update:

Michael Richardson and John Miller from the Humboldt County Planning Division updated MMAC on their ongoing work on the Town Center Ordinance. Supervising Planner Michael Richardson reported that they have met with Bob Bronkle of HC Public Works and architect Kash Boodjeh about alternatives to bring back to MMAC. Their topics of discussion included issues with Central Avenue, Hiller Road, undeveloped Town

Center properties, connections across Central Avenue, alternative road options and pedestrian and bicycle safety. He is not sure when they will be ready to bring schematic designs of options back to MMAC. They will first review them with Public Works and vet them with the Piersons. They are working on how to revise the McKinleyville Community Plan for to allow for 3 parameter (rather than one parameter) wetlands delineation. They are meeting with owners along Central Avenue to discuss the “burden area” and talking to County Council on if / how it may be relinquished.

- A community member asked when the Town Center Ordinance would be drafted. Richardson answered that they hope to have it to MMAC (and the community) so we can make a recommendation to the Planning Commission by the end of this year.
- Barbara Georgianna asked if revisions to the Central Avenue burden area could continue beyond the designated Town Center area. Richardson said this was not within the scope of the Town Center Ordinance project but it could be extended as part of a future project.
- Bonnie Oliver asked if the Piersons would be able to veto or rule out ideas brought forward by the architect Kash Boodjeh when they vet the design options, prior to presentation to the MMAC and the community. Richardson answered that his goal is to develop an ordinance that the Town Center property owner supports as well as the community.
- Maya Conrad asked about the status of the wetlands delineation being done on the undeveloped Pierson properties in the Town Center. Misha Schwarz of GHD Consultants said their wetlands study was nearly complete and he would be happy to present to MMAC at a future date.
- Maya Conrad recommended that the MMAC Town Center Subcommittee meet soon to plan for future Special Town Center community meetings.
- Misha Schwarz asked about whether the proposed changes to wetland delineation requirements will be part of the County’s General Plan Update. Richardson answered that they would be unique to the McKinleyville Town Center, allowing some outdoor public uses within the required buffer zones.

Planner John Miller has looked into the Draft Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan Update’s development rules and had determined that they are not in conflict with the Town Center plans.

C. Discuss Humboldt County Draft Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan Update:

Chris Jones from Environmental Science Associates and Cody Roggatz from the Humboldt County Airport Advisory Committee again presented information on the draft plan update to the 1993 Humboldt County Draft Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) this time focusing on proposed changes to the 1993 plan that would affect the McKinleyville area. Many of the changes are procedural and administrative. Local land use jurisdictions are to incorporate the new guidelines into their zoning ordinances and the Airport Land Use Commission would only review projects that are flagged by the County as needing review because of a non-conformance to the plan. In most cases the plan revisions related to land use within the airport noise compatibility and safety review areas are less restrictive than in the 1993 plan. A community member asked whether the local schools had been notified about the changes and Cody Roggatz answered that they had been notified and did not submit any comments. He shared the link for public comments

in group chat (<https://humboldt.gov/FormCenter/Aviation-3/ALUCP-Public-Comment-151>). The deadline for public comment on the draft plan update is August 27, 2020. Maya Conrad and Kevin Jenkins thanked both Chris and Cody for returning to MMAC to explain the changes to the Humboldt County Draft Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.

D. MCSD Updates:

Mary Burke and Pat Kaspari presented information on the Mad River Restoration and Trails Project including accessibility improvements to the trail to the Mad River from School Road. They are working with Tom Mattson of Humboldt County Public works to address the traffic and parking concerns that have been raised by nearby community members. The goal for project implementation is in 2021 – 2022 and may be tied to Ocean Drive Walkability Study improvements.

Pat Kaspari also shared that MCSD has submitted a grant proposal to purchase 550 acres of Green Diamond forest property on the east side of McKinleyville to create a community forest. They should find out whether they will receive the grant by the end of August. Kevin Dreyer asked whether timber harvesting would be a source of revenue since Green Diamond has plans approved to log some of the property. Kaspari mentioned that Carbon Sequestration may be another way for MCSD to generate funds for upkeep of the forest.

Barbara Georgianna reminded attendees about the upcoming MCSD Board elections with 3 applicants for the two open 4 year seats and 3 applicants for the open 2 year seat. There is information on each candidate on the MCSD website and some of the candidates have Facebook pages. There may also be candidate forums this fall, stay tuned.

7. Ad Hoc Trails and Multimodal Transportation committee report

No updates to report at this time.

8. Ad Hoc Roadside Landscaping Committee Report

Kevin Jenkins reported that they are working with Bob Bronkle of Humboldt County Public Works to address the health and safety concerns related to overgrown and littered roadsides on the entry routes to McKinleyville. It is a complex issue because it involves private land owner cooperation. Barbara Georgianna reported that Public Works did recently mow the grass on Central Avenue near Bella Vista Road. Because Ad Hoc Committee member Greg Orsini is no longer serving on the MMAC, Barbara recommended that we appoint another MMAC member to this committee. Kevin Dreyer is willing to serve so Chair Maya Conrad appointed him to this Ad Hoc committee. Kevin Dreyer announced that there is going to be a “Trash Bash” on Saturday, August 29 starting at 8:45 am, meeting at the Eureka Glass parking lot on Central Avenue.

9. Homelessness Subcommittee Report

Barbara Georgianna reported that the committee is in communication with True North Organizing Committee who are working with the homeless of McKinleyville and are looking for a camping area for their use. Arcata House Partnership has been running a “Room Key” program to offer motel rooms to the homeless, including those in McKinleyville. Connie Beck with the County Dept. of Health and Human Services has brought the issue of the homeless population of McKinleyville to the Board of Supervisors and is hopeful that it will

be on their agenda soon. Barbara shared a story of a local homeless McKinleyville resident who is serving our community by picking up trash. So far he has collected over 17,000 pounds of trash which is bagged and brought to Humboldt Sanitation.

Johnny Calkins, local homeless services advocate shared that there are approximately 80-100 homeless people in McKinleyville, 60 – 80 who are in McKinleyville most of the time. The Covid 19 stimulus checks and unemployment benefits have been helpful to some. The fires in our state have been especially hard on those who had no fire insurance and cannot rebuild their homes. He shared the efforts of those who are feeding the homeless in our community including The Church of the Joyful Healer who feed 25 -30 people seven days a week. The efforts of the homeless to collect trash throughout our community were assisted by Supervisor Madrone who arranged to have the County pay for the trash disposal fees to Humboldt Sanitation. Community member Scott Binder provides the bags for trash collection. AHHA's Shower Care-A-Van is available at the Church of the Joyful Healer the 2nd and 3rd Saturdays of the month. The portable restrooms in the community have been a great resource for the homeless but he is not sure how long they will be funded.

Mary Burke thanked Barbara and Johnny for their report and their work on the Ad Hoc Committee and in our community on behalf of the homeless. She asked how best to contribute and help and Johnny Calkins recommended contacting Arcata House Partnership or the Church of the Joyful Healer to help them with their programs.

10. Board general comments

Maya Conrad noted that we have many fire and smoke evacuees coming to our area and that our area is not immune to wildfires. She urges the community to have an emergency evacuation plan and “go-bags” ready.

11. Next Meeting

Our next regular meeting will be Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Oliver