

McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee
ZOOM PLATFORM - ONLINE MEETING
September 30, 2020 6:00 pm

MINUTES

1. Attendance

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

Members Absent: none

Guests: Steve Madrone, 5th District Supervisor, Sean Campbell, Arcata Fire District, Emily Sinkhorn, Redwood Community Action Agency, Michael Richardson, Supervising Planner with Humboldt County Planning Division, Hillarie Beyer, Executive Director of McKinleyville Family Resource Center.

2. Review and approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 26, 2020 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Pat Kaspari 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, Twila Sanchez.

NO: none

ABSTENTION: none

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

3. Community Safety Updates

A. Arcata Fire District Battalion Chief Sean Campbell:

Chief Campbell reported that in August there were 243 incidents, 91 of which were in McKinleyville (37%). There were 4 structure fires, one of which was in McKinleyville. He stressed how businesses with alarm systems and a “knox box” which gives emergency responders access to the business interior can really help with early response and reducing fire damage. The district is being challenged by the recent switch to a new dispatch system, Humboldt County Fire Net, which currently has some static issues and includes calls for service for all the County Fire Departments. Humboldt Bay Fire has promised AFD the help of one engine on calls. The official “Voter Guide” sent to the District’s voters has a lot of untruths and misinformation related to Ballot Measure F in it, please call Arcata Fire District if you have questions. Maya Conrad asked whether business inspections were still happening. Chief Campbell said they are not currently doing these inspections due to Covid 19 and staffing shortages.

B. Humboldt County Public Works:

Emily Sinkhorn of the Redwood Community Action Agency and Mary Burke reported on their walkability assessment walk down Ocean Avenue with Tom Mattson, Director of

Humboldt County Public Works and Steve Madrone, 5th District Supervisor. The first improvements to this “connector street” are planned for next spring (using local funds) with long term improvements such as paving coming in the next 2-3 years (using SB-1 funds). The Ocean Drive Walkability Project will be a good way to pilot new approaches including the edge lane road concept and other improvements. There will be a “Virtual Walkability Assessment” community meeting on October 14, 6 – 8 pm and there is an online survey for community members at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OceanDrive> . Paper copies of the survey will also be mailed to Ocean Drive property owners and are available at Roger’s Market on School Road. A link to the survey will also be posted on the McKinleyville Community Watch Facebook page. Mary observed that Ocean Drive is dangerous for pedestrians and bike riders due to areas of no shoulder and many potholes.

- Maya Conrad commented that the improvements to paving on the west end of School Road have resulted in increased speeds for car traffic. Supervisor Madrone responded that speed humps are being considered to address this issue and he praised the partnership of RCAA, MCSD and County Public Works on this project.
- A community member asked whether Byrd Avenue was being considered for improvements as a future connector road. Supervisor Madrone and Mary Burke confirmed that there are no plans for this at this time.
- An Ocean Drive resident asked about how to determine where the County’s right of way line is for the properties along the road. Where newer sidewalks exist it is at the back edge of the sidewalk and is approximately where the line of telephone poles run on the east side of Ocean Ave. Mary commented that all the improvements will happen within the County right of way and no “imminent domain” will be used in this project.
- Kevin Dreyer commented that traditional sidewalks are not always the best solution for bikers and pedestrians and encourages looking into other alternatives.

4. Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

- Colin Fiske of the Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities (CRTP) announced that Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) has hired the Western Transportation Institute, rural transit systems specialists based at the University of Montana, to study McKinleyville’s transit needs. Chair Maya Conrad will try to have a HCAOG representative present on this at our October meeting.
- A community member asked for information on the MCSD Candidates’ forums. The League of Women Voters MCSD Candidate’s Forum from September 22 is available at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3zSeq_K5xzXiUMnfvv3Dww . Colin Fiske said CRTP has sent a questionnaire to the candidates and will publish their answers. No other MCSD Candidate Forums are scheduled at this time.

5. Event Announcements

- Kevin Dreyer announced that the Fieldbrook Volunteer Fire Department is in the running for a \$25000 prize from State Farm insurance and community members can vote daily for them at <https://www.neighborhoodassist.com/> or through links on the McKinleyville Community Watch Facebook page or the Lost Coast Outpost website.
- Pat Kaspari announced that County DHHS will hold a McKinleyville Covid 19 testing event in November at Azalea Hall in Pierson Park.

6. Discussion / Information / Action Items

A. The Center Presentation:

Hillarie Beyer, Executive Director of the McKinleyville Family Resource Center updated MMAC on “The Center” Integrated Services project under construction on Heartwood Avenue. Their partners in the project include Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services, Open Door Community Health Centers, Trinidad Rancheria Tribal Social Services, Northcoast Child Support Services and Humboldt State University Department of Social Work. McKinleyville Family Resource Center will run the front desk once The Center is open. The opening has been delayed because of issues related to Covid 19 and the statewide fires / unhealthy air quality. In person community meetings ended in March but you can still be involved and informed via their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/McKinleyvilleFRC/> . They are working on virtual programming but the website is not quite ready yet. It is their hope that all of McKinleyville will use The Center and they would love to host a future MMAC meeting there. Twila Sanchez asked whether there would be any job openings at The Center. Hillarie said that DHHS would be the biggest employer and that they have done some hiring for The Center. Bonnie Oliver asked whether she could estimate an opening date for The Center. Hillarie said it would not be before 2021 and the move in will be a two month process. MMAC and Supervisor Madrone thanked Hillarie for her presentation and thanked Twila for arranging it.

B. Town Center Update:

Kevin Dreyer and Michael Richardson of the County Planning Division reported on the MMAC Town Center Subcommittee meeting with County Planning staff on September 29, 2020. A preliminary wetlands delineation for the Pierson property behind the McKinleyville Shopping Center as well as a topographic survey was prepared by GHD Consultants for the property owners. These were shared with County Planning hired architect Kash Boodjeh as base information for his work. The county hopes to be able to share a schedule for presentation visuals related to Town Center Ordinance options at our October meeting. He shared County Planning’s four components of input for the development of the Town Center Ordinance:

1. Public input
 2. Input from the major landowner
 3. Public Works input
 4. Wetlands delineation within the Town Center area.
- Twila Sanchez shared that some in the community feel that the project hasn’t slowed down but that things are happening behind the scenes without public input. She asked whether ideas will be presented to the County, MMAC and the public simultaneously. She also has heard public concerns that 5 story buildings within the town center may be allowed.
 - A community member thanked everyone working on the project and especially to County Planning for spending time and funds on the project.

- Another community member read a statement requesting a summary study / synthesis record of the McKinleyville Town Center community input and consideration of alternatives which would avoid impacts to wetlands.
- Another community member asked whether all of the Town Center area was being considered in the architect's options or just the Pierson properties. Bonnie Oliver replied that he was looking at the whole Town Center area, particularly related to pedestrian circulation across Central Avenue.
- Maya Conrad commented that Michael Van Hatten of California Fish and Wildlife will be reviewing GHD's Wetland Delineation.
- Bonnie Oliver sought to clarify that the architect was working to illustrate various options related to how the Town Center Ordinance could shape development, not producing "Development Plans".
- Supervisor Madrone commented that we (MMAC and County Planning) need to do better with updating the community, that a summary of community input should be made available and that there will be further community input opportunities throughout the process, all the way to the Board of Supervisors meetings where the Town Center Ordinance approval will finally be decided.
- Michael Richardson said he would provide an updated timeline as well as a summary of what has happened so far related to updates to the community plan at the October meeting.
- Supervisor Madrone recommended that the work of the County Planning hired architect Kash Boodjeh be brought to the community, MMAC, County Planning and the landowner at the same time with no pre-vetting. The process is important and trust and transparency are key.

C. Administrative Support for MMAC:

Chair Maya Conrad has not had time to revise the language of the MMAC request to the Board of Supervisors and tabled this item until the October meeting.

7. Ad Hoc Trails and Multimodal Transportation committee report

See Community Safety Update item B above.

8. Ad Hoc Roadside Landscaping Committee Report

Kevin Jenkins reported that they have a meeting tentatively set for October 8. He and Supervisor Madrone had a good discussion on the challenges related to property owners maintaining and caring for their street frontages. They will pursue a volunteer approach to encouraging this. Mary Burke mentioned that there is grant money available to implement "pollinators planting areas" and she will forward the information to Kevin.

9. Homelessness Subcommittee Report

Barbara Georgianna reported that there is an agreement between the County Dept. of Health and Human Services and the Arcata House Partnership, approved by the Board of Supervisors, to implement "Project Room Key" to provide motel rooms to homeless community members. They have housed 11 people in 7 rooms but are having trouble securing additional rooms because they are being taken by fire evacuees. MCSD will be

discussing forming an ad-hoc committee to study the issue of homelessness and what powers they have to address it.

10. Board general comments

Maya Conrad reported that she as MMAC Chair, the MCSD Board Chair, the MCSD General Manager and Supervisor Madrone are meeting monthly to promote better communication on issues affecting our community.

It was requested that MMAC get updates on MCSD projects as a regular agenda item, including Parks and Recreation projects. Mary Burke, our MCSD Board representative thought this could be accomplished.

11. Next Meeting

Our next regular meeting will be Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 6:00 pm, Zoom format.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Oliver