



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council

AGENDA

Regular Meeting

February 08, 2024 05:30 PM

Guerneville School Community Room

14630 Armstrong Woods Rd, Guerneville, CA 95446

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/lrrmac>

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/97834921018?pwd=cIM3VW9Jeit0ODRIMXpGTnRreUhh6dz09>

Chair & Rio Nido Representative: Pip Marquez de la Plata • Vice Chair & Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls • Guerneville Representative: Joe Rogoff • Guerneville Representative: Spencer R. Scott • Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon Representative: Betsy Van Dyke • Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker • Hacienda Representative: Vicki Clewes • Forestville Representative: Lonnie Lazar • Forestville Representative: Thai Hilton

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

The Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council will make reasonable accommodations for persons having special needs due to disabilities. Please contact the Fifth District Field Representative at 707-565-1219 during regular business hours at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to ensure necessary accommodations are made.

1. Call to Order

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call

2. Approval of Agenda

Discussion Possible Action

This approval process ensures that the agenda accurately reflects the items to be discussed and decided upon. Members may request adjustments to the agenda, including reordering or deletion of items at this time. Any changes must comply with the Brown Act requirements for public notice and agenda setting. The agenda must be finalized before the Council proceeds with other meeting items.

3. Statement of Conflict of Interest

Discussion

This is the time for the Chair, Vice Chair and Council Members to indicate any statements of conflict of interest for any item listed on this agenda. The River MAC bylaws state that members will not involve themselves in official River MAC activities that could materially benefit them personally, their business interests, or the interests of organizations that they represent. In a conflict of interest, the

member will abstain from voting, and the abstention will be recorded in the minutes.

4. Consent Agenda

Discussion Possible Action

These items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. The Lower Russian River MAC will act upon them at one time without discussion. Any Representatives, staff member or interested party may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

A. January 11 Minutes

5. Councilmember comment on matters not listed on the agenda

Discussion

Comments are restricted to matters within the Board's jurisdiction. Please be brief and limit spoken comments to one minute. Due to Brown Act regulations, this is not a time for discussion of any item, however a brief dialogue about considering an item for a future agenda is permitted during this time.

6. Public Comments

On Matters not listed on the agenda: Comments are restricted to matters within the Lower Russian River MAC's jurisdiction. Please be brief and limit spoken comments to two minutes.

7. County Update from Supervisor Lynda Hopkins / Staff

Discussion

Supervisor Hopkins will provide a County update including updates about the Tree Ordinances & Forestry tour, flood preparedness, Community Engagement Plan, and the Unincorporated Governance Ad Hoc Committee.

8. Lower Russian River Governance Study Discussion

Discussion Possible Action

Discussion on the 3rd and final Blue Sky Governance Solutions Study community meeting, held on January 27 at Guerneville School, and how the MAC will be involved in ongoing community initiatives related to Governance Solutions. The council will deliberate on steps forward based on community input and discussions from the meeting. A written summary and audio recording of the meeting are available on the Lower Russian River MAC website [here](#) for reference and further community engagement.

9. Guerneville Plaza Infrastructure Improvement Planning

Discussion

Supervisor Hopkins has earmarked funding for infrastructure improvements in Downtown Guerneville, with a portion of funds designated for improvements to the Downtown Plaza. This is an opportunity for the MAC to receive public comment and discuss recommendations for improvement projects in this area.

10. Committee & Community Project Reports

Discussion

Written reports are included for review. Committee chair or delegate may briefly highlight parts of

the update, respond to councilmember questions, and receive public comment.

A. Community Engagement and Outreach Committee

B. Land Use Committee

C. Community Clean Up Project - no report

D. Land Acknowledgement Committee - no report

11. Formation of 2024 Land Use Committee

Discussion Possible Action

The River MAC may establish single-purpose committees or subcommittees, consisting of less than a quorum of MAC members (i.e. four), on an as-needed basis by a quorum vote. All committees and subcommittees shall have a life of one year, with the possibility of extension by the MAC after review.

2023 committee members Nicholls, Thayer, and Rogoff have expressed interest in continuing on the committee with Patty Thayer expressing willingness to chair the committee. Community member Nick Schwanz has expressed interest in joining the committee in the community member role.

The 2024 Land Use Committee Meeting schedule will be 5:30-6:30 PM on the first Thursday of each even month: 2/1, 4/4, 6/6, 8/1, 10/3, 12/4

Should Land Use topics arise that warrant discussion or action between regular meetings, the Chair may call for a special meeting.

12. Prospective future agenda items - Informational item

Discussion

Protections for Unincorporated Residential Tenants
Care Court Implementation Plan
Fire Readiness / Vegetation Management / GMRS
Guerneville Public Safety

13. Adjournment



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council

Minutes

Regular Meeting

January 11, 2024 05:30 PM

Fife Creek Commons Community Room - 16376 5th Street, Guerneville, CA 95446

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/lrrmac>

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chair - Rio Nido Representative: Pip Marquez de la Plata.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Lead by Guerneville Representative: Joe Rogoff

B. Roll Call

Present: Chair - Rio Nido Representative: Pip Marquez de la Plata, Forestville Representative: Lonnie Lazar, Guerneville Representative: Joe Rogoff, Guerneville Representative: Spencer R. Scott, Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon Representative: Betsy Van Dyke, Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker, Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls, Hacienda Representative: Vicki Clewes, Forestville Representative: Thai Hilton

Staff Present: Debbie Ramirez, Lupe Catalan, D5 Staff Other MAC Members, for Brown Act Training: Kathy Dahl and online: Patty Thayer, Jenn Otten, Brian Andriola

2. Approval of Agenda

Cynthia motioned approval of the agenda with the change of moving public comment to just after the consent agenda

Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker motioned to approve. A second was made by Hacienda Representative: Vicki Clewes.

The motion passed with the following vote:

 9 In Favor 0 Opposed
 Abstained Absent

3. Statement of Conflict of Interest

A. The River MAC bylaws state that members will not involve themselves in official River MAC activities that could materially benefit them personally, their business interests, or the interests of organizations that they represent. In a conflict of interest, the member will abstain from voting, and the abstention will be recorded in the minutes.

There were no statements of conflict of interest.

4. Introductions & Councilmember comment on matters not listed on the agenda

- Joe Rogoff: Guerneville Rep, chairs the communications committee and is on the land use committee. Interests include advancing workforce housing, protecting the environment, and securing fair county resources for Guerneville and the Lower Russian River.
- Spencer Scott Guerneville Rep: Prioritizes the long-term wealth and health of the community.
- Lonnie Lazar: New Rep from Forestville: Has lived in Forestville for about 1.5 years. Intent on preserving the environment and the unique community feeling of the lower Russian River area.
- Thai Hilton, New Rep from Forestville: Resident since 2017, interested in representing Forestville at the county level and ensuring local concerns are addressed.
- Vicki Clewes, Hacienda: Second year of the first term. Engaged in understanding and helping to resolve community issues.
- Pip Marquez de La Plata: Long-term member of the MAC, focused on bringing attention and resources to Rio Nido, a community often overlooked.
- Betsy Van Dyke: Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon: aims to voice concerns of less-recognized communities. Involved in community organizations since 1987.
- Cynthia Striker, Rep from Monte Rio Villa Grande: 46-year resident, liaises with the citizens' advisory group in Monte Rio, focusing on wastewater, workforce housing, the environment, and fire protection.
- Mike Nicholls: Rep from Duncans Mills / Cazadero. Sixth year on the MAC, involved in rural broadband expansion, fire protection, and has a background in the food industry.
- Kathy Dahl, Guerneville Alternate: Long-term community representative, focusing on the well-being of Gville.
- Patty Thayer Alternate for Villa Grande / Monte Rio: Second year as an alternate, involved in land use, communications, and land acknowledgment committees. Interests align with community housing, the environment, and climate change.
- Jenn Otten, Rio Nido Alternate: Manages the Russian River Resource Facebook page, aims to contribute to community groups and initiatives.
- Brian Andriola, Hacienda Alternate: Focused on community resiliency, fire protection, communication, public infrastructure, and general community resiliency.

5. Consent Agenda

A. December 14 Minutes

Due to not being in attendance or not seated at the 12/14 meeting, Pip, Thai, Lonnie & Spencer abstained from voting on the approval of the minutes.

Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls motioned to approve. A second was made by Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon Representative: Betsy Van Dyke.

The motion passed with the following vote:

 5 In Favor 0 Opposed
 4 Abstained Absent

6. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

7. Welcome & Remarks from Supervisor Lynda Hopkins

Supervisor Hopkins was unable to attend this meeting.

8. Selection of 2024 Chair and Vice Chair

A. Nomination and election of Chair

Pip Marquez de La Plata was elected chair.

Hacienda Representative: Vicki Clewes motioned to approve. A second was made by Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon Representative: Betsy Van Dyke.

The motion passed with the following vote:

5 In Favor 4 Opposed
 Abstained Absent

B. Nomination and election of Vice Chair

Mike Nicholls was elected vice chair.

Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker motioned to approve. A second was made by Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon Representative: Betsy Van Dyke.

The motion passed with the following vote:

9 In Favor 0 Opposed
 Abstained Absent

9. **Brown Act Training**

Debbie Ramirez provided an overview of the Ralph M. Brown Act Open Meeting Law and how it applies in the context of the Municipal Advisory Council.

10. **2024 River MAC Calendar**

The MAC voted to continue with monthly meetings, attempting to keep meetings at a two hour limit when possible.

Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls motioned to approve. A second was made by Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon Representative: Betsy Van Dyke.

The motion passed with the following vote:

8 In Favor 1 Opposed
 Abstained Absent

11. 2023 Land Use Committee Report and Establishment of 2024 Land Use Standing Committee

It was decided not to take action on this item and form the 2024 Committee at the February meeting. Lonnie and Patty expressed interest in being on the committee.

12. Establishment of Community Engagement and Outreach Ad Hoc Committee with the purpose to update the Community Engagement and Outreach Plan

The Community Engagement and Outreach Committee was formed to update the Community Engagement and Outreach Plan. The Committee consists of: Joe Rogoff (Chair), Thai Hilton, Betsy Van Dyke, & Vicki Clewes.

Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker motioned to approve. A second was made by Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls.

The motion passed with the following vote:

9 In Favor 0 Opposed
 Abstained Absent

13. Agenda Development Overview - Informational Material

A draft Board of Supervisors Calendar of Significant Items was shared.

14. Adjournment

With a motion from Mike Nicholls, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM

The Com Com met on January 20 in its new form: Joe Rogoff, Vicki Clewes, Betsy VanDyke and new member Thai Hilton. Also present was Debbie Ramirez.

We reviewed the proposals that we presented in our 2023 report:

- Include upcoming community events as a regular agenda item at LRRMAC meetings in order to recruit other MAC members to table.
 - Debbie agreed to take this to Pip as a regular agenda item
- Have a MAC meeting that reveals process steps for major county projects, and communicate those steps for individual major projects
 - This was programmed into our Land Use Committee meeting that Scott Orr from Permit Sonoma and Planning Commissioners Koenigshofer and Marquez attended.
- Schedule a county-wide MAC meeting
 - Discussed with Debbie following up

We assigned each member the review the Community Engagement and Outreach Plan, which will be revisited in our meeting in Feb, with a goal of completing our recommendations by end of March.

We also share that we invited a community member to our Ad Hoc. Marcia Petre will be joining us for our next meeting.

Our next meeting is February 24.



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council

575 Administration Drive, Room 100A

Santa Rosa CA 95403

February 1, 2024

To: Lower Russian River MAC Representatives and Alternates
From: Michael Nicholls – Land Use Committee Chair
Subject: Land Use Sub-Committee Meeting

The Land Use Committee held a joint meeting with the Lower Russian River MAC on February 1, 2024. The agenda included Major Land Use Project Process and Steps for Public Input. Hosting Deputy Director of Permit Sonoma, ScoF Orr. Attendees included Planning Commissioners Koenigshofer and Marquez and MAC Members ScoF and Strecker. The agenda also included the Sub-Committee's Organization and Meeting Calendar for 2024.

Agenda Item 3

Deputy Director Orr reviewed Ministerial, Discretionary and Land Use permitting in detail. It was noted by committee members and by public input, that permitting is a complex subject and challenging for constituents to follow. Mr. Orr shared that Permit Sonoma had identified this issue and a new employee will be charged with updating websites and outreach into a format understood by the lay person. It was urged from public comment, that a glossary of terms also be included on outreach by Permit Sonoma. Committee members were grateful to be updated on the streamlining process undertaken by Permit Sonoma at the request from the County Board of Supervisors. The meeting minutes will include the specific examples Mr. Orr presented on each type of permit.

Agenda Item 4

Chair Nicholls stated that succession is important on public committees and recommended that a new chair be appointed for 2024. Member Thayer indicated she would volunteer for the chair position for 2024 if Nicholls would remain on the committee. Member Rogoff stated his interest on remaining on the committee. Member Hernandez has resigned from the committee and Nick Schwanz, co-owner of Solarpunk Farms in Guerneville volunteered for the community member position on the Committee. We will require the full MAC Council to confirm the existing members, appoint a new MAC representative to the committee and confirm Mr. Schwanz as the community member to the board.

Agenda Item 5

The committee agreed to a standing calendar, meeting on the first Thursday of even numbered months. Special Meetings may be held at the discretion of the Chair.

Sincerely,


Michael Nicholls, Chair, Land Use Sub-Committee
Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council