

The Springs Municipal Advisory Council represents the people of the Springs in Sonoma Valley as the voice of the community to elected representatives. SMAC is committed to engage with all community members in meaningful and inclusive ways to promote the health and wellbeing of the Springs.

**Springs Municipal Advisory Council
Minutes of the Virtual Meeting
August 10, 2022**

1. Call to Order 6:32

Roll Call: Vice Chair Perot

Present: Iturri, Lombard, Alcaraz, Reyes, Winders, Hardeman

Absent: Franklin

Chair Iturri welcomed all. Spanish interpretation available. In-Person meetings will reconvene following Health Dept. reassessment. Acknowledged everyone providing support. There will be a change in agenda sequence, moving the ERAP presentation item to earlier position.

Present: Juan Morales, Interpreter

2. Approval of Minutes of July 13, 2022 Meeting

Vice Chair Perot moved to approve Minutes of July 13th, Councilmember Hardeman Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Chair Iturri called for Public Comment 2 minute limit, Vice Chair Perot will signal time

(Limited to items not appearing on the agenda)

Sonia Caraval (Yulisa Elenes) w/ **Unite Here Local 2850**, Hotel & Hospitality Workers Union in North Bay. Their POV is Sonoma County economy has multiple deeply interrelated problems, e.g. extreme inequality, w/ many businesses catering to ultra-wealthy tourists while exploiting largely immigrant workforce, displacement of low-income residents due to skyrocketing rents & housing prices, increased wildfire caused by global warming, mounting pressure to develop historically protected open space. Not working for anyone. SDC cannot be more of the same old development that creates profit for the owners at expense of community around it. It is an opportunity for a different kind of sustainable development that works w/ all these issues Sonoma Valley faces. SDC should include much needed community benefits. Community Benefit Agreements— CBAs, has been used on a wide variety of projects over the last few decades. Essentially projects on public land w/ major approvals, like SDC. Can legally bind developer to commitments that the community has prioritized, e.g. affordable housing, open space preservation, providing grocery store in a food desert, free child care, living wages for workers. Their Union, Unite Here, involved in negotiating such agreements in Santa Rosa, Oakland, San Francisco, San Diego, Concord & more. For SDC County residents, particularly in Sonoma Valley, determine what is most important based on community needs. Could push for high level of affordable & workforce housing, wildlife corridor protection, support of housing

for disabled, good living wage jobs & much more. Have successfully negotiated for CBAs, Community Benefit Agreements, in North Bay. How to do this explained by next speaker.

Marty Bennet, w/ Unite Here Local, City of Sonoma resident, shares Valley concerns re SDC development. Don't know who developer will be or what they will propose; State will announce only weeks before final Specific Plan November vote. As it now stands, that will be last time BoS will consider & vote on project. Then solely up to State Dept. of General Services & their choice for developer. Presently much uncertainty & distrust re SDC. Need to call the Specific Plan to include requirement for agreement between future developer & county that addresses key community benefits, e.g. affordable housing, environmental protection, good jobs. Be able to negotiate w/ whoever is chosen re correct project development that meets community needs. Can make more specific demands once more info is available. Then BoS will have to vote to approve the deal. Make sure Supervisors listen & pass Project w/ strong community benefits. Can make community voices heard through Community Benefits Agreement to make SDC a sustainable & equitable development.

Fred Allebach, a brief friendly greeting.

Dana Bravo, attended Table Talk exercise of evacuation drill last week simulated for Sonoma Valley. Through Sonoma County COAD, Community Organization Active in Disasters. Eye opening to see how deployment works. Looking for more Valley non-profits to participate.

Public Comment closed.

4. CDC/Health Department: ERAP Program Update (@10:58)

Dave Kiff, Sonoma County CDC presentation on Emergency Rental Assistance Program County runs w/ community based partners.

Informational presentation ERAP program application & selection process



08-11-2022 ERAP
Update.pdf

(See full document in Supplemental Docs)

FUNDS ALLOCATED:

	Amount Awarded to Sonoma County	Amount Received to Date (7-31-2022)	Amount under contract to CBOs including Admin	Amount Disbursed to CBOs for Direct Assistance
Federal Funds ERA 1	\$14,697,467.79	\$ 14,697,467.79	\$ 14,697,467.79	\$ 13,227,721.01
State Funds ERA 2	\$13,787,577.78	\$ 13,787,577.58	\$ 12,854,205.16	\$ 10,078,018.30
Federal Funds ERA 2 ¹	\$17,332,239.80	\$ 12,132,567.90	\$ 14,777,500.00	\$ 10,255,658.60
Federal ERA #1 (reallocation) ²	\$ 312,000.00	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Totals	\$ 46,129,285	\$ 40,617,613	\$ 42,329,173	\$ 33,561,398

¹ Next tranche of Federal ERA 2 funds (about \$5M) not yet received, but pending.

² County requested \$4.4M from reallocation of Fed ERA #1, received notice of \$312,000. Amount not yet in hand.

Sonoma County Total \$46million

\$33million to direct assistance to residents of So Co

Applications Process – total applications approx. 6,600. 5,000 cases decided i.e. rewarded or rejected. 1,500 cases to be resolved.

Current Status:

July 2022 Average award \$7,400 per household (higher than recent months)

July 2022 81.5% acceptance rate, i.e. less than 20% rejected (higher than recent months)

Estimated cases that could be approved: 1,262

Estimated remaining ERAP need: about \$9,400,000.

Estimated shortfall: **\$4,118,000**

Have asked for reallocation of funds from other agencies across CA & nation that were not used.

Reallocated Funds

–US Treasury Sonoma County requested \$4.4 million

We were awarded only \$312thousand

These funds not yet received as of 7/31/2022.

–US Treasury Sonoma County requested \$5 million

Decision TBD

No other reallocations are anticipated. The State does not anticipate making any reallocations of State Round #1 or State Round #2. \$4.4mil, awarded only \$312 thousand

Area Median Income (AMI) of Awardees

ERA Awardees by % of AMI: 56% under 30% of AMI; 27% under 30%-50%; 17% under 50%-80%

Clarified - to be eligible, must have Covid related impact that made it impossible for family to make rent

Awardee Ethnicity

35% Hispanic or Latino; 52% Non-Hispanic or Latino; 13% Decline to Answer

Awardee Race

2% American Indian or Alaska Native

2% Asian

4% Black or African American

1% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

19% Other Multi-Racial

52% White

20% Decline to Answer

Awarded Households by Region

Sonoma Valley & City 8%; Santa Rosa 42% largest

Disposition of the NBOP (North Bay Organizing Program) list of 66 names

Names on NBOP List of 66, some unable to track

In-complete 1

No Records Found * 19

Cases 46

Under Review 30

Paid Out 8

Denied 6

Withdrawn 1

Other 1

Other agencies assisting:

La Luz, all cases completed

CAPS 15 of 546 (Community Action Partnership Sonoma)

CPI 11 of 506 (Child Parent Institute)

PPSC 4 of 450 (Petaluma Peoples Service Center)

Commented there is a staffing problem w/ these agencies, not moving as quickly as preferred.

*Note: some or all of the 19 in “No records found” could be enrolled in Neighborly via a phone number or other identifier different from the one on the NBOP List –these individuals or families may indeed have cases open, resolved, or some other outcome. Remaining cases w/ other agencies

Chair Iturri called for Council Comments (@18:06)

Councilmember Lombard, asked for clarification re distribution by Race. Does 52% white include Hispanic? Dave Kiff, no, 35% Non-Hispanic or Latino on Ethnicity chart. Race chart confusing.

Councilmember Winders, what specific steps are being taken to resolve household cases still under review & being shuffled around? A serious crisis situation for all, in fear of losing their homes. Dave Kiff, has directed Staff to quickly get to end; yes, people waiting too long. His staff only 1.5 people; community based organizations helping are also stretched thin.

Councilmember Alcaraz, why would people not qualify? Weak applications? Dave Kiff, several reasons. Person preparing or submitting not communicating aggressively enough when submitting documents. Agency will wait, docs can be late. Biggest concern is when no one is pushing it. Documents needed for application: evidence of Covid impairment; evidence of job loss or delay/dates; evidence of rent remaining; evidence of normal income. This generally what slows people down. With NBOP list, not that many cases denied – 6; more an issue of gathering paper on time.

Chair Iturri called for Public Comment 3 minute limit

Fred Allebach, thanked Dave for helping w/ his own ERAP case. Initially ERAP advertised for rent in arrears & future rent. Fred’s case for future rent; then agencies prioritized rent in arrears. But 6 months ago state announced that future rents would be considered now too. What is status? Dave Kiff, yes, was a period arrears were first, now period for which people can ask for rent is period between March 2020 & March 31 2022. If person hasn’t asked for & are eligible for those 18 months, can still submit. However, already have a shortfall, so prioritizing in-place applications.

Mario Castillo, was one of organizers who produced clinic, w/ NBOP; 20 volunteers from Food for All who have been waiting & don’t know where their cases are. Personally involved w/ a case, feels getting runaround. Reached out to Sup Gorin for help. Finally got a reply from CAP

but it was a standardized message. Are we being put on another waiting list? What about the promises for help that were made? Affects their credibility. Dave Kiff, happy to help w/ all 22 names. Please send to him. Will follow up & find where they are in system & advise.

dave.kiff@sonoma-county.org.

Karina directed further questions to her: Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org

5. Community Event Announcements

Councilmember Reyes, Back to School Health Fair, August 13th, 12-2:30pm, Alta Mira Middle School, Sonoma Valley students. 40 agencies participating, acknowledged sponsors who helped raise \$20,000 especially Supervisor Gorin as first donor. For info/questions

Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org

Dana Bravo, Community Festival & Emergency Preparedness Fair, Saturday Sept 10 Larson Park, 3-7pm. Announcement from Sonoma Valley Collaborative - doing Survey on climate hazards & awareness - what PGE can do for community? SurveyMonkey links.

Sam Kimpel, Officer for Creative Sonoma, division of Economic Development Board. Good news: new Grant program launched this year, first 6 fellows, Arts & Cultural Equity Program/Grant to support communities of color. Jesus Bravo from Sonoma Valley. Grant goal to support & advance cultural workers economically & creatively. Jesus buying new welder, expand his work & different material options. Victor Ferrer, Grupo Foklorico, Sonoma Valley semifinalist, & designer. Each winner gets \$5,000. Grant also supported by Manitou Fund, professional development funding. Community event planned in six months, Jan/Feb.

Karina, Charla Comunitaria, Thursday, August 11, 6-7pm, Zoom & Facebook. Focus on Civic Education, learn who our city, state, federal Representatives are & how to access resources.

6. Supervisor Susan Gorin Update

- SDC, Springs Specific Plan & EIRs released today. Encouraged all to access Permit Sonoma website. Draft Plan 198 pp. Encouraged speed reading & taking notes.
- **Joint meeting w/ Springs & North Valley MACs, August 24 at SVCAC for comments to Planning Commission.** Then Final Draft to BoS in November. Coordinate Springs MAC comments for next joint meeting at end of September. Feels new Draft not much different from previous; good language & visual images. Stay open-minded during review. Acknowledged community's concern as Plan moving through process at same time State seeking RP for developer. Noted Public Comment suggestion re community benefits; met w/ Marty Bennett & community members. Not sure how it can apply due to timeline & sequence. There is a development team, w/ multiple members, still forming. Will be opportunities for community to work w/ developer & Permit Sonoma, as it navigates through development process for approval, etc. over 10-20 years.
- Well Ordinance proposal moving through approval process. There are wells in the Springs District. Will either be paying fees & navigating through VoM Water District, or new well applications will be under new Ordinance. Doing community outreach; possible short presentation for Springs MAC but more applicable to GE & Kenwood than

Springs. Sonoma Valley basin has declining groundwater; property owners concerned about potential contamination, increased salinity, drying up, big wells next to shallower. Good that California is finally grappling w/ groundwater concerns.

- Housing Element being updated, meeting/workshop on housing strategies. Go to Board Agenda for relevant pages. Springs MAC could work w/ Permit Sonoma on presentation for housing strategies, either proposed or tracking success of strategies in place. E.g. preservation of mobilehomes, affordable housing, ADUs as affordable housing; subject now more complex - have to rezone land for over 4,000 units in unincorporated areas. Previously only 500-600 units. Not just SDC, other areas in Sonoma Valley & in county.
- Welcomed new MAC members, acknowledged Council's good work

Chair Iturri called for Public Comment. None.

Chair Iturri called for Council Comment.

Vice Chair Perot, re tracking effect of re-zoning. Would that be from Springs Specific Plan?

Supervisor Gorin, explained there was an effort 1.5 years ago to identify parcels in Springs & Valley for rezoning. Decided to move this effort into Housing Element (HE) update. This means a rezoning aspect to HE, to look at specific parcels, increase zoning, make more attractive to economically viable & affordable housing. At beginning of process of community conversation. City of Sonoma also updating Housing Element. This area has been requested by community to engage in conversation w/ City Council re shared services, e.g. Planning Services, etc. Dialog in process.

Councilmember Winders, would like to revisit ADU issue in more detail, significant in Springs. Has been housing for singles or couples, low income; used to be an affordable option. No longer viable option. Homeowners finding it difficult to get built; meet all the requirements. Springs building done in past decades perhaps not up to code; now being torn down. So losing housing. Supervisor Gorin, valid comment. Acknowledged the problem of people living in illegal converted garages. Yes, Permit Sonoma can sometimes come down hard in code enforcement. But County wants to move forward; how can things progress? Important that the unit be safe. Often missing plumbing. There is a discussion in process re Tiny Homes, recurring problem, people being evicted due to lack of sanitation facilities. Exploring composting toilets as option. Also Regional Water Quality Control Board issue concerning potential contamination. Yes, good idea to have further discussion w/ MAC, e.g. on cost, legalizing non-conforming units, how to produce ADU's, or JADU's (Junior Accessory Dwelling Unit), shared housing. Suggested a community workshop.

Vice Chair Perot called for Public Comment

Fred Allebach, attended yesterday's BoS meeting, able to take off time & engage in civic discussion because his rent 50% of median county rent. Didn't have clear takeaway from Housing Element session. Anticipated Permit Sonoma would tackle equity issues but didn't see that. What were Supervisor Gorin's takeaways? **Sup Gorin**, noted the hybrid meeting had tech problems. One recognized priority is the need to look at mobilehome parks preservation, e.g. Vermont State law that if park is for sale, the homeowners have first right of refusal. Parks an important source of affordable housing in Sonoma Valley. Siesta Apartments purchased a park, relocated folks, offered 92 units of senior housing on site. Noted that Jane Reilly mentioned

they are tracking efforts/strategies going forward; number of units. Just rezoning land not sufficient. Conversation will be evolving next couple of months.

Public Comment Closed.

7. Sonoma Valley Fire District Update (@57:15)

Informational update, fire preparedness

Chief Steve Akre, Sonoma Valley Fire

- Vegetation management program. Continuing to partner w/ county on inspections. Focused area. Completed 250 inspections in Springs, Waterman area. It is first an educational process, then a compliance. About 60% in first year, previously Hillside/Chestnut area. Focused on education; what the community can absorb. Will do a second year in same area to get better understanding/compliance of defensible space for individual properties & as collective community.
- Completed all Weed Abatements in City & Fire District. Working collaboratively w/ Law Enforce & Dept. of Emergency Mgmt. re Springs' parking issues re evacuation/emergency routes. Springs' roads tight, originally designed as vacation homes/cottages. Not for heavy traffic, more vehicles. Parking big issue. Not adequate anymore. Doing more posting.
- Departments Chipper program in service & active to mitigate fuels. See website for info, in collaboration w/ county. Program available for use.
- Springs & SDC Specific Plan, Draft EIRs.; Fire District actively engaged in both. Submitted formal comments on EIR, working w/ county Planning Staff/consultants on modeling for wildfire evacuation probabilities. First priority Public Safety, i.e. access & evacuate areas, plus provide adequate daily service. Both Plans as proposed will challenge current levels of Fire District service. Will need ability to grow FD capabilities re public safety, day to day & emergency/disaster.
- Fire Season is happening. Responded to 50+ acre fire near Sears Point, Oak Fire/Mariposa, & McKinney/Yreka. 3 engine companies plus overhead support sent. Some returning. Kudos to dedication of Fire District & all volunteers involved.

Chair Iturri reported she recently did a ride-along with Fire Dept. through Springs. Good learning experience.

Chair Iturri called for Council Comments.

Vice Chair Perot, why doesn't Springs have smaller fire engines? Chief Akre, just bought 2 new engines, one for Agua Caliente/Springs & one for GE. They are much smaller than ones for City.

Councilmember Reyes, thanked FD for making Battalion Chief available for upcoming Health Fair. Chief Akre, that is Chief Cyr, EMS Chief, led efforts to collaborate w/ Health Center, community vaccinations. Will present at upcoming MAC, leader in AEDs & CPR in community, as District exploring ways to improve, but recent CPR save at high school w/ young man, so now working collaboratively w/ Just One Mike Foundation, increase awareness of AEDs & CPR.

Councilmember Lombard, any discussion to make Springs' roads One-Way? Realizes the challenges to this idea due to limitations. Chief Akre, that is a bigger process/longer look, but

first currently doing collaborative evaluation with Chair Iturri, Dept. of Emerg. Mgmt., Sheriff's Dept., Public Works & Transportation, working to enforce what is currently on books re parking restrictions, signage. Looking at best options for evacuation & ingress of First Responders.

Chair Iturri called for Public Comment

Fred Allebach, this MAC a good forum to meet County/Valley reps. Re EIRs for Springs Specific Plan, SDC & Housing Element Plan in terms of fire risk. Looking at 2022 Tax Credit Opportunity Area (TCOA) i.e. highest opportunity areas in Sonoma Valley, up towards GE & west of Arnold. Some areas in Urban Service area, also east side Lovall Valley & Castle Rd are TCOA, these overlap w/ fire risk areas. His POV of urban/wildlife interface & fire risk maps these aren't high risk. Some, yes. Urban Service area w/ municipal water & sewer should not become like a gated community based on fire risk & groundwater issues. Not right. Housing equity needs to be recognized as issue w/ risks, hopes that is considered. This issue has become a political football at project meetings, people saying – we don't want to be like Paradise. There is an overlap between highest opportunity areas where fair housing should go & also higher fire risk. Need to take this risk to be an equitable society. **Chief Akre**, fire hazard severity zones being closely watched/reviewed. Expect new Cal Fire maps by fall. Using a uniformed designation, set of criteria throughout state. First time done this way. Working to eliminate the political aspect. Will use in comments on Springs Specific & SDC Plans. Re Lovall Valley, etc. not SVFD service area, except for emergency. Re housing equity - very important to Fire District, support in principle & application, specifically work-force housing for the District, so their personnel be able to afford to live here & stay through their careers. Rely on off duty & volunteers for support daily, but more important during emergencies.

Councilmember Reyes, Julie/Halter Project having a community emergency preparedness event, August 23rd, 6-8pm w/ Emerg. Mgmt. Bilingual.

Break: 9 minutes till 8pm

8. Chair Iturri Update (@ 1:27:45)

- MAC Councilmember Ron Franklin has withdrawn due to personal time commitments.
- Announced her appointment as SVCAC liaison.
- Councilmember Hardeman's position shifts from Alternate to Voting Member. Two Alternate Positions open. Accepting applications.
- Emerg Prep event Sept 10th, collaboration w/ Dr. Nancy Brown/County, Councilmember Reyes/Health Center, Dana Bravo, Lisa Jansen/City. At Larson Park.
- Legal notice from County Counsel re Social Media outreach. Councilmembers cannot have comments on Facebook due to Brown Act violations. Any notes as Minutes posted after meeting must be officially approved, then posted. Working w/ Counsel on further clarification.

Karina, clarified that posting of personal meeting notes by MAC Vice Chair Perot cannot continue, not official. Official Minutes are available on Springs MAC website.

<http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/smac> Brown Act does not allow for any MAC members to post or

comment on social media, not even a “like” on Facebook. Respond to her for further questions.
Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org

Chair Iturri noted the MAC Facebook page is allowed. Karina added that Springs MAC has a Facebook “group.” Recommended it be changed to a “page.” A group requires application to join; for better equal community opportunity convert it into a page.

Discussion

Lin Marie deVincent, as official MAC Minute Taker, inquired as to her ability to post on Facebook re Springs MAC agenda, etc. (not Minutes). Karina, yes, as community member, not Councilmember, allowed to post. The Brown Act specifies that the community must be able to respond to MAC members, so random Facebook comments cannot be allowed.

Vice Chair Perot, can Councilmember post notice of meetings on FB? Karina, yes. But no other Councilmembers can comment/reply/like, etc.

Councilmember Winders, suggested a tutorial from Legal Counsel in near future as MAC agenda item to help all understand better. Community may not realize the limitations, & think Councilmembers are being apathetic when they do not respond. Chair Iturri, agreed.

Chair Iturri called for Public Comment 3 minutes

Fred Allebach, enjoyed Hannah’s Facebook notes. Actual consequence of a Violation probably miniscule. Larger Violations just require retracting. Brown Act not like the FBI. MAC just wants daylight on their process but have to play by rules of game.

Mario Castillo, thanked Celeste for suggestion to Agendize this item. She keeps things real & honest. Important to be transparent w/ MAC communications. Seconded Fred’s comments.

Public Comment closed.

Chair Iturri called for Council Comments. None.

9. Sonoma County Health Services: Mobile Support Team (@1:39:11)

Informational Presentation Sonoma Valley Mobile Support Group

- Wendy Tappan LMFT, Health Program Manager



Springs MAC Mobile
Support Team.pdf

(For full content see Supplemental Docs)

OVERVIEW

History: ten years in service

Product of community planning process and stakeholder groups on how to allocate resources when Prop 63/MHSA was passed.

Most requested services was a field based crisis team to respond to mental health crisis that was not just Law Enforcement, and a team with a closer partnership with Law Enforcement.

MST started in September 2012-served Santa Rosa and Windsor

Expanded to South County in 2015, with support of triage grant

Expanded to West County in 2019, with support of triage grant

Expanded services to Sonoma Valley in 2019 with funding support from Board of Supervisors

Two person team: 2 clinicians or 1 clinician & AODS, (Alcohol & Other Drugs) counselor
Try to stabilize & provide safety & support to situation. "5150 Hold" (involuntary Hold to mandate people get treatment) evaluated if needed; try to avoid if possible.
Law Enforcement response team. Respond to 911 calls or non-emergency call through Dispatch; they request Mobile Team response after law enforcement deem it safe.
Recently partnered w/ City of Santa Rosa & Santa Rosa police for inRESPONSE program to provide an MST clinician on the response van. A CAHOOTS style program.

Respond to Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Sonoma Valley, Sebastopol, Guerneville and surrounding areas, Windsor and unincorporated areas including unincorporated Santa Rosa.

Two different models to see what works best. Every community has different needs.

Hours - Mon Fri take calls 12:30pm 9:30pm; serve all of Sonoma Valley

Expansion plans, to 7 days a week, & to north county - Healdsburg & Cloverdale

Call 911 or local law enforcement & request MST

Questions 707 565 4797

Email MST@sonoma-county.org

Wendy.Tappon@sonoma-county.org

Chair Iturri called for Council Comments.

Chair Iturri, how many teams are available at any given time? How many responses in valley since team has been in operation? **Wendy**, will get numbers on responses & provide to MAC.

Councilmember Alcaraz, how does team assess a call re mental crisis? Are there criteria? Could be difficult to assess. **Wendy**, complex answer; they are looking at & using different models & partnering w/ Santa Rosa for response w/o law enforcement. Currently in Sonoma Valley they are required to go out w/ law enforcement. Calls tend to be higher level acute crisis, i.e. suicide, psychosis, threats of violence. There are other kinds of crisis which might not need law enforcement. Case by case basis. Look at person's history w/ mental health e.g. is this their first time or multiple times? What is best way to support them? Currently model is w/ law enforcement response model to 911 calls, w/ their team as needed.

Supervisor Gorin, former Supervisor Shirlee Zane, mental health professional, advocated for this approach & was responsible for initiating program. Sup Gorin had personal experience w/ friend's family crisis; saw first-hand the value of MST program. Mentioned incident of fatality in Sonoma Valley at mobilehome couple years ago. Knew then this program needed to expand, convinced BoS to find funding to expand to Sonoma Valley. Also currently working on funding approval to continue expansion. Evaluating track records of Santa Rosa & Petaluma programs, to transform model, recognizing CAHOOTS (Oregon) model's success. Jails are largest mental health facility in county. A year away to completion at main Adult Detention Facility for a mental health section, w/ professional staff. Didn't get funds for mental health collective in Sonoma Valley. Still working on the issue & funding.

Councilmember Winders, is team trained to serve those w/ developmental disabilities, like autism, intellectual disabilities, dual diagnosis? Are they trained to diagnosis if it's a mental

health crisis or a disabled person, especially speech/communication disability? Goes to IMP meetings as education advocate, heard these teams can be called by schools. Is that happening? Especially if law enforcement are involved. What happens when called to a home or location & person in crisis is a child? Are team members trained w/ response to children in acute mental health crisis? If yes, who provided training? If not, how to implement?

Wendy, yes, need more resources in schools. Currently responding to schools w/ law enforcement & their team. Re staff are trained clinicians in various graduate programs. Re autism, trainings done on how to de-escalate youth. One trainer is a parent/park ranger, does trainings for First Responders. Continue to work to continue training opportunities for learning & disabilities. Staff has experience w/ children, group homes, therapeutic. Re high suicide rates w/ youth, special attention to this. **Councilmember Winders**, will send an email re autism training; her son is autistic. Concerned about him & other children in community w/ disabilities.

Councilmember Lombard, program designed for people in extreme situations, what about those who are in other situations who might need services? **Wendy**, will get referrals to people looking for resources, do what they can to support to avoid crisis. System impacted due to greater need than can be provided for. Seeing more people in crisis & needing help, not necessarily in highest crisis. If systems could be improved, would be a better balance to providing help.

Councilmember Reyes, what resources can they provide to Valley in collateral outreach materials, business cards, etc? **Wendy**, a brochure "Effective Communication w/ 911" in English & Spanish, how to support families in need of help. Also Suicide Hot Line numbers, changing to 988, nationally. Have a general brochure, not much promotion due to time/budget constraints. **Councilmember Reyes**, 988 not for Spanish speakers, still call earlier 1 888 #. **Wendy**, did not know that, will follow up.

Chair Iturri called for Public Comment

Mario Castillo, has worked w/ Wendy as community navigator responder. Her team is outstanding. He is stationed & deals w/ referred cases to visit w/ families, evaluate situation, find resources, analyze what triggers crisis. Is a strong mental health services advocate. Covid & isolation making things worse. Schools failing them, system is broken. 911 number used, has resources. Calls are screened, team shows up. Wish there was more to do. Prefer to avoid involving law enforcement. Response Model helping the Latino community.

Chair Iturri called for Council Comments. None.

Chair Iturri called for Public Comment on ERAP item that was changed to earlier Agenda position. None.

10. Larson Park Letter of Support (@2:11:53)

Review and approve letter of support for Larson Park funding improvements

Chair Iturri acknowledged Vice Chair Perot for writing.

Read aloud by Vice Chair Perot.

August 10, 2022

To: Supervisor Susan Gorin

Via email: Re: Larson Park Funding

Dear Supervisor Gorin,

While researching Larson Park's history to write this letter in support of infrastructure improvements, we received a lot of help from county employees - Mundo Murguia described the master plan, Melanie Parker explained the history of the park, and Kathleen Culhane has researched funding attempts. It is clear a lot of work has already been done and it was also indicated repeatedly that you are a champion for Larson Park. However, the point remains that Larson Park has not received the money necessary to bring it up to date. While we know you are already a champion for us, we hope this letter can help you convince the Board of Supervisors and any other key players to come aboard and find the funding needed to enact the Larson Park Master Plan.

Larson Park is situated in the heart of the Springs along Sonoma Creek and next to Flowery Elementary school. Nestled in a neighborhood, it sometimes seems like it has been forgotten. The tennis courts are cracked (even though they are used daily by the pickleball players), and the soccer field is not-quite regulation size. While there was once a real bathroom, now there is only a dirty port-a-potty. Little League baseball games used to be played there, where a snack bar provided refreshments for the crowd. Gone are the Little League games and snack bar. Despite all this, the park is still heavily used, but it sends a message that the people who use this park do not matter enough to have nice infrastructure. Larson Park is one of two public parks in the unincorporated part of the Valley known as the Springs, the other being Ernie Smith Park. The census tract Larson Park is in has a Human Development Index (HDI) of 4.44 out of 10, as determined by the Portrait of Sonoma report. The HDI is an analysis of various factors like income, health, and education, used to compare quality of life. It is the lowest HDI in the Valley. The people with the most need are receiving the fewest benefits when the only park walkable. We understand funding is complicated, but we implore you to prioritize finding the funding for this park. From the information shared with us, in 2019 the County applied for a state grant for funding but did not make the cut. Maxwell Park, located 1.7 miles away in the city of Sonoma, has received funding for improvements recently even though it is arguably in better condition than Larson and located in a higher income area. We would ask that whatever creative measures funded Maxwell be reproduced to find funding for Larson. Our community needs access to quality outdoor recreation close to home. A local scientist, Dan Levitis, pointed out that Larson is perhaps the only public place in the Springs to get into natural water by accessing Sonoma Creek. The views of the eastern hills are majestic, and the park is a place for all people to experience nature and sports, from toddlers on the playground, to teens on the soccer field, to retirees on the tennis courts playing pickleball.

In the interim, we would request additional attention to the port-a-potty to keep it clean. It is heavily used and needs more attention than it is currently receiving.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests, both large and small. Authored by councilmembers Hannah Perot and Iris Lombard.

Sincerely, Maite Iturri

Chairperson, Springs MAC

CC: Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, Sheryl Bratton-County Administrator, Bert Whitaker - Sonoma County Regional Parks Director, Melanie Parker - Sonoma County Regional Parks Deputy Director, Mundo Murguia Sonoma County Planning Technician, Kathleen Culhane - Sonoma County Regional Parks Executive Assistant, Parks and Rec Advisory Committee, Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Senator Mike McGuire

Discussion (@2:16:50)

Supervisor Gorin, praised letter. Has been working w/ Regional Parks, on Larson & Maxwell; started w/ Maxwell two years earlier. Acknowledged Assembly member Mark Levine for earmark of \$1million towards Maxwell. In discussion w/ Assembly contender Damon Connelly to provide similar earmark for Larson Park. Will use same strategies to acquire funding from multiple sources. Larson Park's renovations will be less expensive; has visited, conditions are deplorable e.g. bathrooms, tennis courts. Locals avoiding use due to safety concerns; Tennis Club wrote letter to Regional Parks re conditions. Renovations will need to be done all at once. BoS been well informed, will forward this letter. Reported in District Newsletter via budget deliberations, challenged CAO (County Admin Office) to find mechanism to fund such projects, along w/ others e.g. a valley bike path; spoke w/ Congressman Jared Huffman on issue. CAO Sheryl Bratton promised to reply by next year w/ ideas. There will be a new CAO soon, (in recruitment process) to discuss/strategize/finance capital improvements for parks. Also, due to redistricting, will be a new Assembly member; District lines will go up the valley. Parks & SDC will be in District for newly elected Assembly member. Also this area District for Bill Dodd, not Mike McGuire, but send letter to both to join forces.

Chair Iturri, note to Karina to add Dodd & Levine to list. Sup Gorin, add note of thanks to Levine for Maxwell funding, mention one needed for Larson.

Councilmember Winders, suggested add – still heavily used for community gatherings & events in spite of its dilapidated/neglected condition.

Councilmember Lombard, suggested add - request for hand washing station as well as port a potty.

Councilmember Hardeman, has worked in Maxwell Park, Mundo no longer works there. Steve Ehret, Parks Planning Mgr. person to name.

Chair Iturri called for Public Comment

Fred Allebach, sentence in letter stating lowest HDI score in valley. Been doing research/collecting data for years on Census Tract 1503.05 which goes from Verano Ave to Madrone Rd, in between Hwy 12 & Arnold. That Tract has lowest HDI score in county too. AFFH Viewer (Affirmatively Fair Housing View) for info. Suggested including this data in letter, to add to case, to state this area is on the edge of being a Disadvantaged Community Status.

Public Comment closed.

Chair Iturri, would have to bring letter back to next MAC meeting to make this suggested change. Vice Chair Perot suggested including a concise statement so as to be approved tonight. Agreed.

Chair Iturri called for a motion to approve Letter. Councilmember Lombard moved to approve the edited Letter re Larson Park support, Councilmember Hardeman seconded. Vote, all in favor. Unanimous. Approved.

Councilmember Winders, has been working over two decades in Springs' community. Conversations/requests ongoing for Larson Park funding. Heard from community they are offended Maxwell being highly funded while Larson is being ignored. Feel that community does not matter. Her son going to Larson since age 6, cleaning trash out; now 19 still cleaning up trash. What actions can Spring's community take to get BoS to take this seriously & get traction after trying for twenty years? Tired of being ignored.

Supervisor Gorin, appreciated Councilmember Winders heartfelt comments. Understands Larson is a neighborhood park, so is Maxwell which has significantly higher usage, irrelevant of condition. Maxwell is also a part of Springs; Larson less visible behind Flowery School. Yes, meetings over time have expressed frustration, she was present. Recalled when community asked for funding when Master Plan was developed. But priorities for park planning resources shifted to building of Santa Rosa Park in honor of Andy Lopez. That community did find resources to complete the Park. Park planning efforts/resources for Maxwell & Larson were diverted. Regional Parks has not shirked on resources to parks in valley, received more than any other District (except District 5) from Measure M. City shares in this. Recognizes the desperate need for Larson's renovation, pledges will be next major effort. Master Plan approved 1.5 years later than Maxwell. Planning & resources shifting to Maxwell, while plans for Larson were being finalized. Just adopted as a Board one year ago. On the drawing board, commitment is made, realize the need for resources. Her bucket list includes Maxwell & Larson, & other items. There is a strategy, includes MAC's work bringing Larson to public attention, this support letter, getting state & federal earmarks in place. Frustrating when compared to other census tract status of other projects. Encouraged all to continue collaborating towards goals.

Chair Iturri, what else can be done besides letter?

Sup Gorin, letter is articulate & well crafted, presents personal perspective from community. BoS getting additional letters from community. Councilmember Winders' statements provide strong support. Next part - after decision is made, there will be a bid to renovate, but need to find funding. Steve Ehret & Burt Whittaker will be contacts; they will get copy of MAC letter. Also encouraged La Luz Center to provide fundraising event/s.

Councilmember Lombard, recent letter & editorial in SIT. From Nick B. Attach these to MAC letter? Comparing Maxwell & Larson like watermelon & cantaloupe. Maxwell larger, has benefit of Boys & Girls Club on location. But fee parking is detrimental @ \$7. Larson is free parking.

Supervisor Gorin, yes, need more parking. In conversation w/ Boys & Girls Club. Construction has begun at Maxwell. Excavated dirt will be dumped in area for pump track; advocated by Nikita for children w/ disability & developmental difficulties.

Councilmember Reyes, suggested inviting community engagement rep for County Parks & Rec, for more events. Also to do presentation at MAC for community engagement.

Supervisor Gorin, there was a Spring's Festival in Larson Park. Covid interfered. MAC could continue tradition of Spring's Festival in Larson. Was also a Farmers Market; didn't last. Yes, MAC could do more w/ Regional Parks. Encouraged new ideas.

Karina, asked for clarification on addition of SIT letters to letter of support.

Chair Iturri called for Public Comment

Lisa Willett, in support of Larson Park renovations; family uses allot, will continue to advocate.

Also, in Maxwell Park is the Skatepark. Heard there has been a change & not getting funding from Measure M due to some technicality? **Supervisor Gorin**, not aware of restrictions.

Referred her to Steve Ehret. Measure M hasn't raised as much money as perceived. Approaches long list of deferred maintenance in 58 Regional Parks, doesn't go very far. Has fundraising ideas for Skatepark & pump track. Will inquire to Regional Parks.

Fred Allebach, complimented everyone on well done, bilingual public meeting: Supervisor Gorin, Chair Iturri, MAC, translator, et al.

Chair Iturri, returned to suggestion to add 2 new SIT letter enclosures to MAC support letter. Added. Called for a motion to approve.

Vice Chair Perot made a new motion to approve final draft of letter of support, Councilmember Lombard seconded. All in favor. Unanimous. Approved.

Supervisor Gorin, encouraged all to send additional letters to BoS re parks.

11. Ad hoc Updates (@ 2:53:08)

Council Reports, Announcements, updates

Chair Iturri reminded all to include Karina in MAC communications, she will forward to Supervisor Gorin.

Art: bicycle rack project, no progress/good intentions for coming months.

Community Outreach: Jesus & Hannah. Promoting event that is in planning stages - event in Larson Park, Sept 10th, E Waste Event. Flyer on Facebook page.

Community Voice, no meetings/reports. Councilmember Reyes, morphing Town Hall & Fire Preparedness events, plus E Waste Event; intention to hold Town Hall in near future.

Roads: Hannah, Iris. No report.

E Waste Event: Jesus, Celeste, Hannah. Vice Chair Perot, in planning stages. Recology donating bins for creek clean up. Not going to be an E Waste pick up, too complicated. Will be Creek clean-up for Coastal Waterways Days, Sept 17th, perhaps a bulky pick up, bring nontoxic non e waste for pickup. Also green waste/yard waste. In order to receive donations, need Ecology Center as sponsor. At Larson Park.

Chair Iturri called for vote that Ecology Center will be community partner/sponsor for 9/17/22 event. Vice Chair Perot made a motion, Councilmember Alcaraz seconded. All in favor. Unanimous. Approved.

12. Consideration of Future Agenda Items (@2:58:40)

Share ongoing list of future agenda items and note others of interest

Chair Iturri: Add Steve Ehret, So Co Park Planner & Bert Whitaker on Larson Park.

Current List:

Hanna Boys Center, Michael Woods, project on horizon. Springs Farmers Market, paid position but not filled. Economic growth & small business; expanding boundaries of Springs MAC; business & restaurant permitting; Sonoma Valley Mental Health Collective & RISK; La Luz & Education Foundation, Suenos Study.

Superintendent of Schools to present

Councilmember Lombard, Public Transit. SDC & Springs Specific Plan address reducing vehicle trips. Currently public transit very inefficient in Valley

Councilmember Alcaraz, Sonoma Ecology Center to present, located at former SDC location, what are their community efforts/goals?

Karina, SDC Draft EIR Letter of Support on September Agenda. Well Ordinance; housing strategies w/ Permit Sonoma; tracking of rezoning Springs Specific Plan; ADUs w/ Permit Sonoma, Jane Riley, Tennis Wick; Social media re Brown Act training w/ County Counsel. Regional Parks.

Chair Iturri honored 3 local residents who have recently passed:

Jim Tonery, Flowery teacher

Margaret Degliantoni, Alta Mira teacher

Vern English of Sonoma's Vern's Taxi Service

13. Adjourned 9:36

Springs MAC on You Tube from Sonoma TV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ecQDP8xzgU&t=276s>

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Springs Municipal Advisory Council after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Board of Supervisors' Office located at 575 Administration Drive, Room 100-AI, Santa Rosa, CA, during normal business hours.

Note: Consideration of items will proceed as follows:

1. Presentation by proponent
2. Questions by Commissioners
3. Questions and comments from the public
4. Response by proponent, if required
5. Comments by Commissioners
6. Resolution, if indicated

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