



**Springs Municipal Advisory Council
Minutes of Hybrid Meeting In person/Zoom
February 12, 2025**



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.

Contact: Betzy.Chavez@sonoma-county.org

Springs MAC Meeting 2-12-25 - Sonoma TV You Tube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0c8JNClD5tk>

1. Call to Order & Roll Call 6:32pm

Roll Call: Vice Chair Winders

Present: Lombard, Iturri, Reyes, Dong, Fernandez

Absent: Norman

Staff Present: Betzy Chavez, First District Bilingual Field Representative, County of Sonoma

Betzy.Chavez@sonoma-county.org

Anna Tamayo, Santa Rosa Field Rep, Anna.Tamayo@Sonoma-County.org

Katie Mason, District Dir, Santa Rosa. Katie.Mason@Sonoma-County.org

Jessica Barajas, Board Aide, Jessica.Barajas@Sonoma-County.org

Lin Marie deVincent, Minute Taker

Chair Iturri: Acknowledged MAC's support team. Broadcasting hybrid meeting on Facebook & Sonoma TV. Agenda Items have been allocated specific times; additional time is allowed for discussion following. Spanish translation available online; headphones available in room. Reminder that the Springs MAC is an Advisory Council, all Councilmembers serve in a volunteer capacity.

Translators online: can be heard on zoom broadcast **Lorna Silva, and Ricardo Perez**

Special announcement: tonight's meeting will conclude in memoriam to honor and celebrate the life of a wonderful community champion known to many as "una guerrera Comunitaria"- Emma Gutierrez, who passed earlier this month. She will be missed by all of us. Thank you all for being part of tonight's meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes of December 11, 2024 Meetings.

Councilmember Dong moved to approve December 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes, Councilmember Lombard seconded. Motion passed.

File: [Springs MAC Minutes February 12, 2025 Hybrid](#) can be found here:

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/springs-mac-meeting-february-12-2025>

3. Public Comment/zoom Items not on Agenda. 3 minute limit

Jan Erickson, President of Sonoma Springs Rotary w/ interest in Springs community & residents. Hear to listen & learn & then proceed w/ actions.

- Written comments can be found on the Springs MAC website:
<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/springs-mac>

4. Chair Iturri Update (@4:38 on YouTube)

- Congratulated & welcomed Supervisor Hermosillo & new District One Team.
- Next month, March, will be last meeting as SMAC Chair. Been in Chair position for 6 years. March meeting take nominations & vote. New Chair to begin at April Meeting. Will stay on Council & can offer info RE: position.

5. Supervisor Rebecca Hermosillo Report on District 1 and Countywide topics. (@6:05)

Introduced District One Team individually: Anna Tamayo, Field Rep, Santa Rosa.

Katie Mason, District Dir, Santa Rosa. Jessica Barajas & Betzy Chavez, Sonoma Valley; Office hours 9-5 in East So Co Resource Center. Acknowledged essential ongoing assistance from Karina Garcia.

- There are 24 additional County Boards. Prefers & chose to be on the ones that deliver hands-on services, e.g. The First Five Commission, the Commission on Aging Together, & other local, regional Boards. Learning, assessing diverse needs of District. E.g. today responding to Santa Rosa constituents evacuated due to landslide.
- Sonoma Springs Plaza - City Councilmember Wellander involved in plans for Plaza, also helping to install brighter lights, irrigation system. County discussion ongoing re purchasing Witkowitz property. There are also public safety issues; meeting w/ Sheriff on Friday. Plaza temporary for now.
- Current need – reassuring constituents RE: Administration’s deportation programs. Clarified that ICE cannot enter a facility that is Private Property without a signed warrant; i.e. establish signage that says - Private Property. Created 2 page bilingual Flyer w/ step by step info. Will hold in-depth meeting w/ Latino stakeholders next week to collaborate, share Flyers & Forms. County funds \$500k, need to add-in local nonprofit support, & work w/ Federal Govt. to provide safety net.
- Displayed new Form available that all members of Congress use to advocate on behalf of a constituent; to be filled out. This gives staff permission to work on that case. This Form is specific just for ICE; important lines have been pre-highlighted. If someone is detained by ICE, should fill this Form out and get it to their member of Congress. They will be connected to Rapid Response Network or deportation defense teams to review Form’s correct info, thereby avoiding/preventing permanent deportation.
- Additional Flyer w/ contact info - elected officials local, state, federal - bilingual.
- Meeting w/ county nonprofits to share info; 65 replied.

- Following week, first *Evening Hours*, collaboration, Feb 26, 5:30-7:30, bilingual at East County Resource Office on Lomita. Sup Hermosillo, Congressman Thompson Rep, & Assembly Curry Rep. All welcome, no appointment necessary. Bilingual staff available.
- Noted she brings a new perspective to County Supervisor position as first Latina. E.g. adjourned Board of Supervisors meeting in honor of important Latina community leader, Emma Gutierrez. Was the first time a Commemoration done in Spanish.

Chair Iturri called for Questions/Comments from Council

Councilmember Reyes, how to publicize *Evening Office Hours* to community? **Rebecca**, flyer in process, will be on social media & sent to nonprofit stakeholders.

Councilmember Dong, re stakeholder meeting - have they considered inviting members of Asian American Coalition North Bay? **Rebecca**, yes. **Dong**, encouraged working together, coordinate efforts on undocumented immigration process because there's a mix of undocumented immigration from both. That way avoids duplicating or unnecessarily using up resources; can work together.

Public Comment/Zoom. None.

6. Funding Requests for Community Projects Ad Hoc (@ 23:05)

Bring back for Council discussion and possible approval of adjustments to the process.

Ad hoc: Lombard, Fernandez.

DISCUSSION

Councilmember Lombard reporting: considering timeframe to submit requests, what kind of events to sponsor, what has been funded, & trajectory for funding. Many worthwhile requests.

Chair Iturri, suggested 2 different submission times – e.g. winter & summer. Update Request Form w/ new info, and, a system for reporting back RE: funding. Decide on dates.

Lombard, 2 or 3 periods in a year? Iturri, consider limitation, clarify Budget - \$4-5 thousand? Dong, recommended 2 submission periods - one in July/Aug new Fiscal year. For a mid-year report in Feb. Can get Fiscal Reports from Supervisor's Office. Balance, etc.

Reyes, last year April/May money left; how to divvy up?

Iturri, need a limit/range of money.

Chair Recommendations: work on timeline, types of events to consider sponsoring, update Form, set limit/amount, other.

Lombard, analysis shows generous funding. Important events - Children's Event, Holiday Celebration, good visibility for Spring's community and MAC. Acknowledge past funding, keep process transparent.

Reyes, need new Supervisor's input/recommendations on funding dispersal.

Dong, is money dedicated to nonprofits or public? E.g. could allocate funds towards Plaza, e.g. use for Wi Fi. Iturri, traditionally nonprofit community events. Lombard, funding Plaza will need large amount.

Public Comment/Zoom. None.

7. Bike Racks 2.0 Ad Hoc. No update, Cal Trans has questions.

Discuss and select new locations for remaining bike racks. Previous list of locations suggested by the council were not approved by Sonoma County Transit.

8. Springs Community Plaza Ad Hoc(@17:12)

Discuss preliminary designs for arch sign and hear community input. Possibly vote on selection of design.

Sup. Hermosillo, concerns about safety, trash, etc. Meeting w/ Sherriff soon. Suggestions for art on planter boxes. Bringing in chairs donated from SMI. Draft layout in process. Will prioritize suggestions.

Vice Chair Winders, can county get open Wi Fi in Plaza? Springs has dead zones, or service not affordable.

Sup Hermosillo, Yes, challenge is electricity; working on connecting for lights & Wi Fi.

Public Comment

Josette Brose Eichar, reported on Plaza. Volunteers have been cleaning up. Volunteers are her, Amy Murphy, Georgianne Quinn, Maggie Marvel, Lisa Tremblay, Hannah Aclufi, and Judy Shaw. Need county help w/ large objects being left frequently in plaza. Problem w/ disposal.

Suggested coordinating w/ ReCology, to put out w/ trash. Is Enrique still helping; the trash cans are chained up? Noticed building painted, signs up.

Also, re possessions of unhoused; what to do? Suggested county provide a semi-secure box for storage. Now just bagging & labeling.

Volunteer crew each taking a week; are signed up through first week of April. Hopes county will help.

Also, RE: garbage on Mattson property. Opened a Ticket w/ Code Enforcement at end of December. Code Enforcement Officer Michael Tolek assigned Jan 6, 2025. Said he will close it as he's working on it. However, she has sent 2 emails, w/ no reply. There is trash between 2 buildings, piling up, can't be accessed. The Barber business has key to space but doesn't dispose of trash.

Also, Mattson is selling buildings, but not that one. Properties given to two local realtors. Recommended County look at the buildings to consider purchase.

9. Council discussion and approval for dissolution of specific Ad Hoc(s) (@31:45)

Chair Iturri, none to dissolve. Consider Cal Trans, or Plaza or Utility Boxes, but will wait.

Councilmember Lombard, send a letter to Cal Trans for update? **Iturri**, make a Future Item.

Public Comment/Zoom. None.

10. SVCAC update (@32:49)

Councilmember Norman/liaison. No January meeting, no update. February meeting Feb 26th.

11. Ad hoc and Community Projects Updates (@33:21)

- a. Council Reports, Announcements, and updates

- b. Funding Requests for Community Projects
- c. **Emergency Preparedness 2.0**

Councilmembers Reyes, Winders, Dong on Ad hoc

Reyes reporting: attended Julie Atwood event, provided info. Currently working on evacuation drill/event in planning process at Altamira. Will be 2 Springs evacuation zones. Reviewing Conex storage container at Altamira school w/ supplies.

Winders, need to address meals inside Conex soon; they expire in April. Need to work w/ agency, Red Cross to replace.

Reyes, also need Red Cross to re-evaluate school after retrofit. Potential location for shelter. Will connect w/ D 1 Team.

Dong, recent report by Valley of Moon Org hired a vendor to do Evacuation Study.

Recommended official copy sent to MAC & Supervisor for review. Report - more housing causing evacuation problems. Data states w/ one hour notice will take four hours to get out of town. Lombard, report available in local *Sun* paper; link to whole study.

- d. **Springs Farmers Market**

Councilmember Norman, Reyes on Ad hoc.

Reyes reporting: target date Sunday, June 1st to open. Grants in place for funding. Proposed hours 10-2pm. Input being gathered re logistics, creating an Outreach list to businesses. 20+ vendors to start.

- e. **Housing**

Vice Chair Winders, no update

- f. **Utility Boxes**

Admin/FR Chavez, complications, delays.

- g. **Springs Community Plaza**

Councilmember Norman sent Admin Chavez notes: Plaza maintenance & upkeep - regular cleaning & maintenance ongoing to ensure good condition. Decorative update – community groups encouraged to maintain & refresh Plaza decorations. Garbage & recycling – continued coordination w/ Recology, assistance from neighbors. Encourage public use, community engagement – gathering feedback on Plaza use, public input sessions & outreach efforts, ensure/encourage inclusivity. Funding & partnerships – exploring funding sources for long term maintenance, partnership, opportunities for local organizations & businesses. Thanks to Springs Mac Ad hoc committee, Supervisors, District 1 Team, community volunteers, named all individuals involved. Next steps: Irrigation & landscaping. Monitoring & maintaining planter boxes, trees. Address Solar lights item. Planning for potential long-term Plaza solutions.

Chair Iturri, Ad hoc meeting? Lombard, difficult. Discussed sign design in process. Artist offered a sign. **Displayed “The Springs” sign on monitor (@48:06 in You Tube)**

Councilmember Fernandez, encouraged more participation, communication.

Admin Chavez, displayed on screen samples of blocks being painted.

- h. **Adopt a Road**

Councilmembers Norman, Reyes reporting: application was resubmitted; in process. Cover area Verano Ave/Hwy 12 to Olive Avenue. Required 2 events per year. Start w/ volunteer training. Springs Rotary involved. Will meet soon.

Chair called for Council Comments

Councilmember Dong, RE: Plaza. Suggested going through Supervisor's Office to declare Plaza a specific area/space w/ certain area rules, like in parks, then Code Enforcement or Sheriff can enforce. Re: Housing, suggested Ad hoc review Evacuation Report for future recommendations.

Public Comment (@51:41)

Donna Dambach, SVCAC member, RE: Valley of Moon Alliance, evacuation/traffic report. Hopes item will be on SVCAC's Feb 26 Agenda for Public availability; also public session at Altamira School, Feb 24, 6:30pm. Two opportunities for public to attend presentation.

Caitlin Cornwall, Sonoma Valley Collaborative, offered assistance/support to Housing Ad hoc. Complex issues, Collaborative experienced w/ them.

Josette Brose Eichar, RE: Plaza. Clarified, communication ongoing, things getting done, is in touch w/ volunteers. RE: Councilmember Norman's report - recommends sharing info. Can be available on zoom, etc.

Councilmember Dong, suggested Supervisor might publicize dates of 2 meetings on evacuation study? Help the public, engage more. Networking helpful. Use social media.

Sup Hermosillo, will consider. County not hosting those meetings. Can forward info.

Admin/Chavez, directed Josette to use mic for comment.

Josette Brose Eichar, to read whole evac report go to *the Sun* article, link to entire evac report. Wake Up Sonoma, unofficial, has sent it out.

12. Consideration of Future Agenda Items (@57:14)

Chair Iturri MARCH: Chair nomination in March; Goal setting; Emerg Prep/Ad hoc requesting presentation from Nancy Brown; Request for general community safety, code enforcement, illegal dumping; bicycle safety; special meeting or presentation on Immigration Services; Transportation for seniors; report on Elders; tenant protections
Letter to Council re Donald St Gap.

Councilmember Lombard, letter to Cal Trans for update on plans for Verano 12 intersection & Donald St gap. Has heard comments/concerns on local social media.

Councilmember Reyes, additional update item on Emerg Prep: working w/ DM RE: emergency prep. There will be Sonoma Valley CERT training for up to forty people. Will get info to D1. March 1, 2, & 29 in Spanish. Repeat April 5, 6, 24th in English. At El Verano School.

Councilmember Fernandez, suggested MAC hold discussion to make Sonoma County a sanctuary county

Councilmember Lombard, no place for unhoused in bad winter weather. Need 3 days of cold weather to get help. What about heavy rainstorms? Need more help. Presentation on options.

Vice Chair Winders, community update on Larson Park renovations/timeline. Could be part of Supervisor's report.

Public comment/Zoom, none.

Chair Iturri & Councilmember Reyes, MAC meeting adjournment in honor of Emma Gutierrez, exceptional committed community volunteer, Spring's resident 35 years. La Luz, additional community organizations on local, state & national regions.

13. Adjourned 7:35pm

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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. You may also find them on the Springs MAC website at <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/springs-mac>

Note: Consideration of items will proceed as follows:

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

Web Links: County of Sonoma: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/> select Boards and Commission

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