

MARK WEST CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes, NOT APPROVED, JANUARY 12, 2022, 6:00 pm
Zoom Meeting
Video Available Send request to MarkWestCAC@gmail.com

A) Call to Order: Chair Fies called to order, the regular meeting of Mark West Citizens Advisory Council at 6:00 pm.

1. Roll Call

Members present: Chair Karen Fies, Willie Lamberson, Brad Sherwood, Heidi Would, Stephanie Bisordi

Others present: Jen Mendoza, Field Representative Representing Supervisor James Gore, 4th District, County of Sonoma; Aggie Maggio, Secretary, Mark West Citizens Advisory Council (MWCAC)

2. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Sherwood, second by Lamberson, the minutes of the regular MWCAC meeting, December 8, 2021, were approved. The motion carried on a voice vote. (5-0)

B) Presentations: Action Items

Procedure: 1. Presentation 2. Questions by council members 3. Questions/comments from the public

1. Mark West Chamber (Chamber) Presentation - Peter Lescure, Samantha Paull and Marco Angrisani

Pete Lescure

- Approximately 10-15 years ago, a few members of the Chamber formed a Larkfield Water Committee to deal with high water costs. From there, an attempt to form a Community Service District was made. During that time, a franchise fee, on the community water customers was established. The CSD formation failed but the MWCAC was formed with one of its main responsibilities being management of the franchise fees. This illustrates the strong relationship between the MWCAC and the Chamber.

Samantha Paull

- Seeking an office manager position to help further membership goals etc.
 - Duties would be administrative, office and supporting the board/members, communications, event support, being an ambassador and public relations.
 - 20 to 25 hours per week. They are open to job sharing.
- The membership is here to support the local business community. It is a strong network in the community. She invites feedback.
- Public Relations goal is to support the community and the members. Always inviting businesses to share information about them or their products, with the Chamber, and thereby, the community.

Marco Angrisani

- The Chamber is implementing some new programs to build good ambassadors.
 - Creating job requirements
 - Reaching out to potential ambassadors
 - Incentivizing Chamber involvement
- Three Keys for Success
 - Pride ~ Value and Recognition,
 - Communicate ~ Clearly communicate expectations
 - Velvet Rope Theory” ~ Create a buzz around the Chamber
 - Promotion people, businesses and events
 - Networking
 - Increasing visibility

Pete Lescure: Working with sharp people like Samantha and Marco is one of the best benefits of the Chamber.

- He shared the Chamber website on screen, pointing out tabs and events. Go to www.markwest.org
- Chamber Programs: For example, Community Faire, Installation Dinner, Lunches for Lifesavers
- He invited the Council to have a MWCAC corner in the Lark, the Chamber’s on-line newsletter. Submit monthly news, etc.
- Councilmember Sherwood shared that Shawn and Christine Ratliff, the Larkfield Resilience Fund, are interested in a community newspaper of some kind. He will get them in contact with Lescure.
- The Chamber is interested in continuing a conversation about a Community Cleanup Project with MWCAC.
- Members of the community can go to “Contact Us” in the Chamber Website. He invites any contact.

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Council member comments/questions

Sherwood: Why isn't there a "Welcome to Larkfield" sign? Chamber president Steve Plamman will look into the possibility.

Mendoza. Suggestions

- Talk to Roni Berg regarding Fulton's Founders Day.
- The County now has an Adopt a Road Program.
- The North County Jail has a garden with a native plant nursery. She said you can talk to them about putting pollinator plants into right-of-way or in peoples' yards.
- If you do go with a sign, see Jen Mendoza for help with permitting.

Comments from the Chat

- Can we get the link to the Council website on the Chamber site? Response: Yes
- Can MWCAC members attend Chamber meetings? Response: Yes
- Can anyone sign up to get the Lark newsletter? Response: Yes, <https://markwest.org/the-lark/>
- Do we really need a sign? How many signs do we need? Response: Good for community pride.

2. Mark West Area November 5, 2021 "Walk-About" Report - Jen Mendoza

Representatives from CHP, Fire, Road Department and Community members visited several places in Larkfield.

- River Rd, in front of Sutter Hospital ~ Roads engineer checked out the different turn lanes, on/off ramps, entrances/exits to Lavell Road and Sutter Hospital.
- Reibli School ~ Main concern is sidewalks. That is being addressed. Also, a line of vehicles spilling onto Mark West Springs Rd. The issue is that, by law, there should be no parking there for 30 feet. The road department added a red curb to resolve that.
- From Mark West Springs Road (MWSR) to Wikiup Business Park:
 - Hawk light ~ still waiting for that. Discussed fire trucks entering Old Redwood Highway (ORH) need to be able to access the Hawk light to activate it before they enter.
 - Discussed a road diet, sequestering water and landscaping, all to calm and slow down traffic.
 - Crosswalk at St. James and ORH ~ The stop sign placement allows vehicles to go thru the crosswalk before stopping. Trying to fix it.
 - The bridge on ORH ~ Discussing installing a walking path, a shelf attached to the bridge, for bikes and pedestrians. Example: There is one being attached to a bridge in Cloverdale.
- Next Step is to get ideas from Nader Dahu, TPW Engineering Division Manager, to present to the community. Perhaps in spring time.

As a side note: Mendoza also reported on the repaved burned areas this year. Utility companies paid for it. They had set aside the money when they put their utilities in. The County is aware that other roads, as well as sidewalks and gutters, also need to be repaved.

Mendoza is working on creating a work list to bring to TPW/Roads Maintenance with all these needs and situations included. They will discuss all of them, the budget and possibilities/limitations. She will report back to the Council.

Community Comments/questions

- Phil Farber: Walk-About in Old Larkfield neighborhood? Response: Not during the walk-about, which was about traffic design issues, not condition. Mendoza and Supervisor Gore both have separately walked it.
- Farber is concerned about the poor conditions in the neighborhood. He is seeking direction to get it addressed.
- Mendoza: She is the go-to person. It will be addressed, when she meets with Johannes Hoeverstsz, TPW Director, He's the one who figures out how to spread the money around. She doesn't yet know when or how but it will happen.

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- Lescure: Report on Lavell Rd. flooding? It's being worked on. Mendoza will soon report on various active projects.

Administrative Adjustment to the Agenda ~ at end of Mendoza's Walk About Report

1. Mendoza swore in two new council members, Heidi Would and Stephanie Bisordi.

3. Blue Book Discussion - Chair Karen Fies and Jen Mendoza.

Chair Fies and Jen Mendoza are seeking input, for this initial discussion on possible adjustments to the Blue Book.

- Term limits: Quantify the limits.
- Coverage area: How far abroad can the jurisdiction of the Council go? Now limited to area of Franchise Fees.
- "Citizens Advisory Council" is an old name. Other areas use "Municipal Advisory Councils" or MACs.
- Chair Fies and Mendoza will look at several different expansion areas; possibly adding areas of interest that can be addressed.
- Need language about officers and terms.
- Fies will work with Mendoza and bring back action items in February and March. Blue Book updates will need to be approved by the Board of Supervisors after the Council approves recommendations.

Comments from Council Members

Sherwood:

- Get community input.
- He is not for term limits (ending representation by really good members).
- There are conflicting regulatory issues that need fixing (e.g. MWUSD members don't have to live in our area).
- Also find a way to engage former council members, in a structured way.
- Have more structured community committees.
- Chair Fies added that Roni Berg wants to create a committee; Roni coined the "Friends of the Council".

Lamberson: Has always been a proponent of expanding boundaries. He read from the resolutions for forming the Council in 2016, stating that the Council will continuously be changing and dealing with new issues. He said that it is a foundation for expanding. Expanding boundaries would take care of term limit concerns, creating more potential members.

- Examples: KOI Tribe property issue is not within current boundaries and the airport affects all of us.
- Bisordi: Added another example: Roni Berg still needs to have a voice.
- Sherwood: Half of Fulton is now in Supervisor Hopkins district.

Mendoza: Regarding term limit issues, it's important to also include possibilities of new members.

- You are a MAC, by legal definition.
- You have a strong group of participants and you don't want to lose great former members.
- Dry Creek MAC has term limits (only for consecutive terms). Members can come back for additional terms.
- Term limits are a Council decision. Her concern is that there is a group that does not have term limits and they are like a dictatorship. The community does not get along with them.
- Boundaries: She, as a person, thinks it's a good idea. You can appoint people that live in other areas.
- The airport does affect this area. She recommends an Ad Hoc committee to deal with the Aviation Commission.

Would: Can the number of Council members be expanded? Response: Yes. Need an odd number to avoid tie votes.

Comments on Chat

- How are vacancies advertised? Response by Chair Fies: The Maddie Act requires advertising. It's on the Board of Supervisors website showing everything: names, terms, etc. Supervisor Gore can appoint. Different community organizations can submit nominations, such as the school board or Town of Fulton. Advertising needs improvement.

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- Swearing in is not on the agenda. Response by Jen Mendoza: That was a mistake. It needed to be done. It is just administrative, with no community input necessary; So she just got it done. She apologized for it.
- New boundaries are usually based on existing boundaries. MWCAC boundary is the Cal Am Water District. Some use fire districts. Can have multiple districts which can cross over.
- Geographic representation would be helpful. Anyone surveying other MACs? Response: No, not now. This one was the first one, setting the example.
- Council can advertise in the Lark.
- Problem is that you have to know how and when to look for openings.
 - Response: Can follow the Facebook page.
- Community can find any information in the minutes on any of the posted sites. See footer at end of minutes.
- Expanding boundaries may be a good reason to expand to seven council members.
- Consider if people want the Council in their areas. Would need their approval before restructuring boundaries.
- Some kind of ambassador program explaining how, why and for whom the MWCAC works would be helpful.

C) Presentations of Referrals from Permit Sonoma: ACTION ITEM None

Consideration of proposed projects will proceed as follows: 1. Presentation by project applicant 2. Questions by Councilmembers 3. Questions and comments from the public 4. Response by applicant, if required 5. Comments by Council members 6. Resolution, ACTION, if indicated.

D) Council Member Announcements/Information/Discussions/Disclosures: Information only, unless stated

1. February 9, 2022 will be Zoom only. The goal is to start hybrid meetings at the Learning Center in March, 2022. Check websites and minutes.
2. Sherwood met Phil Farber in Old Larkfield. Roads are in horrible shape. They discussed possible sewer options.

E) Subcommittee Reports & Discussions: ACTION ITEM

- Appreciate any new members for any of these subcommittees.
1. Neighborhood Improvement Funding Program (NIFP) Subcommittee (Fies/Sherwood)
 - There are currently no NIFP applications.
 - The committee will look at NIFP application, including funding timelines, which don't seem to apply and any other edits needed.
 2. Rebuild/Fire Mitigation Subcommittee (Sherwood/Fies)
 - Reached out to Johannes Hovertsz, TPW Director, about a North Coast Resource Regional Fire Capacity Technical Assistance Program Grant, because the Council is not a legal agency of its own, and has to go through the County, our fiscal agent, to apply for a grant, if appropriate. Applications are due in April, 2022. Chair Fies will continue pursuing this possibility.
 - Links to other County vegetation management opportunities are on the Council website.
<https://markwestcac.org>
 3. Community Services District (CSD) Subcommittee (Sherwood/Lamberson)

A CSD is not possible, for what is needed now. A non-profit will work.
 4. Wikiup Open Space (Lamberson/Would)
 - We are somewhere between finalizing the easement language and the appraisal language.
 - There is some discussion about signage to inform public about current status and progress.
 5. Sonoma County General Plan for Mark West Area (Lamberson)
 - Not much happening, maybe spring or summer. Lescure and David Hansen are willing to work on it outside the Council.

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- Lori Barber is interested in being on the committee.

F) Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:

1. Catherine Dodd: Missed last meeting, when there was a discussion about water. She has blue barrels to collect rain water. Major problem is getting water uphill. How about a presentation on conserving water? Add possibility to future agenda.

G) Pending Items: Updates when available

1. Utilities & Water, Margaret DiGenova:

- Conservation: We've had some seminar type presentations on water conservation. Will try to get one more specific for the Council on water conservation, including rain barrel uses.
- Reservoirs are about 61 to 67% of capacity. Looking for about 80%. Generally, better than last year.
- Still have give-aways for water conservation.
- Company wise: Work is done on facilities as water demand is lower. One of the big wells is temporarily down. Another reason to conserve.

2. "HAWK" light in front of Larkfield Shopping Center: Still in the works.

H) Correspondence: Information Only **None**

I) Future Agenda Items: Potential projects and/or suggestions for future MWCAC meetings

1. Possibility of an update on the COPE program in Wikiup (TBD).
2. Possible speaker on home hardening and vegetation management (TBD)
3. Possible community clean up? Maybe in partnership with the Chamber. (TBD)
4. List of unmet needs projects for Larkfield/Mark West/Wikiup (Presentation: Sherwood/Lamberson) (TBD)
5. Water Conservation Presentation (TBD)
6. Blue Book conversation (Feb and March)
7. Informational Airport Larkfield Wikiup Sewer Presentation, Sonoma County Water Agency (Feb)

J) Adjournment: ACTION ITEM

There being no other business to discuss, on a motion by Would, seconded by Bisordi, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Approved Date:

Chair

MWCAC MEETINGS: 6:00 PM—SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Hybrid Meetings until further notice.

Mark West School District Office, The Learning Center, 305 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa

(NOTE: Location or time may change due to anticipated greater community participation.)

Be sure to check the MWCAC website for meeting agenda, location & time

sonomacounty.ca.gov/Mark-West-Citizens-Advisory-Council

<https://markwestcac.org>

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