

Minutes  
Glen Ellen Town Forum  
Steering Committee Organizational Meeting  
12-1-16

Moderators: Leslie Vaughn, Jim Shere, BJ Blanchard

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tracy Salcedo. Please note: These minutes are not linear; conversation was free-flowing and circled back to various issues on numerous occasions. I've attempted to consolidate the various discussions.

Meeting called to order at 7:13 p.m. Attendees are listed at the end of these minutes.

Leslie thanked Horatius's for offering the meeting place.

Leslie reported that local broadcaster KSVY wants to record the Dec. 5 meeting at Dunbar School and asked how attendees felt about that. Discussion ensued, with some attendees expressing concern that people wouldn't say what they felt because they'd be intimidated to be captured on film. Others expressed interest in allowing the filming to keep the process transparent, open, and inclusive. Others felt it was too early in the process for any discussions to be broadcast because the group's identity hasn't been fully defined. The item was tabled for further discussion at a later date. Because no consensus was reached, Leslie will contact KSVY to inform them not to record the Dec. 5 meeting. BJ Blanchard will compile an article for the Index-Tribune based on the minutes.

Leslie reported on finances for the three meetings that have been held so far. Donations of \$81.00 collected at the first meeting repaid Glen Ellen Historical Society for fronting the \$50.00 cost use of Mayflower Hall, with the \$31.00 balance given to the pastor. Donations of \$151.00 collected at the Dunbar meeting were used to reimburse Leslie for copies and supplies, and to pay for use of the school auditorium. As of today's meeting, there is a balance of \$26.80. Donations were collected. The fee for use of Horatius is \$50.00.

Leslie reported that the group's database, which is kept on an Excel spreadsheet, currently includes 77 people. Leslie volunteered to maintain the database. This was affirmed later in the meeting.

Leslie reported that Margie Foster and Marsha Moran had volunteered to be co-treasurers of the group. This was affirmed later in the meeting.

John Stalcup volunteered to take minutes at the Dec. 5 meeting at Dunbar School.

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Leslie told the group that she and Jim Shere would like to step back as coordinators. Their desire is for discussions of Glen Ellen's future to be a community process and a community effort. The discussion that followed included:

- A suggestion that teams volunteer for the leadership positions of chair, secretary, treasurer, etc. since people are busy and might not be able to make all meeting. This was countered by an assertion that leadership would need to be present to be effective.
- A suggestion that there be a "rolling" chair.
- A suggestion that the steering committee needs to be small.
- A suggestion that the group needs rules.
  - Stand up to speak
  - While a speaker is standing, no interruptions
- A question about how decisions will be voted on. A 2/3 majority? A simple majority?

The following volunteered to hold steering committee positions through March 2017:

- Michael Furlong: Chair with the assistance of Jim Shere
- Tracy Salcedo: Recording Secretary
- Margie Foster and Marsha Moran: Treasurers
- Leslie Vaughn: Correspondence Secretary (database maintenance)

The group discussed priorities. All present laid out their reasons for wanting to be involved and the issues that concerned them most. The conversation was wide-ranging and disjointed.

Discussion distilled topics into priority areas:

- Community Governance
- Quality of Life
- SDC
- Community Projects
- Tourism Triad (vacation rentals, tourists, wineries)

Details of the discussions follow. Issues that got the most mentions are at the top. Other issues are presented with no priority.

- Creation of Community Government
  - exploration of opportunities for local control
  - town council
  - government liaison
  - have a presence at county meetings
  - present a single, coherent, community voice at the county level; with the acknowledgment the voice may be "schizophrenic" at times
  - creation of a sustaining community and a forum for all issues
- Maintaining the Character of Glen Ellen
  - maintenance of quality of life
  - new development needs to be within town's character

- feeling fulfilled in the Glen Ellen environment through nature, community, and giving
- provincial character of the land in the face of change
- community bonding
- cultivate diversity and inclusion
- get ideas into the same room, find out who disagrees with whom and why
- SDC
  - make sure Glen Ellen has control!!!
  - State of CA owns the land; send a message to the state from the community
  - have Glen Ellen's points of view reflected in the state's decisions
  - even though the state run by bureaucrats not politicians and Glen Ellen might not get anywhere, "we should give it a college try"
  - Closure plan says that the state will try to follow the community guide
- Beautification/Community Projects
  - projects as a way to bring the group together and make it visible
  - improvements around the post office
  - designation of a public/community restroom
  - safe accommodations for pedestrian traffic
    - Warm Spring Road trailway?
  - clean up access to the regional park on Carmel
- Vacation Rentals
  - acknowledgement that vacation rentals bring business to town
  - distinguishing between good vacation rentals and bad vacation rentals
  - opening communication with vacation rentals
  - acknowledgement of the suffering of neighbors
  - acknowledgement of the loss of affordable housing
- Tourism/Tourists
  - acknowledgement that Glen Ellen relies on tourism and wineries for jobs
  - developing a sustainable economy not based on condos and strip malls
  - maintaining a balance so tourism doesn't take over
- Disaster Preparedness Plan
  - earthquake and fire as priorities
- Protecting Open Spaces, Wildlife Corridors, and Watersheds
- Where Is Glen Ellen's Money Going?
  - 3% of TOT goes back to the community; 25% goes back to affordable housing; 75% goes to tourism attraction (stats from the Press Democrat)
  - acquire pro bono legal representation to follow the money
- Finding Ways to Attract More Diversity to Town
  - address the lack of affordable housing
- Where Did the Town Signs Come From? When Did We Become a Village?
- Address the Homeless Encampment off Carmel
- Creation of a Community Garden

For the purposes of this meeting and the Dec. 5 meeting, those in attendance will assign themselves to one of the following subcommittees based on interest and skill set.

- Legal and Finance
  - Creation of community government
- Environment and Quality of Life
  - Community vision for SDC
  - Tourism issues
  - Wildlife, watershed
- Politics and Government
  - Liaison with county government
  - Where does the money go (TOT)?
- Community Projects

Meeting adjourned at 8:43

Attendees:

BJ Blanchard  
Tracy Salcedo  
Angela Morgan  
Arthur Dawson  
Janie Soto  
Courtney Emer  
Melissa Dowling  
Michael Furlong  
Deanna Furlong  
Elisa Stancil Levine  
John Stalcup  
Scott Rich  
Marta Rich  
Chuck Levine  
Jim Shere  
Barney Watkins  
Ellen McKnight  
Mari Dickerson  
Marina Abbott  
Leslie Vaughn