

Glen Ellen Forum – Meeting Minutes
Garden Court Cafe
April 2, 2018

Chair Michael Furlong called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Michael reminds us that the website is glenellenca.org, email is forum@glenellenca.org, and Facebook page is Glen Ellen Forum. This evening's meeting is being recorded and will be put up on Sonoma TV through KSVY and a link from our website will be provided as soon as possible. We have approximately 30 people in attendance, which is a bit less than usual. Several new meeting attendees raised their hands when asked if this was anyone's first time here. Michael mentioned that the Forum is now a non-profit, and donations happily accepted. Our Go Fund Me account has now closed. BJ Blanchard was thanked for the help on affecting that.

Nick O'Dalton, Co-Founder of 'HeART without Borders', a non-profit based in the Springs gave a brief presentation. He spoke about he and Co-Founder (and wife) Shannon O'Dalton's story, expertise, and passion for community wellness. He said that the Programming was Multi-generational Tap Classes, Broadway Jazz Theater Class, meditation clinics, kids' meditate to create workshop, yoga classes, de-escalation workshops for teachers, community culture development, musical theater acting class, rainbow dance experience, and has collaborations with Hanna Boys Center & Boys and Girls Club. Nick said he was simply spreading the word about HeART without Borders' and looking forward to opening an arts and healing center somewhere in the valley. Their website link is up on the forum site.

Angela Morgan, Board President of the Glen Ellen Historical Society and Chair of this year's fundraising event (which is collaboration of historical society and GE Forum) spoke about the upcoming event on Saturday, April 21st from 4-8pm at Valley of the Moon Winery. Tickets are \$25 per person available on eventbrite.com and at the door. Dinner is by Estate Chef Sam Boldaloto, and dessert by the girl and the fig. There will be a wine tasting, historical displays, a silent auction, bocci ball tournament, and live music by Full Circle and The Dolly Mamas. They need volunteers and silent auction items. She acknowledge donors Ann Teller, Julie Atwood, Dave McDonald, and Sondra Bernstein.

Michael mentioned that the Forum is looking for a projector screen – if anyone has one you'd like to donate that would be well received.

Leslie mentioned that the Glen Ellen Village Fair Committee will begin their annual event planning starting with their first meeting of 2018 on Monday, April 9th at the Jack London Lodge at 6:30pm.

Michael spoke briefly about the proposed Cannabis Dispensary at the former firehouse on the corner of Madrone and Arnold. The preliminary proposal is roughly 100 pages long and is available if anyone would like the information. Contact: available on Forum website

BJ Blanchard said that it has come to her attention that there is a lot of Dead Tree issues ??

Shannon Lee spoke about Christina, a 5th grade teacher at Dunbar School – secured a grant through Food by Youth – allows for the donation of 100 apple trees to residents of Glen Ellen/Kenwood. If a different type of fruit tree is preferred, that can be discussed. Each tree comes with a 'Waterboxx' and if the property is within walking distance of the school, would love to have the students help in planting. Contact csanders@sonomaschools.org for more information.

Nick Brown from the Traffic and Safety Committee spoke regarding the Friday, April 6th meeting 6:30-8:30pm at the GE Fire Station. Sonoma Valley Fire & Rescue is providing emergency preparedness

training. There will be another meeting NEXT month on a Sunday night (May 6th). Ready Glen Ellen Emergency Preparedness Plan is on the home page of the Forum website

Leslie Vaughn added that Sonoma Valley Fire & Rescue will be holding, CPR and Defib training 2 times in GE, 2 times in Kenwood, and 2 times in Sonoma – will happen again in the fall. Information will be available on Forum website.

Alice Horowitz, Chair of SDC/Eldridge Committee, spoke about the upcoming community workshop on April 16th (6:30 to 8:30pm at Dunbar) regarding closure and transition of SDC/Eldridge campus. Goals include emphasizing the need for community involvement regarding this process, discussing the pros/cons of governance models, and discussing proposals of transition. There is a lot of back-information is available on the Forum website.

BJ Blanchard, Chair of the Projects Committee, reminded us that after the Glen Ellen Historical Fundraiser on April 21st at Valley of the Moon Winery, we want to get up the next morning, Sunday, April 22nd and join us at 10am at the Post Office for our "Tidy Our Town" clean up. It's a great way to spend Earth Day.

Leslie Vaughn, Chair of the Community Engagement Committee, reminded us that they are looking to do quarterly community free meals and social events. We are hoping to have an event here on the Garden Court property sometime in May, but need to connect with the building owner first. Glen Ellen/Kenwood Rotary has offered up to \$1000 for the event. Dave Walker volunteered to chef.

The event in November was fantastic and we are looking forward to doing this many times in the future. We hope to purchase an event tent to use for these dinners and beyond and we already have someone interested in helping sponsor the tent.

Arthur Dawson, Chair of the Advisory Council Exploration Committee, said that they are currently exploring the creation of a Municipal Advisory Council. Looking to have many voices as part of this process. Their goal for the next six months will be to explore public meetings involving other MACs around the valley, county officials, etc.

The next committee meeting will be this Thursday, April 5th at 6pm at 14326 Arnold Dr. (Shannon Lee's house: call 707-996-3352).

Michael Furlong gave a summary of the committees that need more participation. Formerly Tourism & Vacation Rentals, now retitled Commerce & Tourism Committee, dropped off and we are looking to re-boot this committee. Please reach out to friends and neighbors and see if we can attract more interested community members. The Garden Committee didn't really get up and running.

Michael read the proposed mission statement for the Forum which will be posted on the website. Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions on this. He also encourages us all to support our small businesses in Glen Ellen. Check out the growing list on the website and let us know if you have a small business or know of a small business that we can include on the site.

Michael then opened the floor for some public questions:

Q: Nancy Padian: The Non-profit must have a board of directors, so what is the time frame for getting official structure in place?

A: Michael: We're talking about this and other official matters with the lawyers now. We would have a non-profit board, currently made up of the Steering Committee, but we will soon be having an election

and the Board will provide overbite. The Steering Committee will then no longer be the directors but would simply drive the ideas of the Forum and make things happen on a day-to-day basis.

Q: BJ Blanchard: It's been called to her attention that there are concerned neighbors regarding the huge fuel load up on the SDC open space to the south of Jack London Park – who do we talk to?

A: Michael: If it's on private property, the fire departments can consult with us. If it's on State lands, then it would be Cal Fire.

Q: Vicki Hill: I'm an SDC committee member and have been attending the coalition SDC transition meetings: I urge all of us to be involved with this coming SDC transition meeting on 4/16. There are many competing and outside interests. The State needs to hear from our community.

A: Katherine Hargitt: Is the forum looking at the housing issue? Many houses sitting empty. There are many renters displaced—and so many issues.

Q: Michael: There were issues surrounding housing before the fires and now it's even worse. Forum is attempting to be engaged but one of the reasons we need a re-boot of a 'balanced' tourism committee that might also branch into housing in general.

A: Nancy Padian: Let me point out that besides the Forum website, and Facebook, the nextdoor.com Glen Ellen is very active. Didn't our Forum website originally have a 'have/need' section for resources such as housing?

Q: Michael: Yes, we still have that but find that most people are reaching out in smaller more agile circles such as Facebook/nextdoor, and Ed Davis still has a 'Let's Pause New VRBOs & Keep Fire Victims in Our Neighborhoods' effort ongoing regarding housing- ed@empirewest.com

A: John Powell: Has there been any discussion regarding putting power lines underground?

Q: Michael: Yes, there has been discussion. We have thoughts of having an Environmental Committee of sorts regarding the power line issues, as well as alternative energy, etc. It takes a group of motivated people to have that discussion- Leslie: we'll put you in touch with others who have expressed interest in that topic.

Next month's Forum meeting will be on Monday, May 7th.

Michael adjourned the meeting at 7:28pm

Attendees

Leslie Vaughn	Nick Brown	Donna Bryant	Nick O'Dalton
Angela Morgan	Katherine Hargitt	Mary Kate Carter	
Jim Shere	Shannon Lee	Squire Fridell	
Michael Furlong	Carrie Castro	Michael McClure	
Sheryee McCormick	John Powell	Gail Edney	
Robert Howard	Joyce Clover	Jim Bartelman	
Nancy Padian	Ellen McKnight	Archie Horton	
Margie Foster	BJ Blanchard	Bill Olson	
Alice Horowitz	Betty Brachman	Alice Wicken	
Jason Oldham	Jay Gamel	Janie Soto	
Meri Mace	Arthur Dawson	Vicki Hill	