

Meeting- Governance Committee meeting: 4/5/18

Facilitator for this meeting: Arthur Dawson

Secretary for this meeting: Shannon Lee

Meeting opened at 6pm by Arthur Dawson

Introductions: Arthur Dawson, Vicki Hill, Nancy Padian, Shannon Lee, Michael McClure, and Larry Davis.

GOALS for this meeting:

- Establish a clear and transparent process for the committee
- Begin to sketch out an approach to fulfilling the agreed upon mission
- Anything else that folks want to bring to the table relevant to the mission

Ground Rules: (this was a group effort – compiled through discussion)

Everyone has a chance to be heard, all opinions respected

Consensus until we come to major decisions

Votes should be taken twice – because people are coming and going

Recognition of minority opinions and consideration of ways to take them into account

Rotating positions of meeting facilitator and secretary

Other tasks (mostly outside meetings) filled on a task-by-task basis

We should develop an overlap of interest first- common ground as a starting point

Review of history: provided by Shannon Lee

This 'governance' committee of the GE Forum was tasked to look into possible organizing structures for the community. (Late 2016, early 2017)

The committee first brainstormed a list of possible structures: non-profit, incorporation, advisory council, homeowners association, etc..... Each member took one or too structures to research.

We reconvened to present our research. The committee considered pros and cons of each structure and then came to a consensus recommendation which was:

The GE Forum should move forward to become a non-profit AND we should continue to investigate the formation of a Municipal Advisory Council.

This recommendation was brought before the GE Forum General Meeting for a vote and passed. (April 2017)

For a variety of reasons, committee members withdrew from active participation, except for Arthur who continued to pursue and came up with a list of questions and a possible step by step process to continue with the recommendation. He also created a preliminary draft of Advisory Council bylaws, based on a template from the County which was slated to be updated/revised (July 2017. The County did adopt a MAC template later in the month)

In August (2017), Arthur and Michael Wray met with Susan Gorin, Mary Booher, Pat Gilardi and Jennifer Gray to discuss the formation of a MAC (a link to the notes from this meeting are on the committee's Forum webpage)

That brought us to September 2017 then there was the fire.

Essentially that's where we are now - picking up that second recommendation and moving forward.

What is our overarching goal?

Proposed MISSION STATEMENT:

"To explore how a voice for the Glen Ellen community with official standing at the county and other levels of government might be developed, to educate the public on this matter, and to bring a proposed structure to the community for a vote."

Mission statement agreed to by committee consensus.

Larry- concern that we are working under the Forum but eventually this is separate entity, if it goes forward

Conversations as to how a vote on anything proposed out of this committee might be taken

Nancy- why does the Forum voice not mean as much at the county level?

Arthur- well that's not exactly where we are at, we are only exploring the details of what a MAC is at this time and trying to come up with a mission statement for this exploration.

Shannon- Due to its non-profit status, the Forum is likely not able to engage with the County in the same way as a MAC could, because a MAC is an official government body. I'm not sold that a MAC is truly needed but full exploration is required and was voted on. I don't think that we should wholesale accept the recommendations of Susan Gorin or anyone in her office because right now we have a sympathetic supervisor- I'm most concerned about what happens when/if we no longer have a sympathetic supervisor.

Nancy- I see what you are saying here and it makes sense.

Committee Name Change?

We were originally the 'organizational and governance committee' - then just the governance committee, for simplicity.

Propose: Advisory Council Exploratory Committee (ACE)

Accepted by consensus

Overall Timeline: What would be a reasonable amount of time to accomplish the mission?

Goal #1: "explore how a voice for the Glen Ellen community with official standing at the County and other levels of government might be developed"

1a: talk to other communities that have developed a MAC or are developing MACs - Monte Rio (assigned to Arthur), Dry Creek (Vicki), Springs (Larry)

After discussion of tasks, a decision on timeline was postponed until a later date.

Review question/issues from January Meeting:

List of questions compiled by Arthur

The list was organized by Larry and handed out - we will go through this list at the next committee meeting.

Scheduled the next meeting: Monday April 23rd, 6-7:30pm

Adjourned by Arthur : 7:30pm