

Glen Ellen Forum Meeting Minutes
Garden Court Cafe
July 10, 2018

Michael Furlong called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and provided updates on the website and email program.

Sheryee McCormick previewed the opening of the McCormick's Mercantile of Glen Ellen. The boutique will sell gifts, seasonal items, home décor and more to locals and tourists. She hopes to feature local artisans and craftspeople and is looking for folks who make jewelry, potholders, and scarves. Local as much as possible. Owner/operator: sheryeem@gmail.com; Mccmerc.com; 707-343-0220.

Janette Friedman & Samantha Smith presented information about their proposed medical cannabis dispensary at 15499 Arnold Drive (where the old fire station at the corner of Arnold Drive and Madrone Road was located). Jani provided background on herself and the application process, which did not receive a recommendation for approval from the Sonoma Valley Community Advisory Committee. GoodHarold LLC has an option to buy the property. If the County issued a use permit, the property would be leased to Apothevert, a Petaluma-based non-profit. Status: The partners are waiting for a Board of Zoning Adjustment hearing date.

Jani and Samantha described their path to application and the rules that govern the application, as well as the \$120,000 investment they've made in the location. They explained the type of product they'd be selling, the clientele they expect to attract, and the need for a dispensary in the area. They discussed traffic, barriers, the relationship between THC and CBDs and how they work when combined, and potential conditions that could be treated. Several people from the Rancho Madrone neighborhood were visibly upset, clearly against the location of this proposed dispensary, and were very vocal about their feelings. Michael stated that there would be time for discussion further in the meeting.

Stephanie Hiller described the interest her group has in creating an eco-village at Eldridge. The eco-village concept includes housing and the ecological and environmental potential of creating a community living in parameters of climate change. Her proposal is in revisions, and a recent tour of the SDC has changed her perspective. She is open to working with the Forum's SDC/Eldridge Committee on the proposal.

Michael noted that because there were no additional candidates for positions on the Steering Committee, no elections were held and leadership remains the same. Poppy Darby has joined the committee as Co-Treasurer. Tracy Salcedo resigned as Secretary and was immediately nominated by Vicki Hill for a position on the Board of Directors.

Michael recapped the names of the Chairs of the active committees and also presented the names of the Board of Directors. Committee chairs are listed at glenellen.org. Board members are Jim Shere, Leslie Vaughn, Tracy Salcedo, George Merrick, Rob Barnum, Janie Soto, Melissa Dowling, Angela Morgan, and Graham Hommel.

Michael noted that the first gathering of a local business association (similar to, but not to be confused with, a chamber of commerce, as there would be no fees) was being planned for Aug. 2. Further information to follow. He stated that it need not be Forum-based but networking with local businesses was essential for our community businesses to prosper.

The Forum meeting was then open for public comment. A spirited back and forth began between members of the neighboring Rancho Madrone community and the applicants proposing the cannabis dispensary. The thrust from homeowners around the proposed site: They are unhappy with the choice of location in a residential neighborhood and adjacent to a school bus stop. Speakers questioned outreach to residents of the Grove apartment complex, which has a number of residents who don't speak English, traffic, impacts on children, fencing, crime, why the dispensary is planned for this neighborhood, and why wasn't there more outreach to neighbors prior to investment. Leslie Vaughn suggested a show of hands to see if a dedicated meeting on the issue would be warranted, but only six people raised their hands indicating a desire for further information. No additional meeting will be arranged at this time.

Michael stated that the proposal would be posted on the glenellen.org for review.

Kate Eagles provided an update on the ACE Committee, which continues to research the possibility of forming a municipal advisory council (MAC) for Glen Ellen, possibly in conjunction with Kenwood to form a North Valley MAC. [More information will be forthcoming.]

Alice Horowitz provided an update on the SDC/Eldridge Committee, which continues to work toward securing community input into the transition process. John McCaull presented a petition outlining goals that will be formalized, circulated for signatures, and sent to local, State, and Federal elected officials.

Kathleen Miller of the SDC's Parent Hospital Association described efforts underway to create a memorial park at the SDC cemetery and hold an event commemorating the closure of SDC in autumn.

Stephanie Hiller and John McCaull fielded questions about the eco-village proposal and the status of land transfers of open space at the SDC, the various roles local and state legislators can plan in determining land uses on the property, and how an eco-village might generate revenue to pay for infrastructure upgrades and housing.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8 p.m.

Attendees

Leslie Vaughn	Michael Furlong	Joyce Clover	Karla Noyes
Lorena Reinhardt	Marg McConnell	Judy Smalley	Ron Smalley
Betti Brachman	Jerry Bernhaut	Anna Bryant	Gary Bryant
Dora Welsh	Lisa Hoxie	Ritch Foster	Margie Foster
Robert Bridwell	Diana Bridwell	Robert Howard	Sheryee McCormick
Erika Klohe	Paco Cano	Debbie Lammers	Alice Wicken
Dave Palmgren	Pam Palmgren	Mary Guerrazzi	Nancy Padian
Bettina Sichel	Melissa Dowling	Archie Horton	Marge Everidge
Mary Kate Carter	Jani Friedman	Samantha Smith	Janie Soto
Jim Shere	Gunnar Palmgren	RB Silver	Kathleen Miller
Poppy Darby	Arthur Dawson	Kate Eagles	Helen Sedwick
Steven Raffini	Sharon Church	Vicki Baseheart	