

## Advisory Council Exploratory Committee Update, December 3, 2018

No word yet from the county on our draft bylaws or proposed boundaries. They are working to get the Springs Municipal Advisory Council up and running first.

We had another dinner meeting (thank you Michael McClure for hosting) which was attended by a number of ACE Committee members and also by Rich Lee, who has been involved in setting up the Springs MAC; Kathy Pons and Jay Gamel representing Kenwood; and Margaret Spaulding and Matt Dickey who serve the north valley on the Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Committee (SVCAC).

Given that the Eldridge-Kenwood-Glen Ellen MAC will probably not be formed for several more months, the themes of the meeting were: 1) how to keep up our momentum while we wait for the county to act; and 2) to continue conversations with SVCAC, the Springs MAC and the Kenwood community.

Jay Gamel believes that the MAC is going to happen because that's the direction county government is moving--Jay has been observing and reporting on local government for decades, so I give his opinion a lot of weight. So shifting our focus slightly from anxiously trying to "make" it happen (as I've been feeling) to influencing *how* it happens will give us the best results in the end.

With this in mind, we came up with several things we can do over the next few months that will create a solid foundation for a MAC when it does finally happen:

- Conduct listening sessions with various neighborhoods within the proposed MAC boundaries\*
- Review and suggest revisions for the county's draft 2020 General Plan\*
- Educate the community about MACS

Several people, including some from outside the ACE Committee, expressed interest in being involved in these efforts. The education component is already in motion—Jay Gamel is in the process of writing a series of articles on MACs which will appear in the Kenwood Press.

As this effort will necessarily involve a wider circle than Glen Ellen, as of January 1 we will move outside the Forum, create an independent EKG Advisory Council Working Group, and have a meeting in early January to plan these efforts. The MAC, in whatever form it takes, will be a governmental body that cannot legally be under the Forum umbrella—so separating the Working Group from the Forum is a logical step and the beginning of the year feels right.

The ACE Committee planned to give a full report on MAC formation to the Forum. Unfortunately this can't be done until we hear back from the County about our proposed bylaws and boundaries. So I also propose that this task be assigned to the Working Group to carry out as soon as we are able to and that the Working Group provide updates to the Forum on a regular basis.

Sincerely,

Arthur

\*A number of organizations, namely Sustainable Sonoma, have done some listening sessions recently; to the extent their boundaries and ours overlap, their findings might help inform what to ask and whom to ask for opinions going forward. Might be helpful to check in with Richard Dale if you haven't already.

A local contact, Teri Shore, resident in the Springs and local staff rep for Greenbelt Alliance, has done a lot of work already on the General Plan update; might ask her to report to one or more groups.

Margaret Spaulding, SVCAC North Valley representative