

Meeting to discuss possible formation of a Glen Ellen Municipal Advisory Council –August 29th 2017

Attending: Supervisor Gorin, Supervisor, District 1, Sonoma County
Pat Gilardi, District Director, District 1, Sonoma County
Jennifer Gray, Aide, Supervisor Gorin
Mary Booher, Analyst, Sonoma County
Arthur Dawson
Michael Wray

Since the meeting Supervisor Gorin has added many questions and comments to the original minutes. These comments are shown in *italics*.

The following topics were discussed.

1. Purpose of Municipal Advisory Council (MAC). The draft bylaws define this as ” to act as a bridge between the citizens, businesses, property owners and workers (“the community”) and the County government.

The MAC would be clearly recognized by any County entity as representing the entire Glen Ellen Community rather than a particular group or interest.

2. What will be the boundaries of the MAC? The census boundaries and the 95442 Zip code do not include all areas of the community which would consider themselves part of “Glen Ellen”. We discussed possible ideas on these boundaries:

- South and East - Beltane Ranch, Atwood Ranch, Dunbar School, Glen Oaks Ranch, SDC/Eldridge to Madrone Road (including the two neighborhoods flanking Madrone Road).

Supervisor Gorin - Does this include Madrone Winery, Hamel Winery, Quarry Hill, Bouverie Preserve, Gordenker Turkey Farm, Cannabis Cultivated areas, and all properties on the east and west sides of Highway 12?

- Northern boundary with Kenwood - Low hill on highway 12 by the old Pagani Ranch suggested

- Western limit :Junction of Warm Springs Road and Bennet Valley Road (AD: Only problem with this is the fact that Michael Furlong, Forum president, lives on Warm Springs above this point!)

Supervisor Gorin - should the boundary extend just to Warm Springs or beyond? Should we assume that a potential Kenwood MAC might extend to this boundary in the future, if they decide to forum a MAC, or should there be a buffer?

Supervisor Gorin suggests that the community identify a community of mutual interests, not necessarily focusing on outlying hill or agricultural areas, which may

not necessarily share the same goals or interests of a smaller community surrounding the Village of Glen Ellen. A broader geographical area would require more diverse interests and geographical areas to be represented on the 5-member MAC.

There has to be justification for boundaries - identifying community of interest. Can't pick and choose based on who owns the property, or where certain people live. And this affects who serves on the MAC.

SDC/Eldridge - may be included in the Glen Ellen MAC, but as SDC/Eldridge develops, it may have a different character than Glen Ellen - and different interests - and may want to form a separate MAC in the future as it develops in the next 10 years.

Supervisor Gorin will request that Permit Sonoma develop preliminary maps for discussion.

3. Composition of MAC. The draft proposal from the County has five members. They will be selected by Supervisor Gorin from applicants replying to ads in the Kenwood Press, Sonoma index-Tribune, social media, NextDoor, Glen Ellen Town Forum and word of mouth. She will aim for diversity of age, ethnicity, length of residence in Glen Ellen, residents, business owners, workers etc. Candidates put forward by the Glen Ellen Forum would be favorably received. Supervisor is concerned that there may be a shortage of suitable applicants willing to accept the responsibility of serving on a MAC, as well as participating in the Town Forum.

Supervisor Gorin - it would be preferable to separate the officers of the Glen Ellen Town Forum from those serving on the MAC. The responsibilities would be separate, and community confusion of roles and responsibilities might occur. The MAC and the Forum should meet on separate nights of the month to avoid this potential confusion.

Representatives on the MAC should ideally live (or perhaps own property or a business) within the boundary area. Other interests on the MAC might include agriculture (if wineries and agriculture are included within the boundary), geography, SV Unified Schools, or Valley of the Moon Water District.

4. Relationship of MAC and Glen Ellen Forum. The community of Glen Ellen must decide if a Glen Ellen MAC would be beneficial to the function and communication between Glen Ellen and the County. If Glen Ellen decides it would be beneficial, then the Glen Ellen Town Forum would discuss how the Forum and the MAC would work together and differentiate the functions and relationship of the two.

A potential suggestion for the responsibilities of each might be:

Glen Ellen MAC would be responsible for matters involving County programs, services and regulations, including traffic, traffic calming, pedestrian activities, road improvements, capital improvements, vacation rentals, SDC/Eldridge transition,

code enforcement, social services, and communication about any issues/ordinances originating from the County.

Glen Ellen Town Forum would focus on community engagement, social activities, clean up activities, fairs, festivals, etc.

If a MAC is formed, a liaison to the MAC from the Glen Ellen Town Forum would be provide the communication/liaison between the two bodies. A MAC could appoint MAC representatives, as well as community members to subcommittees to the MAC. The MAC function would be subject to the Brown Act, but the subcommittees would not be required to comply with the Brown Act. Their function would be more informal and could include reporting to the Town Forum and the MAC. However, any official request for services, capital improvements, County staff reports and other official functions with the County would come through the MAC to the Supervisor and County.

(AD: My understanding is that moving Forum committees to the MAC would be problematical because of Brown Act requirements. Thus keeping them under the Forum is the best approach.)

5. Potential benefits of a Glen Ellen MAC:

- Insurance Liability for meeting space for the MAC
- Small budget to hire a person to record the minutes.
- More formal communication process with the Supervisor and County
- Small budget for community improvement projects
- Eligibility for small grants from the County TOT and other sources

6. SV Citizens Advisory Committee - meets monthly. It includes representatives from diverse geographical sections of Sonoma Valley, including Glen Ellen. The function of the CAC includes all planning activities for the Valley. At least one representative on the CAC represents Glen Ellen. It is possible to appoint that CAC representative from Glen Ellen to the Glen Ellen MAC (as a liaison).

The interface between the Glen Ellen MAC and the CAC is complicated at this time. But the planning responsibilities for larger developments (such as wineries) might remain with the CAC and the CAC may refer potential developments in central Glen Ellen to the MAC for comment. It is undesirable for an applicant to go through two advisory committee processes.

Next Steps: There are many issues to be resolved before the Glen Ellen community decides to go ahead with the formation of a MAC. Supervisor Gorin suggests a town hall meeting where she and County staff would present and explain the issues. This should happen fairly soon and a special Glen Ellen Town Forum could occur in late September or late October to discuss this issue. The topic would require at least one and half hours of discussion.

A report on the possible formation of MACs will come to the Board of Supervisors on September 19th - but Supervisor will confirm this date and potential time.

