

Glen Ellen Forum Meeting Minutes  
June 4, 2018  
La Luz Community Center in Boyes Hot Springs

Michael Furlong called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. He announced the website ([glenellenca.org](http://glenellenca.org)) will soon have a bilingual option. He noted the business directory is in development and encouraged local business owners to get listed. A new email app is also in service, which will ensure Forum emails are not treated as spam. A calendar page on the website is also in development.

Brad Surosky of Transcendence Theater Company described the company's 2018 programs and record of community service.

- Now entering its seventh season, the company has brought four different Broadway reviews to the stage in Jack London State Historic Park's winery ruins. Post-fire, he hopes this year's season would help provide a sense of normality, inspiration, and community.
- He offered free tickets to those in attendance; two of those people would randomly be chosen for VIP tickets.
- He explained that, outside of the shows, Transcendence's core principle is community service. The company has raised \$367,000 for the park through ticket sales, and expects to increase that to more than \$400,000 by the end of this year. Transcendence also raised about \$30,000 in a fundraiser after the fires, which was donated to local recovery efforts. The company is also working on outreach projects with the Valley of the Moon Boys and Girls Club, Sweetwater Spectrum, and La Luz to bring children, autistic adults, and families into the theater, both to see shows and work with performers. Surosky noted the company has given about \$1.6 million in free tickets and services back to the community.
- Surosky also said Transcendence will headline with the Santa Rosa Symphony for the city's July 4 celebration.

Tracy Salcedo said Transcendence has been a good neighbor. While traffic on London Ranch Road has been mostly well behaved, she noted that occasionally a few cars zip down Chauvet Road to avoid the backup at the junction at Arnold. She suggested that, should cars begin to use the residential roads in this season, Transcendence use cones and signage to make sure only residential traffic uses those roadways.

In the public comments at the end of the meeting, Steve Brett of Hill Road described "noise levels that were beyond belief" from Transcendence performances and rehearsals, and expressed deep concern about the cacophonous noise levels he expects to be associated with the 22 shows planned for the upcoming season. He believes the noise issue will be worse this year given the loss of buffering foliage and trees in the October wildfire. He noted he has expressed his concerns to Supervisor Susan Gorin, and encouraged others with similar concerns to do the same. He also noted he'd approached Transcendence about turning down the sound, but had been brushed off. Brad Surosky had left the meeting by this time, and so was unable to

address the points. Brett was encouraged to contact the theater company and Surosky about his concerns.

Nancy Padian said all amplified music, including that at the Jack London Saloon, must be off by 10 p.m. Arthur Dawson concurred that noise from shows and other events will carry in different ways post-fire given the loss of sound-absorbing foliage. Ellen McKnight noted concerns about traffic associated with Transcendence shows.

Angie Sanchez from La Luz provided an overview of that organization's community outreach programs and a tour of the facility.

- La Luz was founded in 1985, providing food, clothing, and housing to male immigrants in the valley. Now the organization provides those services and more to all members of the community, not just Latinos.
- The property in Boyes where the center is housed used to be a church; this was sold to La Luz in early 1990s and the new building was refurbished about a year ago.
- La Luz provides advocacy and services for a variety of issues: mental health, legal aid, child custody, DMV transactions, health and wellness, referrals, homelessness, identity issues, immigration issues, and more.
- La Luz also provides educational services in on-site classrooms, including classes in English as a Second Language (ESL), citizenship, and the Santa Rosa Junior College's building trades program. The center hopes to expand into education for other trades.
- La Luz operates a family resource center at El Verano Elementary School focused on parent engagement, working with school officials and counselors, and helping struggling students.
- A second satellite is at Valley Oaks Homes; residential services and classes are offered here.
- The center's microloan program helps locals start their own businesses or upgrade existing businesses.
- La Luz has partnerships with other organizations throughout the county, including St. Joseph Health and Pets Lifeline.
- Asked about how the Forum could reach out to non-English speaking families, Angie suggested making communications bilingual, and posting events and information on social media, including Facebook and Instagram. She also advocated meeting one-on-one.
- Angie's thought: "The goal is to work together to build bridges. We aren't that far away from each other."
- La Luz T-shirts are available for a suggested \$20 donation. Donations go to the center's immigration crisis fund. They are available at the farmer's market.

Reflecting on the free community meal held at La Luz on June 3, Leslie Vaughn noted the cooperative effort was a "positive experience." Extra food was donated to Sonoma Overnight Support.

Nick Brown provided an update from the Traffic and Safety Committee:

- Slow Down Glen Ellen signs are still available for a donation fee.
- An emergency preparedness meeting was planned on Hill Road on June 9.

Tracy Salcedo provided an update from the SDC/Eldridge Committee:

- A Town Hall meeting sponsored by state Senators Mike McGuire and Bill Dodd, State Assembly member Cecilia Curry-Aguiar, and County Supervisor Susan Gorin was held at Altimira Middle School on May 10th. Representatives from the California Department of General Services (DGS) and Department of Developmental Services provided updates on the closure status and assurance that they support a local, community-driven process for redevelopment of the site.
- While no hard information was provided on timing or format for development or process, officials stated there will be a DGS presence on the campus until June 2019. What happens after that has not been worked out? A [link to the video](#) of the meeting is posted on the [glenellenca.org](http://glenellenca.org) website.
- SDC/Eldridge Committee partnerships with the Sonoma Land Trust, Sonoma Ecology Center, and Glen Ellen Historical Society remain strong. All stakeholders are waiting for the County to restart the SDC Coalition, which intends to formulate a redevelopment plan under Sonoma County's auspices.

Tracy also provided a recap of the CEPEC (California Equestrian Park & Event Center) meeting, which took place at Dunbar School on May 21st, was provided. About 50 people attended, including local residents Vicki Hill, Gregg Montgomery, Nick Brown, Mike McClure, and others, as well as folks from CEPEC.

- The presentation was spearheaded by Wanda Smith, president of CEPEC's Board of Directors. Other speakers addressed different aspects of the development proposal, which include an equine museum project, a veterinary clinic, and equestrian therapy facilities for the disabled and veterans.
- The CEPEC proposal is detailed here: <http://www.cepec.us/Articles/Master%20Plan%20April%202018.pdf>. Specifics of financing, revenue generation, proposed land uses, and modifications are in this master plan document.
- Another CEPEC document is here: <http://www.cepec.us/Articles/Economic%20Impact%20v8.pdf>.
- Details about the organization are at <http://www.cepec.us>.
- Points the SDC/Eldridge Committee would like local residents to keep in mind after review of the proposal:
  - The vision: An equestrian facility/horse park similar to those found in Lexington, KY, with aspirations for a potential Olympic venue.
  - The proposal has been submitted to the state and local governments. It does not have Supervisor Susan Gorin's support.
  - The acreage CEPEC would like to utilize would be leased from the state for 99 years. The targeted land does not include the campus, nor a chunk of land between the campus and Camp Via along Orchard Road.

- There is no formal mechanism for community input on the proposed development, other than emailing Wanda Smith.
- Cyclists would be banned from trails.
- Trails would be under 24/7 surveillance.
- Entrance and egress from the site would be via Highway 12, with a left turn lane and stoplight envisioned.
- Events at the facility (of various descriptions), which would grow over time, and are expected to top out at two events each weekend, with an estimated 36 to 60 horse trailers per event. Manure from events would be trucked off site.
- Asked if she'd be open to the public trust concept as discussed at the April Forum meeting, Wanda expressed interest but no specifics were mentioned.
- The proposal does not have strong local backing, nor was it generated locally.

Tracy also presented Alice Horowitz's endeavor: She has designed T-shirts, the proceeds of which will be donated to a fund established with the Sonoma Ecology Center and earmarked for preservation of open space at Eldridge/SDC. Alice is also setting up a website for fund-raising for this cause, and can provide more information at a later date. T-shirt sales and the fund are separate from the Glen Ellen Forum.

Leslie Vaughn and Michael Furlong provided an update from the Community Projects Committee:

- The Committee is open to new ideas.
- The cork board display for the kiosk near the Post Office has been completed.
- The County has discretionary funding available for projects such as creek clean-ups, repainting and perhaps installing flashing lights at crosswalks downtown; creating a scope for new crosswalks; and other proposals. Ideas can be submitted to the Forum or residents can put together their own proposals.
- Dumping is a problem that's on the County's radar.

Arthur Dawson provided an update on the Advisory Council Exploration (ACE) Committee:

- The next meeting is set for June 19th, from 6 to 7:30, at Shannon Lee's home.
- Agenda items include discussion of boundaries and bylaws.
- The Committee will also discuss outreach to Kenwood for combined advisory council; this might be more viable but might also have downsides.
- The Committee has reached out to Kathy Pons, President of the Valley of the Moon Alliance (VOTMA), to give a presentation on that organization in July.

Nancy Padian noted that the Forum-hosted Sustainable Sonoma: A Listening Session is set for June 14th from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The venue is the Glen Ellen Community Church's Mayflower Hall.

Michael Furlong noted the Commerce and Tourism, Environmental, and Community Garden Committees are still looking for members. Other ideas in the works include creation of the active seniors group.

Shannon Lee gave a “shout out” to the Glen Ellen residents Susie and Andrew Pryfogle. She attended a successful soft opening of their Tips Roadside restaurant in Kenwood. She noted the Tips food truck was “amazing during the fires,” feeding first responders throughout the disaster. The business has hired 40 people, including many locals. An artwork piece by Helena Nash-Donzelli, called the Tree of Life, is a courtyard centerpiece, and is composed of vines and “found items” from the fires, mostly from locations in Glen Ellen and Kenwood.

On elections for the Forum’s Steering Committee and establishing a new Board of Directors:

- Michael Furlong noted there were no contests for Steering Committee positions.
- Poppy Darby would be taking over as primary Treasurer, with Margie Foster serving secondary in that position.
- Michael Furlong will continue as Chair, Leslie Vaughn will continue as Coordinator, and Tracy Salcedo will continue as Secretary, though she noted she would welcome serving in a secondary position in that role. Melanie Hayward and Nancy Padian will continue at Large, although Nancy was invited to serve as Vice Chair.
- Alice Horowitz will continue as Chair of the Eldridge/SDC Committee.
- BJ Blanchard will continue as Chair of the Projects Committee.
- The Advisory Council Exploration (ACE) Committee has adopted a rolling Chair format.
- Nick Brown is serving as Chair of the Traffic & Safety Committee but is looking for alternative chairs.
- Leslie Vaughn will continue as Chair of the Community Engagement Committee.
- Three people are interested in serving on the Forum’s Board of Directors, which will meet four times annually and provide oversight. Five to seven members are needed. A position was offered to Jim Shere, one of the Forum’s co-founders.

The next Forum meeting will be on July 10<sup>th</sup>, the second Tuesday of the month, back at the Garden Court Cafe. Speakers will be Janette Friedman, who has proposed a medical marijuana dispensary for the old firehouse on the corner of Madrone and Arnold, and Stephanie Hiller, who will present her proposal for an eco-village on the Sonoma Developmental Center property.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

Michael Furlong  
Leslie Vaughn  
Carrie Castro  
Jim Shere  
Nancy Padian  
Tracy Salcedo  
Marge Everidge  
Alec Peters

Shannon Lee  
Angie Sanchez  
Brad Surosky  
Ellen McKnight  
Steve Brett  
Archie Horton  
Candice Ludlow  
Robert Howard

Sheryee McCormick  
Gail Edney  
Jim Bartelman  
Arthur Dawson  
Margie Foster  
Bill Olson  
Nick Brown