

# MARK WEST AREA MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

## MINUTES

11/13/2024, 6:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting

Video Available Send request to [MarkWestCAC@gmail.com](mailto:MarkWestCAC@gmail.com)

### **A) Call to Order:**

Chair Fies called to order, the regular meeting of Mark West Area Municipal Advisory Council (MWAMAC), 6:12 pm.

#### 1. Roll Call

Members present: Chair Karen Fies, Stephanie Bisordi, Ron Calloway, Becky Menzel, Haley Skerrett, Heidi Would via Zoom

Keith Roberts, Community Relations Specialist for Supervisor James Gore, County of Sonoma

Aggie Maggio, Secretary, MWAMAC

2. On a motion by Skerrett, second by Calloway the Minutes of the regular MWAMAC meeting of October 9, 2024, were approved. The motion carried on a voice vote. (6-0)

### **Adjustment To the Agenda: C) Presentations was moved to before B presentations.**

#### **C) Presentations of Referrals from Permit Sonoma: ACTION ITEMS None (Moved to the B position)**

Consideration of proposed projects will proceed as follows: 1. Presentation by project applicant 2. Questions by Council members 3. Questions and comments from the public 4. Response by applicant, if required 5. Comments by Council members 6. Resolution, ACTION, if indicated.

#### 1. UPE24-0079(4351 Old Redwood Hwy., Santa Rosa: Schopflin Soccer Field Lights

Nick Abbott. Soccer club

- Nick shared a Master Plan drawing and background of the club.
- Goal: Add lighting
  - They will increase usable hours and have more training sessions.
  - They will be on during the November through April season.
  - They will be on Mondays through Thursdays with some Saturdays until pm 9:00.
  - Having lights will spread out practice times and even out traffic.
  - We are proposing a six-light-pole system around perimeter and two in between.
  - They would be LED.
  - There will be typical tests and studies as will all permit applications.
  - The light will be concentrated mainly on the fields.

### Council Discussion

Answers to questions:

- On average, we anticipate lights to be on Monday through Thursday afternoons and evenings; Saturdays & Sundays, during daylight, mainly. The lights would rarely be on then. Lights go off 10 minutes after using them.
- Abbot did not know if lights will be automatic or flexible, as needed; most likely controlled within the use permit parameters. Have not worked out the management details but they will only be on when in use.
- Multiple teams and clubs will be able to use the lights.
- Not know how the proposed lights are different from Newman process. He will research and send the answer.
- County sends out notices to the neighbors and there will be a community meeting.

### Community Discussion

- Make sure smaller, local teams, not paying money to the organization, will also have access to use the fields.
- Make sure the lights will not create a zoning conflict.
- Make sure the lights are not cast out beyond the fields.
- It would be good to have an analysis of the kind of lights.
- Opposed. It is a community separator, for peace of mind.
- Lights would increase hours of crowd noise and traffic.
- The original easement was crafted to allow limited safety lighting around the parking area, excluding all the other lighting, to limit impacts on conservation purposes of the easement within the surrounding community separator.

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- No public funds should be spent on Schopflin fields until the issue of plastic chemical-laden grass is addressed.

Answers to Community questions

- No plans for a future sound system.
- Poles would be about 60 feet. Comment: The document says 70.
- There are more kids playing soccer than ever before. Lighting is cheaper and easier than getting more fields.
- Emails from the community to the MWAMAC, concerning this subject are attached to the Minutes.
- No tax payer funding would be used. The club raised the funds for the entire process.
- The applicant is the Soccer Complex. It has a lease with County. They lease to Santa Rosa United Soccer Club.

Chair Fies shared that the MWAMAC is a conduit between community and County. It holds no authority to act. She reminded the community that they could send comments to Permit Sonoma.

Nick will tell us when the community meeting will be and get the answer as to how the lights compare to Cardinal Newman.

**B) Presentations: ACTION ITEMS**

To proceed as follows: 1. Presentation 2. Council Member Questions 3. Public Questions

1. Update: Mark West Area Community Park - Brad Sherwood, Mark West Area Community Fund:

- Old septic tanks have been decommissioned.
- The Saba Foundation is funding the playground equipment.
- The Mark West Area of Commerce is starting a committee to raise funds to build a beautiful train-themed memorial gazebo in honor of deceased, retired Fire Captain Doug Williams. We are seeing options to expand playground area and move the picnic area more to the back towards the gazebo.
- We hope to be breaking ground on the playground by spring, next year.
- markwestarea.org, with updates and videos. Information flyers are at the park.
- The Mimosa tree at the front of the park had to be removed. The roots were uprooting the cement.
- The Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the \$5,000 annual allotment, from the MAC's Neighborhood Funding Improvement Program for maintenance of park.

2. Update KOI Keith - No updates.

3. MWAMC Officers for 2025

Chair Fies announced that technically her four years as chair is done at the end of this calendar year.

With little discussion, there was a motion by Calloway, second by Skerrett, that Karen Fies would remain Chair through December, 2025. Chair Fies agreed to the motion only if it would be amended to state that she would continue to be Chair and Ron Calloway would be the vice chair through December, 2025. And Ron Calloway would then be Chair starting in January of 2026. The motion passed on a voice vote. (6-0)

4. The BOS has approved Steve Klick as a new Council Member and the Council and Community welcomed him. He will be sworn in by the Board of Supervisors before the December MAC meeting.

**D) Keith Roberts (for Jenny Chamberlain) Announcements/Reports/Discussions:** Information only, unless stated The National Association of Counties (NACo)'s "County Crossroads Symposium: A Mobile Journey Exploring the County Landscape" takes place in Sonoma County December 3-7. About 300 county supervisors and other officials from across the country are coming to tour our community, learn about Sonoma County's government, and share best practices/resources.

More info: <https://www.naco.org/event/county-crossroads-symposium-mobile-journey-exploring-county-landscape>

**E) Council Member Announcements/Information/Discussions/Disclosures:** Information only, unless stated

1. Chair Fies: The County of Sonoma Administrator's office and BOS held a county wide MAC meeting of the MAC

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Chairs on October 29. All MACs operate a little differently and have different cultures; some have money some don't.

- All are supposed to give an annual report to the BOS.
- There's about six, or more, in the County. The goal is to gather input from community residents and give feedback to the County on different processes, like the soccer fields.
- The Chairs are hoping to put together a MAC Day event with all the MACs; possibly in January.

2. Bisordi: She and Roni Berg met with Todd Lands, Mayer of Cloverdale. He is on the Airport Land Use Commission. He wanted us to ask this Council if there are any that he should bring to the Commission.

3. Skerrett: She spoke with Jeff Peters, North Sonoma County, who serves as the local COPE Program manager. He spoke of a \$7 million grant that will fund defensible space on properties up on the hillsides. He is willing to meet with our Council and be another resource when we are ready.

4. Calloway: TK admission information meeting is happening tonight.

5. Bisordi: Chamber event -Thursday evening at Anytime Fitness in Larkfield. RSVPs on the web site are preferred. <http://markwest.org>

**F) Subcommittee Reports & Discussions: ACTION ITEMS**

1. Discussion: Fire Wise and if we should create a committee

Calloway:

- The fire chiefs are looking at our school districts and breaking up our community into Firewise Districts.
- The biggest reason to be on Firewise Community is the ability to disseminate sharing of information.
- Firewise runs parallel to COPE.

2. Neighborhood Improvement Funding Program (NIFP) Subcommittee (Fies/Calloway)

- Funding request from MWACF, for \$5,000 annually, for park maintenance: Approved, See Chair Fies statement above in B.1.
- No other activity

3. Sonoma County General Plan for Mark West Area (Would) None

4. Communications and Outreach (Bisordi/Skerrett)

Skerrett: Just waiting on the first of the year. We are ready to go with the mailers.

**G) Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items -- None**

This time is set aside to receive comments from the public regarding matters of general interest, not on the agenda, but related to MWAMAC business. Pursuant to the Brown Act, the MWAMAC cannot consider any issues or act on any requests during this comment period. Each person is usually granted three minutes to speak; time limitations are at the discretion of the Chair.

**H) Future Agenda Items:**

Potential projects and/or suggestions for future MWAMAC meetings

1. Community Services District (CSD)
2. Possibility of an update: COPE program (being prepared for emergencies) in Wikiup (or possibly Map Your Neighborhood - knowing where resources and/or community needs are) (TBD)
3. Possible speaker on home hardening and vegetation management (TBD)
4. Possible community clean up? Maybe in partnership with the Chamber (TBD) – Bisordi to take the lead
5. List of unmet needs projects for Larkfield/Mark West/Wikiup (TBD)
6. Supervisor Gore to attend a future MWAMAC meeting

**I) Adjournment: ACTION ITEM**

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There being no other business to discuss, on a motion by Calloway and seconded by Menzel, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm. The motion carried on a voice vote. (6-0)

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Approved Date:

Chair

**MWAMAC MEETINGS: 6:00 PM—SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

**Hybrid Meetings until further notice**

**Mark West School District Office, The Learning Center, 305 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa**

**(NOTE: Location or time may change due to anticipated greater community participation.)**

**Be sure to check the MWCAC website for meeting agenda, location & time**

[sonomacounty.ca.gov/Mark-West-Citizens-Advisory-Council](https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Mark-West-Citizens-Advisory-Council)

<https://markwestcac.org>

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