



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hopland Municipal Advisory Council

Action Minutes

Regular Meeting – Hybrid

September 20, 2023 at 5:30 pm

Hopland Fire Protection District Community Room

21 Feliz Creek Road, Hopland, California

The Hopland Municipal Advisory Council (HMAC) meetings are held in-person and virtually via Zoom Video Communications. Meeting access information is available on the Agenda for this meeting.

Members: Julie Golden, Amy Frost, Hannah Bird, Jane Cupples, Dale Andrew

Alternate: Bernadette Byrne

Administrative Support: Rebecca Dalske, Melissa Frausto - LACO Associates

1. Call to order & roll call

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm. All council members were present.

2. Public comment & announcements on non-agenda items

No discussion/ comment

3. Consent Calendar

The following consent items are expected to be routine and non-controversial, and will be acted on by the HMAC in a single action without discussion, unless a request is made by a Council Member or a member of the public for discussion or separate action.

- a. Approval of the August 16, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Bernadette motioned to approve the consent calendar, with a second from Hannah. All council members voted in favor.

4. Discussion and possible action on community updates and issues

- a. Mendocino County Sheriff's Office: *General updates from Sheriff Kendall*

Sheriff Kendall shared that the Sheriff's Office is hiring for positions in the jail. Two Deputies have gone through training and four Deputies are currently still in training. This will help with maintaining more Deputies on patrol. They hope that increased Sheriff's Office patrol cars in the rural areas of the County will help to reduce trespassing and burglary. The Sheriff's Office recently conducted illegal cannabis raids at 20 locations in Mendocino County. The found banned chemicals at approximately 50 percent of the sites, which is higher than in previous years. The increased use of these banned chemicals is concerning as they are hazardous to humans, wildlife, and the environment.

- b. Hopland Fire Protection District: *General updates from Chief Franklin*

Chief Franklin shared that the Hopland Fire Protection District (HFPD) strike team was recently at the Gasquet Complex in northern California for 22 days straight. This evening they will be traveling to Lake County to pre-position for the red flag warning. There have

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been no major fires in the area this fire season and the HFPD is looking forward to rain on the weekend.

Dale asked Chief Franklin for an update on the red-tagged structure. Chief Franklin shared that HFPD had an engineer inspect the structure and submitted the report to the County. The report has been accepted but the HFPD will now need to apply for a building permit.

- c. Board of Supervisors: *General updates from Supervisor Glenn McGourty*
No update/ discussion
- d. Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG): *General updates from Nephele Barrett*
No updates were shared from MCOG. Rebecca shared that Caltrans is planning to hold a community meeting this upcoming winter, rather than in the fall, as shared by Caltrans at the July 19th HMAC meeting.
- e. Hopland Cemetery District: *General updates from Katharine Cole*
Katharine Cole provided the following updates from the Hopland Cemetery District (District) prior to the meeting and asked that they be shared. Hopland Vision held a clean-up last Saturday, September 16th that included the removal of the lightning-split tree. She was told that Hopland Vision plans to return on a regular basis to help maintain the cemetery. An official clean-up day for the public is set for October 7th from 9am-3pm. If the community is interested in plots at the Hopland Cemetery, contact hoplandcemetery@gmail.com immediately. The Board anticipates the closure of all plot sales by the beginning of 2024. It is emphasized again that the Hopland Cemetery is exactly that - Hopland's Cemetery - and is a public park open from dusk to dawn for all to enjoy. Katharine will be scheduling events such as headstone cleaning trainings, tours, and special events to benefit the maintenance of the grounds. If anyone is interested, please contact her at hoplandcemetery@gmail.com.
- Brian Yopez (*Hopland Vision Member*) (*Public Comment*): Brian shared that Hopland Vision will be at the Hopland Cemetery every Saturday from 7:30am to 12pm until the end of October. He advised wearing appropriate clothing such as pants and closed toed shoes.
- f. Hopland Public Utility District: *General updates*
No update/ discussion
- g. Shanél Valley Academy: *General updates from Amy Frost*
Amy shared that last week the Shanél Valley Academy (SVA) had emergency preparedness week. The week included visits from the Sheriff's Office and HFPD, among others. The preschool opened last week. Preschool enrollment is currently at capacity, but the SVA will have openings in early October. On October 14th, the SVA will hold a fundraiser with Destination Hopland to raise funds for a 4-H program in the community. The SVA is hiring



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for a full time position to coordinate 4-H and sports. Lastly, the SVA is trying to partner with MCOG to paint a mural on the Feliz Creek bridge.

h. Hopland Research and Extension Center: *General updates from Hannah Bird*

Hannah shared that a the HFPD responded quickly to a fire near the Hopland Research and Extension Center (HREC). Research is underway at the HREC to study the impacts of cannabis cultivation on wildlife. Additional information on the study is available online for those who are interested.

5. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Certified Farmers Market

Mikayla Adams (*Public Comment*): Mikayla is looking for support with starting a Hopland Certified Farmers Market. Mikayla thinks that a farmers' market would bring an economic benefit to the local farmers and other vendors. She would like to be ready for a start in May or June next year. Mikayla has been working with Andy Walker of the Mendocino County Department of Agriculture on understanding the process and requirements for getting certified. Once a farmers market is up-and-running, he is willing to do a mock inspection to help the vendors understand the permits required for selling. Mikayla is currently looking for someone or a group to operate the farmers market, which would entail responsibilities such as voting on a location, choosing a manager, and managing funds. She knows of a few interested individuals through Hopland Vision. Anyone else interested in assisting or learning is encouraged to contact Mikayla at: mikaylajane12@gmail.com.

Hannah stated that the HMAC could not be the operator, but suggested the HMAC could create a committee to help with the initial idea, if needed. She also suggested that the HMAC help spread the news via the HMAC contact list.

Bernadette suggested somewhere near the corner of Highways 175 and 101 as a potential location. Julie suggested the pear packing shed/Hopland Rest Stop area and/or Center Street as potential locations.

At Amy's request, Mikayla shared that the biggest difference between a Certified and Non-certified Farmers Market is that a Certified market is easier for vendors.

6. Discussion and possible action on Letter of Inquiry on Funding for the Hopland Cemetery District

The HMAC reviewed the draft letter provided by Julie. Dale noted a typo in the last paragraph and Bernadette noted an incomplete sentence in the first paragraph. With the suggested changes, Bernadette motioned to approve the letter for sending to Mendocino Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo). Julie seconded the motion, and all members approved the letter in a roll-call vote.

7. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Rest Stop Project

Amy asked Julie if a farmers market could be a path to creating the Hopland Rest Stop. Julie said that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors (BOS), Supervisor Glenn McGourty in particular, and the Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA) previously seemed supportive of the Hopland Rest Stop project. Julie would like to write a letter to the GRTA to get feedback on the project concept

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and to propose use of the GRTA land for a farmers market. Hannah would like to start by inviting Luisa Morris, Project Manager from the GRTA, to a HMAc meeting hear what she has to say.

Adam Gaska (*Public Comment*): Adam shared that the GRTA Board meets every other month. The next meeting will be October 19th at the Healdsburg City Council chambers and the December meeting will be held in Ukiah. He suggested that could be a place to share the Hopland Rest Stop Project concept.

8. Discussion and possible action on Downtown Hopland Pedestrian Lighting

No update/ discussion

9. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Community Plan

Julie shared that the BOS recently considered dissolving all MACs in the County due, in part, to County staff time required to support the MACs. Julie is unsure if Julia Krog (Director of Mendocino County Department of Planning of Building Services) will still be able to help support the HMAc once the County completes the work with the Redwood Valley MAC. Julia shared about this process at the June 21st HMAc meeting. Per Julia's previous comments, the County may be able to advise the HMAc after the RVCAP is adopted.

Rebecca shared that the Redwood Valley Community Action Plan (RVCAP) is set to be presented to the BOS for direction on September 26th. The County will then support the Redwood Valley MAC with updating the RVCAP, as directed by the BOS.

Hannah noticed that the HMAc and community believe that the Plan is important but have encountered roadblocks. Hannah believes if the HMAc puts time and effort in, then the HMAc can overcome the obstacles. Amy mentioned that an outline for the Plan has been created and that with community input, the HMAc may be able to complete it. Hannah suggested that the outline be revisited and that the HMAc create a schedule or calendar for community outreach at the next meeting. Julie suggested having four community outreach meetings.

Brian Yopez (*Hopland Vision and Hopland Band of Pomo Indians Member*) (*Public Member*): Brian suggested that the HMAc reach out to the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians (Tribe) and determine if there is a way to work together on this effort. The Tribe may even be able to receive and support a grant for this work, something that the HMAc is unable to do due to it being an advisory council to the BOS. Hannah will reach out to the Tribe before the next HMAc meeting.

Julie asked that the Plan outline, RVCAP, Gualala Town Plan, and Hopland Chapter of the Mendocino County General Plan be shared with the community in preparation for the next HMAc meeting.

10. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Grange

Amy asked for information on the Hopland Grange. Julie shared that at the August 16th HMAc meeting, Katharine Cole shared that she is looking in to use of the Veterans Hall and understands

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that a Veteran is needed to facilitate the use of the structure. Julie will reach out to Katharine for an update for the next HMAc meeting.

11. Council Members' and staff reports regarding assigned tasks, committee meetings, and other items of general interest

a. Water Committee Updates

No update/ discussion

b. Council Member Updates

Dale shared that he attended the Resiliency Public Outreach and Listening Session hosted by the Mendocino County Disaster Recovery Division of the Executive Office. Dale believes the community should prioritize drainage on roads during storms and repairing badly damaged roads.

Madeline Cline (*Public Member*): Madeline shared that she has contact information for the Disaster Recovery team and suggested inviting them to a HMAc meeting. Julie agreed.

Julie suggested that Hopland Vision be included as a Community Liaison to encompass a larger part of the community. Brian Yopez agreed and will be added as the contact.

12. Discussion on agenda items for October 18, 2023 HMAc meeting

As discussed throughout the meeting, the HMAc seeks to include a new item for an update from the Mendocino County Disaster Recovery team, ask Louisa Morris of the GRTA to attend relative to the Hopland Rest Stop, and a more focused discussion on visioning for the Hopland Community Plan.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.