



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hopland Municipal Advisory Council

Minutes

Regular Meeting – Hybrid

April 17, 2024 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: Melissa Frausto - LACO Associates

1. Call to order & roll call

The meeting was called to order at 5:40pm. Julie Golden, Dale Andrew, and Bernadette Byrne were present. No members attended virtually.

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 March 20, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Bernadette moved to approve the consent calendar, with a second from Dale. All council members present 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 reported that fewer calls were received during the winter and that calls are rising as the weather warms. There were recently two (2) calls in Hopland, including a burglary. Sheriff Kendall recently met with Ismail J. Ramsey (*U.S. Attorney, Northern District of California*) to discuss a zero-tolerance policy for drug dealers selling laced substances, including holding those drug dealers accountable for homicides if the laced drugs cause a death. The Sheriff's Office has completed its investigation into last month's Covelo homicide. Lastly, three (3) deputies are graduating from the police academy this year, and four (4) more are expected next year. Sheriff Kendall hopes these new graduates will choose to stay in Mendocino and help address staffing shortages.

For HMAC information, visit Hopland Municipal Advisory Council-HMAC on Facebook, at

www.hoplandmac.com, or email info@hoplandmac.com



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Delani Waller, a firefighter with the Hopland Fire Protection District (HFPD) shared that the HFPD plans to conduct a controlled burn of fallen trees at the Hopland Cemetery, weather permitting. The HFPD will station two (2) engines to closely monitor the burn and ensure it is conducted safely and effectively.

c. Board of Supervisors: *General updates from Supervisor Glenn McGourty*

Glenn shared the County of Mendocino (County) has finalized an ordinance for tiny homes on wheels. This ordinance offers homeowners a cost-effective alternative to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) for additional living space.

Glenn commended the current County Tax Collector for their work. They brought in consultants to optimize operations. The 2021-2022 financials have been audited and closed, with the 2022-2023 financials nearing completion. Due to a one-time influx of \$7 million in this year's budget, the County's upcoming budget will be smaller.

Julie asked Glenn about County HR hiring new personnel. Glenn confirmed that no new staff have been hired. He explained the challenges of filling roles at the County despite utilizing a headhunter in the past. Julie emphasized the need for consistent HR leadership that can provide leadership training for department heads.

d. Hopland Public Utility District: *General updates*

Joan Norry [*Hopland Public Utility District (HPUD), Board of Directors*] shared that the HPUD has informed Caltrans via a formal letter that their research into alternative funding sources, such as grants, has been unsuccessful and as a result, the HPUD is unable to cover the Hopland Highway 101 ADA Project's costs related to HPUD infrastructure independently.

Glenn McGourty (*Public Comment*): Glenn added that neither the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), who also utilized consultants to assist in their funding search, nor Senator McGuire's team has been successful in identifying a viable funding source for the HPUD.

e. Hopland Cemetery District: *General updates*

No update/discussion

f. Shanél Valley Academy: *General updates from Amy Frost*

No update/discussion

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

No update/discussion

h. Hopland Veterans Memorial Building: *General updates*



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

No update/discussion

5. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Farmers Market

Julie shared that Mikayla Adams (*Hopland Certified Farmers Market*) has been able to open a bank account due to the Hopland Certified Farmers Market's (Farmers Market) partnership with a 501 (c) non-profit and is currently looking into purchasing a porta potty for the Farmers Market.

Julie shared that she, Mikayla, and Elaine Hogan [*Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA), Executive Director*] visited the building on the GRTA's land on Center Street. Elaine was concerned about the state of the building and its suitability for conversion into a restroom; however, Julie believes that the community can readily modify the building to meet ADA standards. Bernadette is excited that the Farmers Market will be able to utilize the space, believing it will generate additional support to continue revitalizing the area within the community.

6. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Rest Stop Project and GRTA Master Plan

Elaine Hogan shared a brief presentation on the GRTA and the Great Redwood Trail Draft Master Plan (Plan). A copy of her presentation is attached to these Minutes.

Elaine explained that the GRTA is a relatively new organization, established in 2021 through Senate Bill 69 (passed in 2018). This legislation transferred ownership of the North Coast Rail Authority's right-of-way to the GRTA. Currently, the GRTA is gathering public input for the Plan. The Plan will establish policies and guidelines for the trail's design, construction, and management. Once finalized, the GRTA will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the trail project. The trail itself will span 231 miles, starting in Blue Lake, Humboldt County and ending in Larkspur, Marin County. The design will vary depending on location, with three (3) options under consideration: "backcountry trail," "crushed stone multi-use trail," and "paved multi-use trail." More rural areas will have a more basic design, while urban areas will benefit from a more developed trail. Elaine emphasized a phased approach for trail development, potentially starting with gravel and progressing to concrete. The ultimate goal is to revitalize abandoned areas and stimulate economic development, including in Hopland.

Along the trail, the GRTA plans to create trailheads described as "community gateways" at various points along the route. The trailheads will offer amenities like parking, water stations, restrooms, picnic tables, and signage. Elaine sees Hopland as a prime location for such a gateway, citing the GRTA's existing property next to the railway and its proximity to Hopland's downtown area. These community gateways are expected to be economically beneficial, encouraging visitors to stop and explore nearby businesses. Elaine encouraged everyone to participate in providing feedback for the Plan. Comments and feedback can be provided online at greatredwoodtrailplan.org or directly to Elaine by email at elaine@thegreatredwoodtrail.org or by phone at (707) 504-0890.

Dale inquired about the construction timeline for the Hopland trailhead. Elaine explained that the GRTA is currently in the planning phase, so a construction timeframe isn't yet available. Dale then asked if a lack of local support for the Hopland trailhead would make it a lower priority. Elaine clarified that the Plan uses a ranking system to determine which projects are a priority and that

For HMA information, visit Hopland Municipal Advisory Council-HMAC on Facebook, at www.hoplandmac.com, or email info@hoplandmac.com



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

community involvement and sponsorships are criterion that makes a project a higher priority. Julie added that the Farmers Market, which will be located in the area proposed for the trailhead, has received support from Destination Hopland, Visit Mendocino, and Hopland Vision. Tesla has also reached out regarding charging station opportunities.

Bernadette asked how the City of Ukiah (Ukiah) was able to fund their trail project. Elaine shared that Ukiah funded their trail project through the Active Transportation Program through Caltrans. The Plan has a dedicated chapter on funding options.

Julie inquired about the highlighted crosswalks on Highway 101 in the downtown layout in the Plan presented. Elaine explained that these areas were identified as potential access points for the trail. Julie suggested contacting Nephele Barrett [*Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG), Executive Director*], who acts as a liaison between Caltrans and the community through the MCOG. Julie asked Elaine if the GRTA plans include infrastructure improvements. Elaine clarified that while the plan emphasizes infrastructure needs, it presents them as recommendations. The GRTA intends the Plan to be a resource for local agencies seeking grant funding for their own infrastructure projects. In such cases, the GRTA would provide letters of support. Elaine shared that unincorporated areas like Hopland can utilize non-profit organizations to initiate the planning phase and become the lead agency for project development. The GRTA also has a grant writer on staff to assist with funding applications.

Glenn McGourty (*Public Comment*): Glenn raised concerns about the suggested bike path in Talmage, citing the lack of sidewalks along on Talmage between Highway 101 and State Street, which would be an unsafe route for cyclists.

Julie expressed concern that GRTA has \$25 million for a master plan but lacks funding for specific projects. At the last GRTA meeting, Julie reported that tribes and some private landowners voiced opposition to the trail project. Julie proposes continuing to try to move the Hopland Rest Stop project forward, independently of the trail's status. Joan suggested taking advantage of GRTA's grant writers to pursue grant opportunities for the Hopland Rest Stop given the current opportunity.

7. Discussion and possible action on Fire Preparedness Community Meeting

No update/ discussion

8. Discussion and possible action on Caltrans Hopland Highway 101 ADA Project

Julie reported meeting with Marie Brady (*Caltrans, Project Manager*) to understand the 9-year delay in recognizing the Hopland Highway 101 ADA Project's total cost. Both Dale and Julie expressed discouragement regarding the project's lack of a clear path forward.

Bernadette recommended phasing the project or reducing its scope to lower costs. Julie suggested renaming the project to potentially qualify for broader grant opportunities beyond ADA-specific funding.

For HMAc information, visit Hopland Municipal Advisory Council-HMAc on Facebook, at www.hoplandmac.com, or email info@hoplandmac.com



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Joan Norry (*Public Comment*): Joan mentioned the HPUD also met with Caltrans and heard that Caltrans intends to shift its approach when working with smaller communities with limited funding. The new process would involve initial contact with local entities first before starting work on a proposed project.

9. Discussion and possible action on Downtown Hopland Pedestrian Lighting

No update/ discussion

10. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Community Plan

No update/ discussion

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. June Meeting Cancellation

No update/ discussion

12. Discussion on agenda items for May 15, 2024 HMAAC meeting

The HMAAC would like to discuss the Fire Preparedness Community Meeting item in May.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:14pm.