



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hopland Municipal Advisory Council Minutes

Regular Meeting – Hybrid

May 15, 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 5:34 pm. All members were present. No member attended the meeting virtually.

2. Public comment & announcements on non-agenda items

No comment/discussion

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 April 17, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Bernadette moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 17, 2024, with the following revisions to Item 5: 401(c) to 501(c) with a second from Julie. All 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 on April 21st, there was an armed robbery incident in Hopland. The Sheriff's Office is actively investigating and working to obtain footage of the incident. Additionally, Sheriff Kendall shared that there are currently four (4) individuals enrolled in the police academy. One (1) recruit was recently dismissed due to performance issues. Construction of the new jail facility is on schedule and is expected to be completed by fall 2025. Lastly, Sheriff Kendall advised that residents who recently moved to update their address on MendoReady.org to receive emergency alerts.

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

Chief Franklin shared that the Hopland Fire Protection District's (HFPD) annual BBQ was successful, and the HFPD raised its targeted donation amount. The HFPD is currently

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seeking to fill the position of administrative secretary due to a recent medical leave. Lastly, Chief Franklin stated that fire season is approaching. He encourages everyone to utilize the Watch Duty app, which provides real-time fire notification for the area.

Julie asked Chief Franklin if he is interested in participating in the Fire Preparedness Community meeting. Chief Franklin agreed and suggested the meeting be held in October.

Julie asked for an update on the burn that occurred at the Hopland Cemetery. Chief Franklin shared that the burn went well and the HPFD is hoping to be out there again in the fall.

- c. Board of Supervisors: *General updates from Supervisor Glenn McGourty*
No update/discussion
- d. Hopland Public Utility District: *General updates*
Joan Norry [Hopland Public Utility District (HPUD), Board of Directors] shared that she spoke with Jared Walker to clarify whether a contract he approved with Caltrans had associated funding that could have been used for the Hopland Highway 101 ADA Project. Joan learned that the contract signed with Caltrans was related to an easement use and not related to the Hopland Highway 101 ADA Project.
- e. Hopland Cemetery District: *General updates*
Katherine Cole shared that the Hopland Cemetery District's (District) Spring Pledge Drive begins tomorrow, May 16th. Additionally, the District, in collaboration with Hopland Vision, will hold a cleanup event on June 1st and 2nd. Volunteers are encouraged to bring weed whackers, blowers, and trash bags; however, these items are not necessary to participate.
- f. Shanél Valley Academy: *General updates from Amy Frost*
Amy announced an upcoming fundraiser for the Shanél Valley Academy (SVA) this weekend. The event will be held on May 18th from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm and will feature a dinner, auction, and live music. Proceeds from the fundraiser will support purchasing new playground equipment for the SVA, as the current equipment is from the 1970's and requires replacement.
- g. Hopland Research and Extension Center: *General updates from Hannah Bird*
Hannah shared that the Hopland Research and Extension Center (HREC) has an upcoming fundraiser on May 19th to benefit adult programs and field trips. Additionally, the HREC is working with the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) and noted that they have supported middle school field trips in the past and are working towards covering the cost of these field trips for the schools next year.



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Additionally, Hannah attended a symposium that involved discussion of strategies for feeding communities during emergencies. Julie suggested adding this as a topic for discussion at the Fire Preparedness Community meeting. The symposium also included discussion on biomass and biofuels and suggested that the County of Mendocino (County) investigate the feasibility of these resources as potential renewable energy options. Julie agrees and would like to see the County potentially utilize burned trees from the recent fires.

Hannah also mentioned Dr. Laura Elisa Garza Diaz, who is the UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Area Water Quality, Quantity, and Climate Change Advisor for Mendocino and Lake Counties. Her work focuses on developing water and climate resilience strategies for water supply and water demand challenges. Hannah offered to invite Dr. Laura Elisa Garza Diaz.

- h. Hopland Veterans Memorial Building: *General updates*
No update/ discussion

5. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Farmers Market

Julie shared that Mikayla Adams is currently working on placing gravel in preparation for the Hopland Farmers Market's soft opening on May 19th. Joan Norry (*Public Comment*): Joan asked if the Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA) will reimburse Mikayla for the gravel. Julie stated that Mikayla would need to apply for a grant due to the GRTA's funds being allocated towards planning.

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

Julie encouraged everyone to comment on the GRTA Draft Master Plan by June 3rd. The Draft Master Plan is available on the GRTA's website: <https://greatredwoodtrailplan.org/>.

Bernadette asked if it would be possible to draft a few talking points that people could use to submit a comment so that people will be on the same page about changes the community wants to see. Hannah suggested that the HMAC submit a formal comment. Since the HMAC will not meet again before the June 3rd deadline, Julie suggested that Hannah write a comment and send it to the HMAC members. Amy added that to comply with Brown Act, communication should be limited and the HMAC did not move forward with preparing a formal comment.

7. Discussion and possible action on Fire Preparedness Community Meeting

To allow for preparation and promotion, Julie and Hannah suggested scheduling the Fire Preparedness Community Meeting in October. Bernadette suggested forming an ad hoc committee to handle the planning. Bernadette and Hannah volunteered to join the ad hoc committee and Julie nominated Chief Franklin to be on the ad hoc committee.

Katherine (*Public Comment*): Katherine asked if the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians Reservation still served as the emergency meeting location and equipment storage site. Ramon Billy (*Member of the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, Public Comment*): Ramon stated that he could not speak



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for the on the Tribe's behalf; however, he does not think that the reservation is the meeting location during emergencies. Ramon offered to follow up with the Tribe and provide an update. Julie mentioned a conversation with Chief Franklin about designating an evacuation location, but a final decision was not made. Amy shared that the SVA's grant allows for a partnership with PG&E to establish the SVA as a potential gathering point during emergencies. Madeline Cline (*Public Comment*): Madeline suggested checking MendoReady as that information may already be available.

Madeline Cline (*Public Comment*): Madeline offered to help with preparation for the Fire Preparedness Community meeting. She also suggested inviting Jeff Adair, Emergency Services Coordinator for the Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services and creating a poster with keys steps to follow in an emergency.

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

In a written update, Nephele Barrett [*Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG), Executive Director*] shared the following: "In an effort to avoid significant relocation impacts to the Hopland PUD, Caltrans is considering alternative approaches to the project, including downscaling and phasing improvements or postponing the project. The alternatives will be presented in a community meeting currently planned for June 5 at 6:00 p.m. to be held at the elementary school. Caltrans has been working with stakeholders (MAC members, PUD reps, etc.) over the last few months, but they wanted to make sure that the general public in the community was also informed and had an opportunity to provide input. Any recommendations on the most effective ways to get the word out about the community meeting would be appreciated."

Amy offered to utilize the SVA's emailing list to inform the community about the upcoming meeting. Dale further suggested creating a social media post to broaden outreach. Julie proposed contacting Marie Brady (*Caltrans, Project Manager*) for additional details about the meeting to help write an effective message.

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. HMAC Yearly Stipend

Julie would like to use the HMAC Yearly Stipend on the upcoming Fire Preparedness Community Meeting.

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- c. June Meeting Cancellation
No update/discussion

12. Discussion on agenda items for July 17, 2024 HMAC meeting

For the upcoming HMAC meeting, Julie would like to hear updates on the Fire Preparedness Community Meeting planning and the Caltrans community meeting.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.