Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Meeting

September 13, 2017

5-7pm

Redwood Valley Grange

www.redwoodvalleymac.com

1. Call to Order, Introductions

2. Review of Agenda and Minutes: Melinda absent, not talking about her agenda item.

Unanimous approval of May Minutes. Review of June special meeting.

3. Public Expression

Bill Kohler, Redwood Valley Water District (RVWD). RVWD is in the process of consolidating with 4 other local water districts to in effect operate as one water district: Willow. Appling to LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) for consolidation. Joining forces allows specialization and better technology. Hoping to get a better handle on water supply. Bill is also hoping to lift the moratorium on new water hookups, in place since 1989. Bill will also be the manager of Mill View Water. Bill wants to get rid of the moratorium, feeling it has not inhibited growth. People will just dig a well, often sub-standard. Most Redwood Valley water is groundwater from Mill View. Bill is willing to come to future meetings. People assume that RVWD is a planning agency, which is false. Redwood Valley Water District has no say whatsoever about county planning, according to Bill.

Regarding herbicide use around water tanks, which was a subject of constituent questions at recent MAC meetings: Bill is personally anti-herbicide and prefers other methods of weed control. “Round-up junkie” was on duty for weed control. The public objected. Redwood Valley will not be using Round-Up anymore.

Chris: Will this be written policy?

Bill: No, probably not. But the community (many grape growers in particular) are working with an organic standard. Katrina noted that at our June community planning meeting, many RV residents opposed Round-up use in the valley.

4. Continuing Business

Cliff Paulin, lead on Community Planning, reported with a Recap on June 14th meeting: great turn out, lots of enthusiasm. How do we focus the energy that was brought into the room?

A few tangible items came out of last community action plan (2004), such as the RV Farmer’s Market. Going forward: What does the community want and what could we bring forth to the county as far as guidelines? How do we present things to the community in “county-speak”? Will residents maintain enough energy to proceed? Debra: Info about the county Grand Jury report that was recently issued regarding the Formula Business ordinance. The report criticized the ordinance, opining that growth is stagnant in the Ukiah Valley and RV people against the Dollar General were just a bunch of NIMBYs (Not In My Back Yard).Debra found this contradictory to what we have been talking about in Redwood Valley.

Chris: Chris commented on a letter that Sheilah had sent to the Ukiah Daily Journal, calling out the Grand Jury report’s many inaccuracies. No one on the RV MAC was even contacted by the GJ, nor did they cite anyone in RV as being interiewed. They compared the Dollar General in Redwood Valley to the In-n-Out in Ukiah. Alex: The best definition of smart growth: How to grow the place without wrecking it! Smart growth doesn’t mean no growth. Sheilah: She reaffirmed that smart growth does not equal no growth. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS—copy is posted on the RVMAC website). Green energy, local organic food production. CEDS is regional. Get acquainted with the CEDS!

Returning to the June meeting, Katrina: Was inspired by ideas at the agriculture table. Tool Bank, banning glyphosate. Convert conventional ag to organic was a view that came up in a lot of groups. Also, Sandra: Public safety stuff. Chris: Wildfire, urban/wildland interface, clearances. Fire is a big risk for us, floods also. A lot of climate type issues. Community emergency response team (CERT). We the fire department here, but they are busy.

Katrina: Some kind of bulletin board on our website, where people can drop in.

Roxanne: Safety, the presence of the Sheriff in Redwood Valley. Flow Kana building has definitely increased traffic and speed of traffic. Wick: Call Flow Kana and voice your opinions and concerns, as they themselves invited us.

Roxanne: Also some tax revenue to be brought back to our area.

Debra: In regards to safety, people that want to walk on roads, ride bikes. School has a shortage of bus drivers. Not safe for kids, and it is a staff issue. Debra: Also more herbicide use by vineyards in her neighborhood.

Jini: people really want to get a walking path between East Road and West Road.

Alex: Design guidelines, county speak. We should set up another meeting, Nash Gonzales or someone else, and get it in their language.

Linda Francis: Was at the June meeting, and feel cast adrift since then. Big opportunity here.

Cliff: Use manpower to get more people involved. Create priority list. Design criteria. Community character- What is that exactly?

Next Community Plan meeting will beTuesday, October 24th 6-8pm.

5. County Cannabis: Probably at this point around 800 people in Mendocino county have applied for cannabis cultivation permits. Of these maybe 20 have been issued permits. This is because of issues with building and planning giving clearances? Said that people will need the county permit before they can get state permit. County BOS is holding meetings now talking about the other cannabis issues, like processing and storage facilities. If anyone from the public wants to take part in the process of crafting the ordinance, show up to BOS meetings or write letters to your Supervisor. While there are 800 applicants there may be over tens of thousands of people cultivating in the county.

6. Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

1. Development Review: Alex created a report. We received 5 cases to review. Minor subdivision review, administrative permits for review. These documents are online, available to the public. The Development Review Committee is a standing committee and is subject to the Brown Act, which is cumbersome (need 72 hours to post a public meeting). Per County Counsel, Kit Elliot, the committee would more appropriately be an ad-hoc committee, which doesn’t require Brown Act unless at least 4 MAC members were on it, which is not the case. Alex: makes a motion to disband the standing committee. Cassie seconds.

Motions passed to disband the Standing Committee on Development Review and re-form as an Ad Hoc committee.

Further discussion about ensuring public review and comment on Development Review projects, better monitoring and knowledge about legalities of water issues in the Redwood Valley area. Alex plans to post the development projects on the website and to bring up water issues with Nash Gonzalez and other County staff.

1st Development Review (DR) item is to subdivide 27 acres into 5 acre parcels.

2nd DR: another subdivision, subdivide 5.81 acres to 2 2-acre parcels. Share a well.

3rd DR: Vineyard Oaks Drive: subdivide 11 acres into 2 5.8-acre parcels.

4rd DR: Tomki Road: cannabis Administrative Permit. Zoned rangeland 160. Need an administrative permit for their permit.

Recommend approval for all 4 projects with no conditions, but send a letter to County with concerns about water. Water concerns will be an ongoing issue that the RV MAC needs to voice to the County.

Agenda item #2: Cassie resigning as Secretary, make a motion to have Sandra nominated to be secretary. Discussion: could also be someone not on the MAC. Sandra unanimously approved as Secretary.

Next meeting at regularly scheduled second Wednesday, Oct. 11, 5-7 p.m. at the Grange.

Meeting Adjorned.