REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

JEFF GORELL
Supervisor, 2nd District

ISRAEL RODRIGUEZ
Field Representative
Supervisor Jeff Gorell

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- ROSEMARY ALLISON, CHAIR
- AMY ELLIOT, VICE CHAIR
- MARK BURLEY
- KEVIN CANNON
- MICHAEL ADAMS

January 18, 2024

6:00 PM

Municipal Advisory Council
Santa Rosa Valley, California

Santa Rosa Technology Magnet School
13282 Santa Rosa Road
Santa Rosa Valley, CA 93012

WEB ACCESS
At: ventura.org/santarosavalleymac
MAC Calendar, Agenda, and Minutes

Welcome to the meeting of the Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) an advisory council for the unincorporated area of Santa Rosa Valley to Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell.

OPENING

1. Call to Order.
    - Chair Rosemary Allison called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM
        i. Due to a time constraint Deputy Rebecca Purnell was granted time by the Chair to make a quick presentation on the Sheriff's new Home Security Assessment Program. Residents can make an appointment for the Home Security Assessment team to come to their home and conduct a free security assessment. "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is designed to reduce victimization, deter offender decisions that precede criminal acts, build a sense of community among inhabitants so they can gain territorial control of areas, reduce crime, and minimize fear of crime."
        ii. A flyer was provided for residents who are interested in signing up for a home assessment.
        iii. Introduced Deputy Jon Nungester who will be our new lead coordinator with the SRV MAC.
2. Roll Call and Election of 2024 Officers.
    - All Members Present, Quorum Met
    - 2024 Election of Officers: **Kevin Cannon** nominates **Rosemary Allison** as Chair; **Mark Burley** seconded the motion. Motion Passes.
    - Vice Chair: **Michael Adams** nominates **Amy Elliot** as Vice Chair; **Mark Burley** seconded the motion. Motion Passes.

3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council held on Thursday, November 16, 2023.
    - **Mark Burley** motioned to Approve the November 16, 2023, minutes; **Amy Elliot** seconded the motion. Motion Passes.

5. Agenda Review.
    - No Changes. Chair Rosemary Allison invited Safety Officers that were present to make brief verbal reports.
        i. Sergeant Orr with the CHP Commercial Unit mentioned opening of the new scales is being delayed due to construction delays.
        ii. He and his fellow officers continue to monitor commercial truck traffic on Santa Rosa Road to make sure that large trucks do not travel on this road.

6. Consent Agenda Items 10 through 13.
    - **Mark Burley** motioned to approve the Consent Agenda; **Michael Adams** seconded the motion. Motion Passes.

7. Office of Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell's Comments – Brief announcements and report on County activities.
    - **Supervisor Gorell** stated, note taken on Edison, I have met with the President of Edison and the issue of power outages is on their radar screen. I plan to bring in other legislators to help put pressure on Edison.
    - Storms from December have caused a lot of damage to the port, and around the county. The Board of Supervisors declared a State of Emergency.
    - Queensland Fruit Fly: If this spreads it could be devastating, The Agriculture Department is putting out traps and checking residential houses who have fruit trees. I am monitoring the situation closely.
    - Pit Count: Wednesday, January the 24th my office plans to help with the Point-In-Time (PIT) count of our unhoused population in our area.
        i. The PIT count is very important to the county in determining resources, financial budgets, and is used in shaping policy regarding enforcement.

8. Public Comments – Citizen presentations regarding Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council related matters NOT appearing on this agenda. (See Guidelines above).
    - **Collin Aska**: Asked a question why his address on Blanchard was not re-serviced/paved. **Dave Fleisch** from Public Works said he would investigate why Blanchard was not paved.

9. Council Comments –
    - **Michael Adams:** Spoke on power outages. Total of 59 hours that his power was down. He would like to bring Edison to talk about how they are not addressing the issue. Other counties have a detection system that shuts down the power automatically.
    - **Mark Burley:** Would like to thank Supervisor Gorell and his staff for providing information and assistance on Bridlewood Trail.
    - **Chair Rosemary Allison**:
        i. For the Troops event. March 2nd Gala event. We are looking for auction items.
        ii. Santa Rosa Valley resident artist Kimme Black, was commissioned to work on the bunnies you see around the county. Her bunny rendition is being unveiled tomorrow at 7:00 PM at the Conejo Players Theater on Moorpark Road.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items are routine and non-controversial. Items are reviewed and approved together by the Council as recommended and without discussion, unless an item is pulled for separate action by the Board on the Regular Agenda. Consent items are heard at the Council's discretion and may be heard at any time during the meeting.

10. **California Highway Patrol**

The California CHP concluded our annual CHiP's Kids for Toy Drive event this past month. Thousands of toys were distributed to kids throughout Ventura County. The California Highway Patrol conducted a Maximum Enforcement Period (MEP) over the holiday period with a focus on impaired drivers. The California Highway Patrol is hiring 1,000 officers to help make California Roads safer. Please see attached report.

RECEIVED AND FILED

11. **Ventura County Fire Department**

During heavy rains and storms in December VCFD responded to 231 weather related calls for service and is continuing to prepare for a heavily forecasted El Nino winter. Spark of Love delivered toys to 30,000 children and partnered with Foodshare to help 6,000 families with food during the holidays. In 2023 six Ventura County communities received their Firewise USA designation helping to reduce fires and make their neighborhoods safer. Approximately 40 communities have now started their Firewise certification process. The Ventura Fire Department completed the purchase of the new headquarters at 2400 Conejo Spectrum in Thousand Oaks. This ends a four-year search for a new headquarters. Applications for firefighter jobs will be accepted from January 22 to January 29, 2024.

RECIEVED AND FILED

12. **Ventura County Sheriff**

Public Safety made a presentation on the new Home Safety Assessment Program.

13. **Santa Rosa Valley Firewise Committee Minutes**

The Firewise Committee Minutes are included as an attachment in the agenda packet for this meeting. Overall, the minutes describe comments from Max Young, an individual who works with communities to gain Firewise USA designation. The report provides insights on specific issues, strategies, and suggestions for Santa Rosa Valley to become certified.

RECEIVED AND FILED

REGULAR AGENDA

Regular Agenda items are heard at the Council's discretion and may be heard at any time during the meeting.

14. **Public Works to Provide Update on SRV Paving Situation**

Representative from Public Works will provide an update on the recent concerns and solutions to the paving situation in Santa Rosa Valley.

- The paving contract is completed, and we are now looking at some of the concerns that have been raised.
    - We did not do a good job for setting expectation about the project
    - Two different treatments
        - Slurry Seal
        - Cape Seal plus a Slurry Seal
    - Concerns about loose gravel damaging cars. Public Works will continue to have the streets swept to remove the rock that keeps coming loose. Eventually the rocks will be gone.
    - The manholes and valve boxes will be raised to the level of the pavement.
    - Damage to your property. We will help in the process of filing a claim. We will help provide a list of contractors that can help remove the overspray or damaged areas.

Council Questions and Comments on the Re-Paving:

- **Michael Adams:** Have you been sweeping the streets?
    - Answer: Yes, about every two weeks.
- **Mark Burley:** Asked if the contractor that was used previously had any issues or troubles. Concerned that you're forced to use the lowest bidder. If someone messes up, we should be forced to use the same contractor.

        - Answer: We have not had problems before, and they have done fine. We must follow contract law. We do have the ability to bar them. Short of changing the contract code we must use the lowest bid.
    - **Kevin Cannon:** Asked a question about inspectors that were used. Seems like there are inconsistent areas that the inspector missed.
    - **Rosemary Allison:** Concerned about the amount of loose gravel that affects kids being able to play on the street or the danger it presents to kids falling. The County should be more aware of the surface.
        - Answer: We put a product down that we did not talk to you about. We should have done that.
    - **Supervisor Gorell:** Will it get smoother over time?
        - Answer: The rocks coming up will go away, but it will not be smoother.
    - **Kevin Cannon:** Can we put another coat over the top?
        - Answer: It would not help.

Public Comments on the Repaving:

- **Cristen**: It was better before. Give us a heads up when the streets are being swept so we can move our cars.
- **Collin Aska**: I work with contractors. We usually go in between, so that we get quality work. I have seen so much gravel. Blanchard has a lot of potholes, so it was a good thing that it was skipped! I had a $600.00 dollar bill from Edison. I feel that Edison is just a rip-off.
- **Marcia Marino**: Lived here 33 years. Worked for Homeland Security. The gravel is bad, and somebody is going to get hurt, and it has ruined my new car. It is just not safe for all of us.

15. **Update for Public Works Requests – Santa Rosa Valley**

For the month of December, a total of 5 requests were made using VCPWA Connect App, the Public Works online portal for reporting issues. Out of the 5 requests, a total of 4 have been closed out. Three of the requests involved road maintenance, one for illegal dumping and one reported a traffic-related issue. The app can be used to report issues such graffiti removal, potholes, waste management issues, and illegal dumping. Please refer online: VCPublicWorks.org or your app store and search VCPWA Connect. It is an effective way to solve issues and help your community.

16. **Update on Stepping Stones Contract and Status**

Colter Chisum – **Deputy Director Ventura County Parks** and **Megan Shaffer - Founder Stepping Stones** discussed the recent lease agreement with Santa Rosa Valley Park and plans going forward for use with the equestrian facilities. **Colter Chisum:** We love Santa Rosa Park. Reached out to us about a year ago and came to this MAC. Colter stated they are a great riding program. Terms of the lease is it a five-year pilot. Using an acre and half. For any large event they would have to file a permit as would be the case with any large event. The goal is to enhance the grounds. Better off with a partner like we have with baseball organization who use our parks and help maintain and improve the fields.

Megan Shaffer:

- The arena will remain public and not impacted by her program.
- Dragging schedule: My goal is to improve the footing of the ground for the horses. There has been no dragging that has been conducted other than what we have done in past.
- Concern about nitrates. Manure is picked up daily
- Park Use: We follow the Park hours set by the county. We will not impact hikers, bikers or people using trailers.
- Schedule: Home Schoolers in the morning and kids who go to public school ride in the afternoon.
- Security: There are cameras already and a park host is present.
- Turnouts & Lunging: We don't generally do lunging because the horses are older. They live in a herd fashion. No changes to turnouts or lunging. We do not jump our horses. Helmets are required.
- **Colter Chisum** mentioned the county parks are not paid by taxes but user fees. The park is underutilized. I am happy when I see anyone riding. It is a good thing. It is good to have groups partners with the county.

Council Comments on Stepping Stones Program:

- **Amy Elliot:** Worried about the safety of horses from people who might be going through the park with ill-intensions. Answer for Megan Shaffer: The Park host will be keeping an eye on the horses.
- **Mark Burley:** Wants to address those people who say that this process was done secretively. This project was first approved by the MAC in 2022 for 3 acres. Took a little while but we asked Megan to come back in December of 2023 to provide an update on the contract situation, and it may have caused confusion. This has been a process that has been on-going. Mark provided some suggestions and comments on the program. It would be great to have a schedule for when lessons are occurring and allow for one of the rings to always be open to the public. He also

addressed the issue of turning and lunging horses. It is hard to enforce a policy that one group cannot do turnouts or lunging when several public riders practice that. He stated that minors should be required to wear helmets. He reinforced that Steppingstones is not a jumping program. **Mark Burley** asked if anyone had seen people jumping their horses in the ring? People in attendance stated they have not. Mark also addressed the question of traffic. He feels that the traffic will be moving to a non-residential area, so he does not see this as a problem. He spoke about nitrites and how they come from several areas, farms, septic tanks, and ground water. The county created a formula where they determine how many horses can be a on property. Based on the county formula we could have 80 horses on these 50 acres and still be under the current nitrate formula.

- **Chair Rosemary Allison**: Concerned about the squishing of horses together and originally thought it was going to be 3 acres not 1.5 per the contract. Rosemary is also concerned about people not being able to use the arena with all the lessons being conducted. Colter spoke to the 3 acres versus the 1.5 acres and said the county would be open to more. Rosemary asked what is happening with pipe fencing? Megan stated that all fencing is going with me to the new location.

Public Comments on Stepping Stones Program:

- **Patty Mayer**: Competes internationally and stated the arena is in very good condition and does not require much more footing.
- **Jen Price**: I was the one on social media and was concerned about certain issues. One was that Megan would come back to explain the nitrate and other items before she signed a contract. There was a huge misunderstanding about the number of lessons. There was concern that the arena would always be in use by students. The number of lessons being performed turns out to be a lot less. The questions about nitrates were never answered by the county. We want this to work. Now that we know it is not 60 lessons a week it helps us to understand the program in a better light. She still had a few questions such as, who would drag the arena? How many horses are at a horse event? Magan stated according to the contract Stepping Stones will drag twice a month. The Park Host will drag once a week. Jen also stated It would help to post the hours of lessons.
- **Darleen**: We have nothing against the program, we just want to know more. I think you're doing a great thing. I feel people are throwing the dragging issue on you. She also felt that five years seems long for a trial period.
- **Charlie Beck**: Megan takes immaculate care of her facility. She drags her arena all the time. I don't see that being an issue. Traffic has never been a problem. Kids have never been a problem. She is a great neighbor, and I will be sad that she is going. It has been fun watching the kids and I respect the fact she has never had a horse get out.

- **Helan**: Will you be using poison for rat control Megan Answered – Never. When will you remove manure? Megan Answered – Daily.
- **Colter Chisum** talked about revenue for the park. We generally run at a loss, but the use of the arena helps justify and enhance the park. The park was never in danger of closing, but it was considered under used.

17. **Firewise Certification Strategy and Process for Santa Rosa Valley**

    Kevin Cannon, MAC Member and Board Member of Santa Rosa Valley Firewise Committee
    - Item tabled until next MAC meeting.

18. **The Future of Santa Rosa Valley, Creating a Vision Statement**

    Field Representative, Israel Rodriguez will continue the planning process by having members of the MAC and public to help create a Vision Statement for Santa Rosa Valley. This statement will help set the future direction for Santa Rosa valley and the MAC.
    - Item tabled until next meeting.

CLOSING

19. Adjournment of the Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council meeting to the next meeting, March 21, 2024, Santa Rosa Technology Magnet School 13282 Santa Rosa Road, Santa Rosa Valley, CA 93012
    - Meeting adjourned at 8:20