



GUALALA MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
POST OFFICE BOX 67, GUALALA, CALIFORNIA 95445

GMAC Minutes for July 1, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Gualala Municipal Advisory Council (GMAC) was held on Thursday, July 1, on Zoom.us. Council Members present were: Melissa Finley, Chair Robert Juengling, Donald Hess, and Vice Chair Tom Murphy. (Administrative Secretary Mary Moberg was absent.) CHP Sgt. Aaron Finnegan and Sheriff Matt joined during the meeting.

1. Introductions and Announcements: Juengling convened the meeting at 6 pm and introduced council members. The council wished Finley a Happy Birthday.

2. Consent Agenda:

a. The draft minutes for June 3, 2021, were reviewed. Murphy requested a change on item 6 to note he asked during a CDP hearing if a multiunit dwelling had been “considered” for the parcel in question, instead of saying he had “recommended” one. The minutes were then adopted 4-0 on a motion by Murphy, second by Hess.

b. Correspondence: Notification of two new CDPs, see items 2c, 7a, and 7b.

c. Agenda: Murphy asked to insert two just-received CDPs as Items 7a and 7b, the moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was approved 4-0, with a second by Juengling.

3. Public Comment: None.

4. Law Enforcement Report:

Finnegan said the CHP had a maximum enforcement period scheduled through the Fourth of July weekend, and encouraged the public to call with any service needs. He noted the sheriff’s department continues to look for a shooting suspect. Hess asked about fireworks dangers, and Finnegan noted they remain illegal in Mendocino County – although some may be legal on state property -- and that would be included in the CHP’s enforcement efforts. Juengling asked about efforts to remove abandoned vehicles in the Caltrans pullout in Gualala and near Fish Rock Rd. Finnegan said vehicles may be subject to control by Caltrans on the highway, and that the county has a new abatement program that faces administrative issues.

Kendall joined the meeting late (at minute 42) due to his duties and limited cell service near Kendall City. He reported there’d been 1 burglary, which was solved; 2 domestic disturbances; 3 mental illness cases; 6 investigations; 9 security checks; and 27 vehicle stops or self-initiated activities. Kendall said 99% of the information about burglaries comes from the community and that leads to a very high rate of solving the cases. He said the coast will have a lot of visitors this year and encouraged the community to pay attention to people in their neighborhoods who are acting suspiciously. Kendall also noted the Eel River is as low as he’d ever seen it and he reiterated the risk of fire danger, particularly from fireworks. The sheriff noted his department is still looking for a paroled convict who shot at a deputy and has been tied to a dozen burglaries so far. Kendall said investigators have narrowed his location, using electronic surveillance.

Kendall also noted an aide hired in the new Mobile Mental Health program under Measure B has already helped with cases like homelessness or crisis, and that an additional person will be added to the Coast area.

Murphy said he’d pleased that deputies will be freed-up to handle criminal matters. Kendall said police chiefs and sheriffs believe they should be doing police work that they were trained to do rather than respond to mental health cases. The sheriff said he’d snickered at the term “defund the police” but would happily give back every penny he’s been given to do mental health work because deputies are not trained for that. He said it’s like asking him to perform an appendectomy instead of getting a qualified surgeon.

5. Permit Applications:

a. **THP 1-21-00075-MEN** (The Conservation Fund) – After discussion, Juengling and Hess determined this was outside the Gualala River Watershed and GMAC’s jurisdiction.

b. **CDP_2019-0049 (Fukasawa-cionco/Wynn)** – This was listed for update only. No action taken.

6. Council Matters:

a. **Old Business:** Murphy reported ongoing efforts to fill four existing GMAC vacancies, including discussions with the County Clerk’s office and Supervisor Williams. Outreach has included several social media posts. Juengling noted several applications are pending. Murphy said he’d like to see greater diversity on the council to better reflect our community.

b. **GCAP Committee:** Juengling said he’d reached out to Caltrans Project Manager Frank Demling for an update and learned they lack staff to work on the design. It appears Demling is following up on comments that came in after the Town Meeting. He said Caltrans is seeking additional funding, but that the issue has been studied to death for over 25 years, and that Juengling feels it’s time to move past design work and move onto the engineering phase of the safety and enhancement project. MCOG has asked Caltrans to bring it back as an action item. Juengling said he and Murphy would follow up as a committee in the next month. Murphy and Finley agreed it was time to move forward with getting the project underway.

c. **Housing & Economic Development Committee:** No report.

d. **Electric Vehicle Charting Station:** No report.

e. **Telecommunications Committee:** Murphy reported there were a record 135 views of the June meeting, with much interest focused on a CDP involving the illegal removing of 29 trees.

f. **Water ad hoc Committee:** Hess said he hoped to reschedule a community water forum for August with an eye toward the long-term needs of the community. For now, the short-term focus is on conservation. Juengling agreed, noting the river is at an historic low. Murphy noted an algae warning has been issued for the river and other local waterways; residents are encouraged to seek medical age immediately if they become ill.

7. Permit Review Assignments:

a. **CDP_2021-0009 (PG&E):** – To remove 21 trees and brush at substation, including 16 trees on neighboring property, 39200 Old Stage Road. (Planner Tia Sar). Murphy and Hess volunteered to review this.

b. **CDP_2021-0020 (Bazzano):** For single family home with garage, well, septic, driveway and removal of 1 tree. 46611 Iversen Ln. (Planner: Mark Cliser) Juengling volunteered to review this, and Finley may join him.

8. Administrative Secretary Mober’s Report: None (Absent)

9. Vice Chair Murphy’s Report: None

10. Chairman Juengling’s Report: None

11. Adjournment: Finley moved to adjourn, Murphy seconded. The council voted 4-0 to adjourn at 7 pm.

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