

## Minutes for 3 December 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Gualala Municipal Advisory Council (GMAC) was held on Thursday, 3 December 2020 via Zoom.us. Council Members present were: Donald Hess, Robert Juengling, and Tom Murphy. Council Member Melissa Finley was absent. Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall; Sheriff's Coast Commander Lieutenant Joseph (DJ) Comer; CHP Coast Commander Sargent Aaron Finnegan; Administrative Secretary Mary Mobert and two members of the public were also present. **Council Chair Juengling** convened the meeting at 18:16. No quorum was present so, votes were not taken.

### 1. **Introductions and Announcements:**

Council Members introduced themselves.

### 2. **Consent Agenda:**

#### i. **Minutes:** 5 November 2020

Having no quorum, the Minutes were tabled until 7 January 2021.

#### ii. **Correspondence:**

i. **CalTrans E-mail:** Re. Streetscaping Town Hall Meeting 14 January 2021

ii. **CDP #2020-0012 (Jacobson); 47260 Havens Neck Drive; APN 143-122-03**

iii. **CDP #2020-0019 (Wilson); 47000 Big Gulch Road; APN 145-121-14**

iv. **CDP-2019-0032-(Wahlberg) (Wynn) et al: UPDATED: 47101 Big Gulch Road; APN 145-121-18**

#### iii. **Approval of Agenda:**

**Having no quorum, the Agenda was not voted. It was mutually agreed to hear Law Enforcement and Committee reports.**

### 3. **Public Input on Non-agenda Items:**

**Gary Amado**, who has a second home in the Cypress Village town houses in Gualala but resides in the Bay Area, had wanted to become a GMAC Member but was disappointed to learn Members must vote and pay taxes within Mendocino County.

He noted that, the forested area on the corner of Cypress Way and Ocean View was cut two years ago but the slash was never removed. When this fire season began, he called CalFire that referred him to *South Coast Volunteer Fire Department (SCVFD)* and stated the situation would be resolved eventually. He e-mailed SCVFD Chief Greg Warner saying the slash was a fire hazard but no one has answered his e-mail and no interest was generated.

**RJ** has seen the piles and wondered what was going to happen with them, as well as others in the area. He asked if the property owner had been or could be contacted. A chipper could be used to clear the area. He will research the matter and try to contact the owner.

**Jennifer Smallwood**, resident of Point Arena (PA), asked how an interested party becomes a GMAC member. Since she lives in PA, she doesn't qualify for Membership. TM referred her to the County for recommendations to other volunteer boards, and/or commissions in the area.

### 4. **Report: Mendocino County Law/Code Enforcement:**

Sheriff Matt Kendall, Lieutenant Joseph (DJ) Comer, and Sargent Aaron Finnegan reported.

**Kendall:** COVID cases are remaining low now, especially on the Coast. His manpower is holding though still short, but a man from the *Ukiah Police Department* and two new men who just graduated from the *California Police Academy* and are being trained. It will take ten months to finish their training and another year of probation before they are on their own.

He and Sargent Finnegan were in Gualala looking at the gates and signage at Mill Bend Park's driveway joining Highway One, and on the eastern edge of the property located near Gualala Arts. It is being cleaned up at present. He and DJ are working with the CHP to make sure no problems develop in the park in the future.

**DJ** will be in the area during December and will have a "bait" system in place to arrest people taking packages from post boxes located on the road or a home's front porch at residences in Gualala to

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as far north as PA and Irish Beach. Any missing mail should be report to his office so he will know an area on which to focus his staff's attention. Register any packages and/or mail known to be coming with the Post Master who can send a notice of its arrival and it can be delivered safely.

Someone is menacing /threatening people in the area; his office is working with the those affected by these incidents to resolve the situation with the best outcome for all concerned.

**Amado** watched last month's meeting, especially the Sheriff's report on speeding in the area. He lives on Highway One and walks to town to shop. He feels the speeding problem is really bad, with many cars coming into town from both directions traveling 35 MPH or higher. Loud mufflers are back in vogue and getting worse. Racing is also being done.

**Kendall** noted people speed up when a new speed-limit sign is in view. The electronic radar speed sign at the south of town does remind people to slow down to the in-town limit. There isn't one at the north end.

**Finnegan** said he walked the GCAP project and has interfaced with CalTrans on their new plans. The radar sign to at the south will remain and the plan indicates one will be installed at the north during GCAP construction. The CHP has a mobile speed sign he can install anywhere based on community feedback and traffic complaints; he could put it in the north to see if it helps.

A traffic complaint about speeding on Pacific Woods at Boca Chica will be monitored by his men. There are two PA officers in residence and four in Fort Bragg who cover about 1,800 square miles. Send any complaints to the CHP Ukiah Office (467-4000) so the report will be logged and tracked.

**DH** asked which organization is primarily responsible for complaints from residents on Pacific Woods Road. **Finnegan** said the CHP was responsible for safety and patrolling streets, property crimes are covered by the Sheriff's office; they coordinate their efforts where needed. To request a traffic survey, contact Howard Dashiell of *Mendocino County Department of Transportation*. A survey is the only way to lower the speed limit on County roads but many times it will cause the limit to go up, not down.

**Kendall** said new State COVID orders have now been issued. The Governor will put the state under total lockdown if the numbers keep going up. Our region—covering the area from the Oregon border to the Sonoma County line and east to the mountains—may go under lockdown even though Mendocino County hasn't met the requirement of 85% usage of total hospital beds. Being under 10% at present, the County can help other regional counties with their patient load.

5. **CalFire THP 1-20-00150-MEN:** Gualala River at Little North Fork, 4 Miles north of Gualala (Hess & Juengling). It was mutually agreed the item be tabled until 7 January 2021.

6. **Council Matters:**

- a. **Old Business:** None
- b. **Report: GCAP Ad Hoc Committee:** Updates on CalTrans & Petition & Committee Update (Juengling & Murphy)

**TM** presented a power point report on news from CalTrans regarding their newest plans for GCAP. He gave a history of project and showed the various recently-proposed plans. The new proposal will be previewed mid-December and a virtual meeting held 14 January 2021 to present the plans and receive public input. The meeting's announcement may be accessed at: [caltrans.ca.gov/gualaladowntown](http://caltrans.ca.gov/gualaladowntown). Contact them to receive information on attending the January meeting and complete the GCAP survey.

Landscaping and "hard" features will be employed but what these entail has yet to be specified. A speed sign will be installed to the north but no decision on a roundabout has been made. An Environmental Impact Report may be issued because the last one was created for Alternative 2 in June 2019. Sidewalks and bike paths are included but if they are separate from the roadway and placed on the shoulder for safety is not known. GMAC proposed three lanes, a bike lane, sidewalks, and landscaping but these were very controversial. These features are supported by grants and good for business and easing traffic. Landscaping can act as a curtain for the separated bike paths keeping children safe and reducing traffic; sharrows force children to ride in traffic.

The recommended highway width was not mentioned; on-highway parking and the number of crosswalks and their location are also unknown. Turn lanes allow interim parking to service businesses. At present, over 600 spaces for parking are available in Gualala; few people use on-street parking, at the most twelve at any one time. In the past, the Surf Center's owner has presented GMAC a plan for building over 90 more spaces with open ocean views.

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Construction will be completed in the summer, 2026, two years later than proposed last year because of the change of plans. If a plan isn't approved soon, the GCAP won't be completed for another 25-30 years.

The Committee urges the public to contact CalTrans to give an opinion and complete the survey. The committee recommends the public: 1) study the plan when it's released in mid-December; 2) complete the CalTrans survey; 3) unify behind a compromise that supports the rural character and beauty approved by the Gualala Town Plan (GTP); 4) any plan must follow the GTP to avoid years of legal delay at the County and State levels, and; 5) the new plan should include the GTP's recommended features: three-lane highway—not four—, no on-highway parking, and landscaping with separate sidewalks and bike lanes.

An e-mail from Kerry Shelly of CalTrans stated she is conducting a survey on issues about safety, speeding, accidents, etc. Her contact information is on GMAC website.

**DH** was disappointed the GCAP is delayed till 2026. He noted the landscaping along the streets in Ukiah is fed via the street's drains allowing water to soak into the ground and nourish plants. The GCAP should employ it here using native or drought-resistant plants.

**TM** said CalTrans felt no one was interested in forming a Gualala Special District Committee for downtown planning/landscaping and suggested GMAC have a meeting to discuss it.

- c. **Report: PSPS and Emergency Preparations Ad Hoc Committee:** (Hess); None
- d. **Report: Housing & Economic Development Standing Committee:** Relocation, Incubator Project: (Murphy); None
- e. **Report: Public Electric Vehicle Charging Station in Gualala Report:** (Hess); None.
- f. **Telecommunications Committee:** YouTube Views, (Hess & Murphy)  
**TM** reported the month's YouTube views for the following meetings:  
1 October had 103 views; Streetscaping and the Sheriff's report being the most popular items.  
5 November had 76 views  
CHP Video had 100 views
- g. **Discussion: Water Ad Hoc Committee.** None.
- h. **Discussion: South Coast Volunteer Fire Department's New Boundary Map:** (Juengling); None

**7. Administrator Mober's Report:** Administrator Mober reported working 16.133 hours; materials were \$3.66, for a total of \$245.66.

**8. Vice-Chairman Murphy's Report:** None.

**9. Chairman Juengling's Report:** None

**10. Agenda: 7 January 2021:**

- a. **CDP #2020-0012 (Jacobson, et al); 47260 Havens Neck Drive; APN 143-122-03;** Repair on-site septic without changes within minimum habitat buffer area. (Juengling & Murphy)
- b. **CDP #2020-0019 (Wilson); 47000 Big Gulch Road; APN 145-121-14;** grading/removal of contaminated soil, installation of 10 monitoring wells and one extraction well. Applicant is also requesting destruction of the 10 monitoring wells, re-roof of the existing residence, and installation of 2 flush-mount skylights on existing residence. (Finley & Hess)
- c. **CDP-2019-0032-Wahlberg (Wynn) et al: UPDATED APP from Nov. 2019; 47101 Big Gulch Road; APN 145-121-18;** Request to construct a single-family residence and ancillary development. Was addressed last year but is full CDP filing now and should be addressed and voted w/letter to County. (Juengling & Murphy)

**Adjournment:**

**It was unanimously agreed to adjourn at 19:49.**

Draft Minutes prepared by Administrative Secretary Mober

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