

Glen Ellen Forum
June 5, 2017

Michael Furlong called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. at Dunbar Elementary School.

Michael started the meeting by reminding those gathered that the Forum will not meet in July. **The next meeting will take place at Mayflower Hall (Glen Ellen Community Church) on Aug. 7.**

Michael noted that the Forum needs to acquire insurance, but that the cost was high. He asked if anyone was interested in sponsoring.

Leslie Vaughn reminded attendees that donations are welcome, and that a donation bin was at the back of the room.

Committee Reports

Tourism

Melissa Dowling outlined some highlights of research done at the county on vacation rentals. The committee is addressing how vacation rentals affect quality of life in Glen Ellen.

Some highlights of the County regulations include:

- Max overnight guests = 2 per bedroom +2
- Max daytime guests = overnight guests +6 (includes caterer etc.)
- Onsite parking 1 space per bedroom; only 1 on street
- Quiet hours 10 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- No amplified sound (includes boom boxes etc.)
- Restrictions on fire pits
- Certified Property Manager within 30 miles of property
- Valid permit must be posted
 - Look up permits; if none on file, call sheriff/SoCo Report It
- Complaints can be filed with property manager (follow up with a text)
 - Resolution within 1 hour; 30 min. in quiet hours

A [full document](#) on County regulations applicable to vacation rentals is on the Glen Ellen Forum website.

Social & Community Promotion

Michael Furlong reported on the initiation of a Social & Community Promotion Committee. The purpose would be to coordinate social gatherings for the community and promoting the Forum as a community voice through social and conventional media. The goal is to expand the Forum's reach from about 150 Glen Ellenites (residents, nonresidents, business owners, etc.) to all of those within the 95442 zip code (about 4,000 households) and beyond.

Traffic & Safety

Nick Brown reported that committee members met with the Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works Department to work on specific projects/issues in Glen Ellen. Among those:

- Remove the ivy from the O'Donnell Ridge (this was done by Archie Horton and other volunteers).
- A pedestrian was struck by a car in town. It was determined that the driver simply couldn't see the walker. Volunteers trimmed trees and cut back brush around the intersection to improve visibility.

The committee also has several ideas for consideration of the Forum at large. These include:

- A bike path (proposed by Arthur Dawson) that would run from the south end of town through the regional park and into the downtown area.
- Transforming the main drag through town (Arnold Drive from Chauvet Road to Warm Springs Road) into a pedestrian-friendly plaza, including kiosks, hangout areas, and historical monuments. The design could incorporate yellow bricks (think Chauvet Hotel) in the style once manufactured in town. The plaza would begin to calm (slow) traffic through town (proposed by Jim Shere).
- Closing the O'Donnell Bridge to vehicular traffic (big trucks only? Cars?), with the hope of helping it last another hundred years. Questions to be considered: How would traffic flow? A 4-way (traffic calming) stop at Henno Road? A 3-way (traffic calming) stop at Arnold Drive and O'Donnell Lane?

Nick pointed out that Glen Ellen makes money for the County, and in discussions, "We got the sense they want to bring money back to Glen Ellen." If the Forum focuses on either the bridge or plaza projects, "Glen Ellen floats to the top." However, a consensus would be needed. Here are points from a brief discussion that followed:

- Plans to repave the Arnold Drive Bridge? (A CalTrans issue; no current plans.) There are plans to repave Arnold Drive on the west side of bridge, and to reconfigure the crosswalks.
- What about using bumpers to calm traffic?

Community Projects

No update at this time.

Eldridge/SDC

Ceded time to the Sonoma Land Trust.

Sonoma Land Trust (SLT) Presentation

Tony Nelson and John McCaull discussed the SLT's [wildlife corridor program](#), which seeks to secure a corridor that runs from the Napa County line atop the Mayacamas to the Marin County coastline. The corridor's path was confirmed with scientific research. It already crosses some protected land. Work started four years ago to protect the missing links. The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation funds the Sonoma Valley wildlife corridor preservation effort.

Key aspects of the corridor puzzle:

- Putting it together has involved land acquisition (conservation easements and fee purchase).
- It targets protection of lands currently within the SDC. The SDC lands form a critical "pinch point" in the corridor.
- Stewardship—land management for wildlife permeability—is important. Research is ongoing to determine how wildlife moves through the area (camera studies; monitoring movements bridges and tunnels; mountain lion telemetry). The effects of human

interaction (proximity; lighting) on wildlife is also being monitored. Tony also noted that the SLT has guidelines for local property owners to ensure private properties remain permeable to wildlife.

Addressing a question about the effects of cannabis growth, Tony noted that has not been studied yet.

Addressing a question about the effects of recreation on wildlife, Tony noted that people on the land will alter behavior. The SLT is working with researcher to evaluate recreation and wildlife so a strategy can be developed.

John McCaull spoke about the land acquisition aspects of preserving the corridor. The SLT is interested in working with willing landowners on additions to the corridor, both large and small. With regard to the closure of the SDC and the SLT's involvement, John provided a brief summary of what's gone down so far. Key points:

- The State of California announced closure in 2015.
- The focus has been on making sure residents are taken care of.
- The SLT has been working with the Sonoma Coalition on issues surrounding the closure.
- The SLT's work has focused on protecting open spaces.

Site assessment work has begun. Key points:

- A reputable firm was hired to lead site assessment, which will include a report on existing conditions on the campus. This will include going through each building, flying drones through pipes, etc. A constraints report will be produced as well.
- Stakeholders, including the Forum's Eldridge/SDC Committee, will be interviewed to help develop a community-based vision for Eldridge/SDC's future.

John's takeaways:

- He is "delighted" with team that will study SDC.
- The State doesn't want to sell the property, but also doesn't know what to do with it.
- The State is looking to community to create best possible vision.
- The State will honor county zoning restrictions and support the county vision.

The SLT's goal: By the time the SDC is closed, the land trust wants "a framework in place" with the State on the disposition of open space lands. It is not yet clear how that will play out in terms of boundaries and "which pieces belong where" (e.g., parcels to State parks? Parcels to County parks?).

Organization/Advisory Council

Arthur Dawson updated the Forum on formalizing the group's status. The County has a draft template for Municipal Advisory Council. The route will be pursued once the county finalizes the process, hopefully in July.

Michael Furlong noted that the Steering Committee is looking for legal advice to get nonprofit status for the Forum. He is hoping to be able to move on this quickly.

Open Discussion

Ellen McKnight commented on cannabis farms in the area. She would like to find out how they are regulated. She expects this will become more of an issue in the future, and that the Forum will need to work with Sonoma County to ensure regulations are followed and enforced. She wanted to make sure the County is not catering to cannabis growers simply to acquire tax revenue.

Brad Surosky, Co-Executive Director of Transcendence Theatre Company, noted that they are entering their sixth season at Jack London State Historic Park. A portion of revenue from the shows supports the Park. He expressed hope that in looking at future uses of the SDC campus, that performing arts are included. He also offered two free VIP tickets to an opening weekend performance to all interested Forum attendees and provided a sign-up sheet.

Vicki Hill reminded the Forum that the Glen Ellen Fire Department BBQ & Dance is June 24th. In response to a question about where people can look for information about community events, checking the sites for the [Kenwood Press](#) and the [Sonoma Sun](#) were mentioned.

Leslie Vaughn called attention to the Traffic & Safety Committee's signs, which you may have seen popping up, around town. Archie Horton's clever artwork of people, animals, and a green alien, asking drivers to "Love Our Town, SLOW DOWN." For a suggested donation \$20, residents can acquire a lawn sign and can put it up.

Michael Furlong noted that the Forum is still soliciting designs for a logo—"the simpler the better."

It was Jim Shere's birthday; everybody sang "Happy Birthday" to him!

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

List of Attendees

Leslie Vaughn	Mary Guerrazzi	Jane Witkowski
Anna Bryant	Greg Guerrazzi	Janie Soto
Tracy Salcedo	Andy Deseran	Noah Urbina
Bonnie MacLaird	Deb Pool	Sanford Horowitz
Alec Peters	Nicki Artieres	Alice Horowitz
Mary Kate Carter	Maud Hallin	Nick Brown
Susan Hoeffel	Janeane Sanborn	Ellen McKnight
Margie Foster	Sherby Sanborn	Carrie Castro
Andrew Koenigsberg	Jim Shere	Angela Morgan
Vicki Hill	Brad Surosky	Pat Carlin
Tony Nelson	Mike Witkowski	David Bolling
Archie Horton	Melissa Dowling	Anne Teller