

Hayes, Kathy

From: Maya Conrad, MMAC Chair <mckinleyvillemac@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 7:17 PM
To: Bass, Virginia; Madrone, Steve; Wilson, Mike; Bohn, Rex; Hayes, Kathy; Bushnell, Michelle
Cc: Bonnie Oliver; Damico, Tracy
Subject: RE: MMAC request for support from Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Dear Chairwoman Bass and Members of the Board,

McKinleyville is the largest unincorporated city in Humboldt County which presents a unique and challenging governance structure. To help address this issue, the McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee (MMAC) was established by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors in May 2012, under Resolution No. 12-27. From that point forward, the eight-member MMAC has been an engaged and important piece of community voice and leadership between McKinleyville, the County and other entities, such as the McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD). Over the past year, it has become clear that the MMAC needs more support to service the community. On August 4, 2020, I submitted a letter to you, the Board of Supervisors, requesting increased administrative support and nominal financial support. At that time, you were not ready to consider our request. At the request of Supervisor Madrone, we wish to revisit our request for support from you now.

Exhibit A of Resolution No. 12-27 delineates rules, regulations and procedures for the MMAC. In Item 3, Responsibilities of the County, of Exhibit A, the last paragraph addresses staffing and funding:

“The County will provide the MMAC some staff resources for purposes of posting, copying and distribution of agendas, and dedicated funding to cover materials and supplies. Budgetary commitments of County staff and resources to the MMAC are at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors. Review of the County costs associated with MMAC operations shall be submitted to the Board of Supervisors by the MMAC and considered annually as part of the County budget review. County staff shall be directed to seek available grant funding to support the committee’s efforts.”

During the past year, the MMAC has engaged in many complex, challenging and time-consuming endeavors including: drafting the Town Center ordinance; Multimodal Transportation planning; Homelessness; Airport Land Use; Community Safety and much more. To-date, our committee has done all of this as a volunteer effort with very limited County staff support, primarily focused on public meeting and agenda noticing. We are grateful for the support we have received and for Supervisor Madrone's consistent involvement in our meetings and projects.

As the current MMAC Chair, it is clear to me that our community wants greater transparency and access to MMAC documents, agendas and meeting announcements as well as relevant County planning documents (e.g. Town Center); increased administrative and IT support will accomplish these goals. MMAC members could also truly benefit from more support and training (e.g. Brown Act, Conflict of Interest, Sexual Harassment, etc). On behalf of the MMAC, I respectfully request the following from the County of Humboldt:

1. An annual budget for MMAC expenses, up to \$2,500
2. County administrative staff time up to 10 hours per month
3. Assistance setting up email accounts for each MMAC member;
4. A video-conferencing account, with access provided and transferred to the Chair when a new Chair is appointed;

5. Storage on County server for MMAC documents including but not limited to recommendations in addition to the posting and archiving of meeting agendas and minutes;
6. A County-maintained and frequently updated webpage as a portal to MMAC information, member emails, and current issues.

Finally, in the fall of 2020, the MCSD Latent Powers Committee recognized the importance of the MMAC's leadership role in the community and invited us to request some assistance from the MCSD. To be clear, we do not view requests to the County and MCSD as mutually exclusive, rather complementary and essential to the MMAC's ability to provide a vital forum for and leadership within the McKinleyville community. The MMAC requested the following support from the MCSD, which is currently being considered by their Board:

- 1) Formalize a regular meeting with our fifth district Supervisor, MCSD General Manager, MCSD Chair and the MMAC Chair;
- 2) MCSD to provide a a small, no-strings attached stipend (up to \$3000.00 annually is a suggested amount) directly to MMAC for community meetings and other MMAC meeting-related expenses;
- 3) MCSD to provide support/access for events, meetings and MMAC-related announcements;
- 4) MCSD to provide letters of support for MMAC-related grants;
- 5) A joint annual meeting between MCSD and MMAC (perhaps similar to other State of the City annual meetings);

The MMAC hopes the Board of Supervisors will honor our request for increased support from what is currently being provided. We provide a vital leadership link between McKinleyville and the County and are deeply committed to serving our community.

Sincerely,

Maya Conrad, Chair
McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee
707-498-2025