

MARIPOSA COUNTY

Code Compliance Advisory Committee

MEETING #36 FINAL MINUTES

(Approved 7/12/24 with Amendments)

DATE: September 20, 2023

TIME: 2:00 - 4:00 PM

**LOCATION: Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2nd Floor
5100 Bullion Street, Mariposa CA**

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Karen Woblesky, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and announced there was a quorum.

CCAC Members Present: Kris Casto, Robert Fox, Ken Melton, Karen Woblesky, Gabe Edwards, Lydia Clary.

CCAC Members Absent/Excused: Cassandra Beth Scaffidi (Resigned).

County Staff Present: Planning: Steve Engfer, Corrina Miranda.

Public Present: Colleen Rhodes

Edwards stated that the most important component of Monday's meeting was a good first step in getting the Board to understand what we've been trying to say. The Supervisors reiterated that they trust the CCAC. There was never any intention by the CCAC to target any individuals. Any criticisms should be taken as an opportunity for growth. The CCAC and code compliance staff need to work together to make several programs workable. There needs to be a focus by staff on environmental, health and safety issues. Amnesty programs, voluntary cleanup, and abatement need to be the focus. The 9/18 meeting was a critically important juncture.

Woblesky agreed and stated that she believes there was a misunderstanding during the 9/18 meeting. The CCAC was looking at functionality not personality. Everyone agrees that there needs to be change. Change is hard. There is criticism of the process, not of the persons. The CCAC appears to have been misunderstood as criticizing staff. We are talking about functions. The entity that needs to be held accountable today is the county, which allowed a malformed, unformed process to be given to tech-level staff. That is the county's failing. The issues are longstanding. County residents have been harmed by the County's failure to hear their complaints. Pushing forward 2019-218 was a mistake because it wouldn't have solved the problems. We are looking at solving problems. Things will be different. To become the best that we can be, we need to understand that change is essential.

Engfer said that we are not here to evaluate staff. If there are specific issues, especially with particular staff, that's a managerial issue. He follows HR procedures. When people are saying repetitively "training, training, training" it gets to the point where we need to understand on the evaluation side of performance and positions, "that's my job." We're all trying to fix a problem. When there are differ

ent viewpoints from all sorts of people, we're going to run into things. Let's stay on track and get these recommendations moving forward. We would like to get some things remedied. The code compliance function was cobbled together in the past. It's important to watch out for that. They're our team. They're working with what they have. When there are specific issues of staff, please know it's a managerial issue. Part of the Monday 9/18 conversation was related to that. I wanted to get that out of the way. I'm looking forward to working on those items the Board directed the CCAC to work on. CCAC members bring expertise to the table. Lydia Clary recommended to put together a team and the Board directed us to do that on Tuesday 9/19. He's looking forward to working on the internal advisory teams, the abandoned vehicle abatement program, and the Uniform Code for Dangerous Buildings.

Clary commented that the abatement of dangerous buildings doesn't result in a lot of court cases as some indicated on 9/18. The building codes allow the county to adopt some, but not all, of the Uniform Code, or the whole thing. It's up to the county.

Rhodes noted that public access to the 9/18 meeting was impaired. Our Clerk of the Board does a wonderful job, but the phone number and access code were not published. The online live audio broke up continuously according to listeners. People who reported that they tried to access the audio recording say they could get less than 90 minutes of audio recording of a many-hours-long meeting. The poor work that was done in creating Code Amendment 2019-218 created a suspicious community and that suspicion gets reactivated when communication is impaired.

During the 9/18 meeting, Rhodes said she challenged the terms of 2019-218, the process and the language, but did not challenge the people. She now challenges the tenor and tone of 2019-218. To double fines on the 31st day does not create motivation to cooperate, it destroys, as does failure to adopt any mitigating provisions, and then adding a 10% fee on top of high fines and doubling them on the 31st day. The people who feel criticized had no part in creating these problems. Government Code 54988 is purposely misstated in 2019-218 in a significant way that harms the public. Would merely rewriting 2019-218 to remove the illegal provisions rehabilitate it in the public's estimation? No. She does not know who wrote 2019-218 but believes they should not be involved in coming up with solutions for code enforcement in this county. She submitted her resignation because she is not hearing staff indicate that they are dedicated to solving problems. We cannot pretend that everything is copacetic, because it is not.

Fox stated that he did not hear any CCAC member make any personal attacks during the joint meeting with the Board. He may have made some forthright even snide remarks about consultants. In this kind of work, we're not going to get anything done if we have to tiptoe around people's feelings. If they're too sensitive, maybe they're not in the right role. He did not hear anything that could have been taken personally by anybody.

Woblesky said she agreed with Fox that this is about the function, the job, not the person filling it. No individuals were targeted by any CCAC comments. There was nothing CCAC members said that was a personal attack. That seems like an attempt to derail the process. There was nothing we talked about that was a personal attack. We need to move forward and fix this code. There needs to be change.

Fox concluded, "People don't resist change; people resist being changed." Maybe that's the distinction when they take it personally.

Engfer thanked everyone for the input.

2. Approve Minutes of CCAC Meeting #35, 09/06/2023

Members reviewed the minutes and suggested no changes.

By motion of Casto, seconded by Fox, the Code Compliance Advisory Committee approved the minutes of September 6, 2023 as presented: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstained (Lydia Clary), Motion passed.

3. Persons wishing to speak on a matter not on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the committee. No action will be taken by the CCAC.

There was no public comment received.

4. Discussion and possible action re: Review of Board of Supervisors Special Meeting that was held on September 18, 2023, Development of Work Plan, and Actionable Next Steps.

The committee members discussed and shared their takeaway from the Board of Supervisors Special Meeting. Woblesky shared a work plan for the members to review to discuss the recommendations to the Board and stated that the following items will be added to the next meeting agenda:

- Priority List
- Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors
- Business Process Presentation from Planning Staff
- Reconstituting Ad Hocs –
 - Case Review: Edwards, Melton, Casto
 - Code Review: Clary, Edwards, Melton

5. Discussion/Possible Action re: Future CCAC Agenda Items and Priority Identification and Focus for Remainder of 2023. Next CCAC Meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2023. (Meeting #37)

All agreed that the meeting on October 4, 2023 should be a review of the matters discussed on September 18, 2023 Board of Supervisors Special Meeting.

6. Adjourn 4:00 P.M.

By motion of Edwards, seconded by Casto, the Code Compliance Advisory Committee adjourned at 4:00 P.M.: 6 ayes, 0 nays, Motion passed.

Minutes prepared from audio recording of meeting and submitted by Sophea Craighead, Office Technician