

SUSTAINABLE SONOMA COUNCIL MEETING

NOTES

Sonoma Community Center, Room 212

276 E Napa St, Sonoma, CA 95476

March 29, 2018, 3:30-5:00pm

**I. Overview and objectives**

Welcome members, and introduction of advisors and staff. Sustainable Sonoma was formed to address chronic, complex issues that single organizations or entities can address alone. Specific issues like this that have been in the news recently include fire recovery, the future of Sonoma Developmental Center, housing affordability, and transportation.

Binders were provided for Sustainable Sonoma Council members, containing the Charter, Council roster, timeline, and Code of Conduct.

**II. Code of Conduct of Action**

We tend to focus mostly on “what” we do. But we also need to address “how” we work together. The “Code of Conduct in Action” exercise has members define what each expectation looks like and rank it on a Challenge Scale from 1-10.

1. “Know each others’ interests”

Words to describe what it’s like to enact that expectation:

* Compatible
* Friendly
* Active listening
* Collegiality
* Curiosity
* Retain the information
* Multifaceted
* Common interests
* Just the beginning
* Enormity—awareness of the challenge

2. “Assume the best from one another. Have mutual respect. If you think a miscommunication/misunderstanding has happened, talk to each other”

Words to describe what it’s like to enact that expectation:

* Clarification and repetition
* Perception gaps
* Coming prepared to meeting- respecting others
* Active listening
* Actively discussing
* Letting everyone weigh in
* Reaching a compromise- looking for common ground
* Respect- listening and eye contact
* Stay in our heart- not assume of others
* Keep an open mind

**III. Updated timeline and process review**

Listening Sessions are in progress and will continue through June. The next Sustainable Sonoma Council meeting will be June 20. The group will review the input from the Listening Sessions and will start to prioritize 5-8 shared goals and values. We hope to dial in the prioritized goals by September.

Sustainable Sonoma is a finalist for an Impact100 grant. Everyone volunteered to help with a site visit. It is Impact100’s 10th anniversary. It could be an opportunity to show how all the issues in our community are linked and to address them together and build the community’s capacity to talk about these issues.

**IV. Community engagement through listening sessions**

Most of the Listening Sessions are part of an existing meeting, 30-40 minutes with an existing group. Some will be broader public meetings with longer agendas. The sessions will cover:

* Attendees’ goals, hopes and dreams for the future of Sonoma Valley
* What they hope Sustainable Sonoma will address
* Specific ideas about how to address

The list of interest groups was reviewed and expanded by the Sustainable Sonoma Council.

**V. Closing**

The members agreed to expand the meetings to 2 hours.