

Sonoma Valley Interfaith
Wednesday, April 26th, 2023 / 12 pm–1 pm

<https://www.sonomavalleyinterfaithma.org>
sonomavalleyinterfaithma@gmail.com

Present: Steve Finley, John Bonnoit, Nicole Trotter, Manette Fairmont, Jason Mayer, Curran Reichert, Scott Pryor, Peadar Dalton and Adam Peacocke.

12:00 pm

- **Welcome/Opening Blessing** - Steve opens and Peadar offers a blessing.

12:05 pm

- **Checking in with everyone** -
 - Peadar is back from 9 months in Ireland.
 - Curran will be continuing her placement and good work at First Congregational Church.
 - Jason reports that [Sonoma Collective](#) is now in their second year and now has an office space on West Second St. with this year's goal to have regular Sunday gatherings in late Fall, more to come.
 - Jim Thomas is retiring! His last service will be Mother's Day Sunday. If you are able to attend, there will be a gathering in his honor that Sunday at 11am.
 - Adam and Feathervine have been working with the Department of Emergency Management to engage with local congregations regarding their experiences with Disaster Response and Recovery. The district one Faith Community listening session was on Thursday April 27th at St. Leo's Church in Sonoma. We hope you or your representative were able to attend. If you would like more information please reach out to Adam at adam@feathervine.com
 - A letter that was written in collaboration with Unite Here Local 2 was shared. This letter is in support of the workers at the Fairmont Sonoma Mission unionizing and receiving a better living wage. This letter will be sent next week on behalf of our Interfaith group. If you would like to view the letter and/or suggest edits or have your name omitted please reach out to Steve at rabbisteve.shirshalom@gmail.com

12:30 pm

- **Sandra Lowe, Sonoma City Mayor**

Sandra has lived in Sonoma for over 30 years and raised her four children in Sonoma's public schools. She was a teacher here in Sonoma and has worked for the California Teacher's Association for 20 years.

About the position: Sonoma operates under the the Council/Manager form of government. The City Council is the elected body that oversees all municipal operations. The City Council provides policy leadership and acts as the legislative arm of City government. The five members of the City Council are elected to overlapping four-year terms, ensuring that there are Council Members with experience guiding the City at all times. Council Members also sit as the Board of Directors of the Community Development Agency, and participate in regional activities. The Council members elect the Mayor. The job pays \$300 a month of which Sandra donates back to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Some of her successes and goals include:

- helping push through the paperwork for Pharmaca's longtime general manager Aman Garg to re-open the pharmacy under the new business name Adobe Drugs,
- incorporating art in the community by bringing back the Art Walk this Fall and by using the City Council Chambers as an art gallery with artists rotating works each month,
- putting more benches in and around the plaza including a bench in front of Reader's Books dedicated to the Latina community,
- breaking ground this year on the corner lot at 5th Street West and West MacArthur St for the city's first new park in years (this lot has been used by various companies to store large equipment but is actually zoned for a park),
- participating in the community in as many events as possible such as Trashion Fashion Show,
- and remodeling the women's bathroom in the plaza (see article [here](#))

The City Council's top priority continues to be working on affordable housing. Their budget hearing is coming up in May to create their next goals and decide where to direct funds.

Sandra would like to see the city limit lines redrawn to incorporate the Springs. People in the West side of Sonoma and in the Spring make up the majority of the population of Sonoma and redrawing the city limit lines allows members of those areas to have a voice in city planning and decisions.

In regards to the Mattson's purchasing, Sandra says the city can not stop people from buying or selling property but has met with Ken Mattson in order to keep open communications. The new city manager will be following up with the Mattsons. The new city manager, David Guhin, starts next month and you can read about him [here](#). There is discussion about a possible vacancy tax for second homes and/or businesses that remain vacant for a length of time. The thought is that if someone has a vacant second home that allows for less income for our businesses and schools and takes away housing opportunities for those who need to live and work in Sonoma. Empty business take away opportunities for jobs and community income as well. Much more research needs to be done on this in the future but it is up for discussion.

Sandra would like someone from our Interfaith group to come and support the acceptance of Pride month at the June 1st Farmer's Market. Please email here at sandra.lowe@sonomacity.org or call 707-326-2461.

The City Council normally meets at 6:00 p.m., on the first and third Wednesday of each month. The public is encouraged to attend. Meetings are held in the Council Chambers at 177 First Street West, next to the police station. Meeting agendas, minutes and videos can be found [here](#).

- **Closing** - Steve closes
- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, May 24th, 12pm-1pm, we will gather at the Red Grape for our end of year lunch. We will break from our monthly meetings for Summer in June and July.
- **KSVY - Please mark your date on your calendar.** If you are not available on your assigned date please find someone on the list to trade with. The call in number is 707-933-9133. The information is on their website www.ksvy.org

May 2	Jason Mayer	jason.mayer@sonomacollective.com
May 9	Dave Gould	dgould837@gmail.com
May 16	Jim Thomas	trinityepiscopalsonoma@comcast.net
May 23	Scott Pryor	scott@sonomavalleychurch.org
May 30	Manette Fairmont	manetteart@aol.com