

## OAK PARK MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES of Meeting – Sept 26, 2006

**The Oak Park MAC held an official meeting Tuesday, Sept 26, 2006, 7:30 P.M.  
at Oak Park High School, 899 N. Kanan Rd., Oak Park**

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Todd Haines at 7:30 P.M. MAC members Todd Haines, Deena Parry, Bonnie Biddison, Ron Stark, and Jay Kapitz were present.

### **2. Flag Salute**

The salute to the American flag was led by CHP Community Liaison **Officer Randy Hosking**.

### **3. Adoption of the Agenda**

Jay Kapitz moved the adoption, Ron Stark seconded the motion, and the MAC approved it 5-0.

### **4. Approval of the Minutes of July 25, 2006**

Ron Stark moved the adoption of the June 27, 2006 minutes, seconded by Jay Kapitz, and it was approved 5-0.

### **5. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks**

Jan Osterhaven from Supervisor Parks' office was in attendance.

Oak Park CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) volunteers **Ruth Rose** and **Alicia Hair** gave a presentation about the role of CERT in assisting Oak Park residents in times of danger, and outlined the program of free training available to people who want to join the team. For more information the leader Diane Starzak can be contacted at [DiStarzak@aol.com](mailto:DiStarzak@aol.com).

### **6. Information items**

#### **a. Southern California Edison update, Q&A, with Region Manager Rudy Gonzales**

Mr. Gonzales said that within the next week or two new transformers, cabling, and switches would be installed by SCE in order to provide improved service to the neighborhoods encompassed by the streets of Conifer, Satinwood, Pinion, Bayberry, and Smoketree that suffered lengthy power outages during the summer heat wave. It was the heavy use 24/7 by households during the heat wave that caused the outages. In response to questions from **Ron Stark**, Mr. Gonzales stated that the upgrades around Brookside Elementary School would also enhance service throughout Oak Park and in the very rare situation where substations in Oak Park go out, then others can carry the load. A resident said that his summer electricity bill had increased five-fold. Mr. Gonzales answered that in actuality rates had increased by 15%, and were set to increase by another 3% in January. He explained that the PUC had approved for SCE customer rates a pricing system with "tiers" that rise exponentially above a "baseline" rate of basic service charges as a household's electricity demands rise. **Mike Paule** stated the rate structure is misleading, and that in practice the increase amounts to 50-75%, and not 15%. He said that "SCE has had a windfall at our expense" when the price of natural gas has dropped, and that the whole infrastructure was in need of replacement. Another resident agreed, while another customer offered the example of a mountain cabin in Ventura County that regularly exceeded its "baseline" usage charge with only a nightlight and refrigerator plugged in. Mr. Gonzales said that the "baseline" is in fact not intended as the target amount of use for a household, but should rather represent 60% of a household's average use. He added that SCE has special discounts for customers with medical needs for electricity, and he exhibited how Southern California is divided into several zones for different tier structures. He gave out his phone number, (805) 497-5616, that is connected at all times to his pager. **Todd Haines** commended Mr. Gonzales for his responsiveness as the manager for the Oak Park area.

#### **b. 9:15 PM: Calleguas Water District update, Q&A, with General Manager Don Kendall**

Mr. Kendall spoke about the line break at Kanan Rd. and Churchwood Dr. on September. A longitudinal crack had been found in the pipe, and possibly the interior of the pipe would need a layer of lining to effect permanent repair of the area of vulnerability. Mr. Kendall invited everyone to an upcoming State Water Project Tour in October. People could sign up for it by contacting (805) 579-7111.

**Todd Haines** asked about the procedure for monitoring pipes. He asked how the Sutton Valley and Sterling developments could get access to the recycled water that they want. **Ron Stark** observed that a pipe uphill would have to be built and that the cost of this line would be too great.

## **7. Public Comments**

**Red Sinclair** said that he would appreciate MAC action regarding speeding cars after 3:00 PM on Pesto Way in the Monte Carlo neighborhood. **Todd Haines** recommended speed humps, pointing to the example of Smoketree Ave. as a successful grassroots effort to install them. **Deena Parry** added that getting the license numbers of repeat speeders could help, and **Officer Hosking** said that letters had been sent to vehicle owners with information provided by Mr. Sinclair. The MAC supported a resident's suggestion that the Transportation Department be asked to install speed limit signs on Pesto Way and Cremona Way.

**Harvey Kern** said that the Community Foundation for Oak Park was looking for a new trustee, and reminded everyone about the upcoming Candidates' Forum on October 11.

## **8. Council Comments**

**Jay Kapitz** said that the National Night Out in August was successful, with great participation and valuable help from law enforcement and the fire station, and Supervisor Parks. He asked that a Transportation Dept. suggestion be added to the October MAC agenda, to increase slightly the "gap time" before a red stoplight comes on by the OPHS parking lot driveway, enabling student cars to get out more quickly. **Officer Hosking** tended in favor of this, and had been speaking with Principal McCormack regarding the situation.

**Bonnie Biddison** praised the National Night Out, saying that she was impressed by how many public servants joined in the event, and that she hoped it would grow as an annual event in Oak Park.

**Todd Haines** expressed his appreciation to Harvey Kern for posting the public's comments regarding the Oversized Vehicle Ordinance revision alternatives, as well as to the monument sign proposals. He noted that Ron Stark and Bonnie Biddison were not running for office again. He thanked them heartily for their service. He said that he looked forward to audience member **Mike Paule** joining the MAC. He saluted the Westlake/Agoura Softball 12 & under and the 14 & under teams (WAGS) for both coming out in second place in their respective Nationals competitions. He said that in response to community inquiries he would like a reconsideration, once the new MAC was seated, of the time MAC meetings begin.

## **9. Action items**

### **a. Oak Park Shopping Center monument sign proposal (Allan Spiwak)**

Allan Spiwak's representative **Daniela Meltzer**, property manager for the shopping center, and Vogue Signs' **Christian Muldoon**, discussed the renderings for the monument sign proposed for the northeast corner of Lindero Cyn. & Kanan Roads. Tenants **Mr. Hyman** from one of the restaurants and **David Harney** from ReMax were also in attendance to support the sign. **Todd Haines** said that residents were overwhelmingly against the new sign and that he was as well. **Ron Stark** said that the County would revoke the license for the shopping center to maintain the landscaped area if Spiwak persisted with the monument sign idea. **Ruth Rose** added that the community had risen up to reject the Texaco gas station proposal at that corner, and could rise up again against the monument sign.

**Ron Stark** made a motion to reject the proposal. There was no seconding of the motion. He then made a new motion to for Venco West to take over the landscaping of the corner. There was no second, again. He then made another motion that went unseconded that no sign be put on that corner unless the MAC agreed to it. Finally he offered as a compromise adding 8 inches to the tops of the two existing ReMax signs, for adding the tenant names to the tops of those. **Ruth Rose** pointed out that this was comparable to what the shopping center at the south side of Kanan Rd. had. The tenant **Mr. Hyman** said that more advertising of the tenants was badly needed. **Mr. Rose** observed that businesses make or break a center, not signs. He said that ReMax was getting bad publicity out of the whole issue. Other centers like the nearby Vons Center had no signs, yet did okay. **Mike Paule** said that marketing was needed instead of alienating locals with the monument sign. **Todd Haines** asked Mr. Spiwak's representatives to discuss with him the idea of adding names to the existing ReMax signs, and to come back to the October MAC meeting.

***b. Recommendations of the committee for review of the oversized vehicle ordinance***

**Todd Haines** said that with regard to the three alternatives to the ordinance, comments about it from residents "were all over the board" with no one preferred version. **Jed Friedman** said that the revisions "renege on the original promises made when the ordinance was passed," as shown by the example of the Snap-On-Tools truck. **Benjamin Hyles** said that public streets should be for public use. **Todd Haines** pointed out how people know the rules for condo parking when they move into a condo. **Jay Kapitz** thought there was a slight preference in public comments for the second alternative. He said that there should exist an enforceable mechanism for revoking permits when there are complaints from residents that permits are improperly used. He also wanted the ordinance to be explicitly tied to a specific fine. **Todd Haines** thought that the first was the best option. He thought that the second option disregarded the history of the area. **Mark Rauch** said that he "lives on eggshells" with the uncertainty over whether or not he will have to move out of Oak Park in order to keep his business and his truck. He pointed out that 80% of Oak Park had CC&R's, while the east side of Oak Park did not. He said that the community has different parts that should have different rules. He said that version #2 was bad, but that #1 would work for him. **Ron Stark** made a motion that the MAC recommend adopting version #1, and **Jay Kapitz** seconded it. The MAC voted 4-1 in favor of it, with **Bonnie Biddison** dissenting. **Jay Kapitz** said that a second phase of work would deal with administrative issues associated with the ordinance and a fine amount.

***c. Standing landscape committee update and recommendations***

**Bonnie Biddison** thanked **Ron Stark** for arranging the August walk through giving the Committee the opportunity to point out to Venco West areas where improvement can be made. She expressed appreciation for the new plantings on Kanan Rd. and Lindero Canyon Rd. She asked Ron Stark to take care of a resident's complaints that dirt was spilling off the median on Lindero Canyon Rd. In response to a resident's concerns about the damaged monument sign on Kanan Rd., it was explained that the County is having Venco West make a replacement for it. The issue of recent vandalism to trees in Deerhill Park was raised; **Jay Kapitz** said that he would ask Ed Hayduk about increasing the lighting in the park at night.

***d. MAC endorsement of OPUSD School Bond Measure H6***

Residents **Cindi Gortner** and **Glen Wilcox** presented reasons for, and against, supporting the bond. Ron Stark moved, Bonnie Biddison seconded, that the MAC endorse the bond. The MAC voted 5-0 in favor of it.

**10.** On a motion by Ron Stark, seconded by Jay Kapitz, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 P.M. to October 24.