

Oak View Advisory Commission (OVAC)
Meeting Minutes
for Monday, September 11, 2023, 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Summary of Motions/Votes/Decisions/Action Items

- **Motion:** request of the County the Income/Expense sheet for the Community Center and baseball fields. Motion made: Anacker; seconded: Kennedy
 - **Action item:** possible Dog Park location: County Supervisor District 1 Representative Garman offered to check with Parks Director Colter Chisum on the parcel purchase/lease options of the corner lot across from the northernmost baseball field (located approximately at 34.406598, - 119.300719; also seen at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/7nkhpQ62cQRzmGNAA>, and with a postal address of 500 Monte Via, Oak View, CA.
 - **Decision:** Commission Kennedy disapproved of the minutes
 - **Action Item:** County Supervisor District 1 Representative Garman offered to look into making the crossing signal voice volume level lower.
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1. Call to Order/Roll Call Commissioners – present √ or absent X

√ Brian Aikens
√ Christopher Anacker
X Randy Burg – absent
√ Barbara Kennedy
√ Velma Lomax
√ Kristeen McKeen
√ Elizabeth Robles

Also in attendance: County Supervisor District 1 Representative Garman; Oak View Librarian Sharon Dykstra; Supervisor Matt LaVere joined the meeting several minutes later.

2. Pledge of Allegiance (PoA)

– After the PoA, Commissioner Lomax requested, and all members complied, to have a moment of silence to honor the 911 victims.

3. Public Comments (*comments for items not on the agenda*)

- Sharon Dyksta, Oak View librarian shared some information on a few upcoming events; handed out brochures; County Supervisor District 1 Representative Garman has copies of them to post on the County site, as possible.

4. Approval Minutes of the meeting held July 10, 2023 – See Agenda Item 8.

5. Baseball lease RFP status update

- County Supervisor District 1 Representative Garman reported that the current league is having trouble with its Travel Team, which is causing issues, and that the children they have been engaged with are getting older, which is reducing the number of available players. He generally asked that if the Pony League goes out of business, will the OV Little League re-appear. He suggested the Pony League's closure could be a possible way for the Oak View/Ojai Valley Baseball League to retake the lease/rental. He posed the question as whether the OVAC could be the baseball Board; Commissioner Kennedy said that's not possible/appropriate, because the OVAC is not a non-profit.

- A question was raised: are the Travel Teams, who use/used the fields, and who make money on their operations, paying any of these monies to the County? Are the monies used to pay for maintenance, such as trash removal?

- It was pointed out the Parks Director has not offered an RFP so that the Oak View Baseball League can prepare for using the fields.

- Commissioner Aikens pointed out that the baseball fields were built for 12-years olds who have a shorter range when they hit balls out the park, and that the older boys who have been allowed to play on these Travel Teams and such, are hitting the balls so far out of the field, that viewers sitting in the bleachers in the next field north are having balls come close to them, which has the possibility of hurting people and likely poses a liability.

- Commissioner Kennedy said she'd like to know that the Income/Expense data is for the County to maintain the baseball fields as well as the OV Community Center.

Commissioner Anacker made a Motion for requesting the Income/Expense data from the County; Commissioner Kennedy seconded it. All were in favor.

6. Pickle Ball Update/Shade Structure status update

- Commissioner Kennedy offered a status report, saying the County Planning Commission approved moving forward, saying no construction permit is needed, since no 'grade adjustment' is needed, and the architect will be drawing up the plans. She reiterated that the Lions Club will be paying \$13k towards costs. There is a \$500 permit fee that needs to be met. Chair Lomax suggested having a ribbon-cutting ceremony when the site is completed and ready for play.

- A question was raised about the Shade Structure design on the timeline to review it. Should there be a Special Meeting on this? No decision made.

7. Dog Park in Oak View – Status

- It was mentioned that Ventura County Parks department is looking into where it can be. One idea being entertained is to buy the vacant lot that exists east of the baseball field closest to Devil's Gulch. One idea re: this lot is to propose to lease it for \$1 per year from the owner. It was suggested to consider what liability issues might exist.

County Supervisor District 1 Representative Garman offered to check with Parks Director Colter Chisum on the parcel purchase/lease options status.

8. Brown Act – Rules of Engagement

- Chair Lomax reminded the Board that any discussion of the agenda items (or minutes), other than during a public meeting, is against the Open Meeting intentions of the Brown Act. What can be addressed is what is to be on the Agenda, or suggestions for what is to be on the agenda, but no discussion of the agenda subjects themselves, nor on the Minutes. She also suggested that, as possible, that the word “Draft” could be put as a watermark across the proposed Agenda.

9. Commissioner Comments

- Some discussion of the two Minutes format presented to the Board members ... both the essentials (Actions/Motions/Decisions format that Commissioner Anacker has found to be widely used among organizations) and a fuller format that captures additional details that some Commissioners would like to see captured.

Commissioner Kennedy disapproved of the minutes as given, since they didn’t contain a note on who it was that said fees for the Community Center could not be waived.

- Chair Lomax noted that some improvements have been made at the intersection of Larmier and Highway 33 on the signal light and signage, to better control traffic. Commissioner McKeen mentioned the ADA feature of a voice that informs nearby residents of the light status and walk / don’t walk status has generated some complaints of some neighbors who live near enough to the signal that hear this voice too often, too loudly.

County Supervisor District 1 Representative Garman offered to look into making the crossing signal voice volume level lower.

- Commissioner Robles expressed some frustrations with the delays in travel being caused by the CalTrans construction on the Arnaz grade / Highway 33. She also mentioned how much of striping, particularly at the Santa Ana Blvd and Highway 33 intersection, that how the word Stop has been removed, causing some timing on stopping with some drivers.

- Commissioner Kennedy mentioned a need has arisen for a Director to help with the After School program at the Oak View Park and Resource Center, and that the position requires a para-ed license. She noted that the position has some negatives that may make job seekers less-than-interested, such a delay in paycheck.

- Commissioner Kennedy mentioned an upcoming ‘bike rodeo’ event to be at the OVPARC on October 14, with the local sheriff being on site; the school district has extra bikes, if needed.

10. Future Agenda Items

- Chair Lomax and County Supervisor District 1 Representative Garman agreed to review the Agenda format ahead of the next meeting.

- Chair Lomax suggested Commissioner Kennedy and Anacker discuss a suitable format or process that captures additional notes in the Minutes.

- Commissioner Kennedy noted that the Agenda was missing the line to discuss the Tot lot.

- Chair Lomax suggested the following items be added to next meeting's agenda:

- Tot Lot
- Live Oaks Levy update
- Waiving Community Center fees
- Sheriff's update on camping along Highway 33
- Update of installing guard rails on Highway 33 at Devil's Gulch
- A possible Movie Night at the OV Community Center
- A heading titled: Agenda Approval near the top of the listing

11. Adjournment – Next Meeting: **Monday, November 13, 2023, at 6:30 PM**

For General Information and to be placed on the email meeting notice list email:

oakviewadvisorycommission@ventura.org or call (805) 654-2703

<https://www.ventura.org/board-of-supervisors/district-1/ovac/>