



**Oak View Advisory Commission (OVAC)
Meeting Minutes**

Monday, May 13th, 2024, 6:30pm
Oak View Community Center – Kunkle Room
18 Valley View Rd., Oak View, CA 93022

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** Chair Lomax 6:32pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Led by Brian Aikens
3. **Roll Call - Present:** Lomax, Kennedy, Aikens, Anacker, Burg, McKeen
Absent: Robles
4. **Adoption of Agenda** – Adoption of agenda motion made by Anacker to move 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, to just before 32. Lomax responded by saying she wanted to find out if there are others to be adjusted. Kennedy suggested combining 16 17 with 31. Kennedy also suggested combining 16 with 17 and combining 24 with 30. Anacker made a motion to adopt all three requests. Kennedy second of the motion. All were in favor except Robles who was absent.

5. **Public Comments** –

Speaker 1 Sharon Dykstra public announcement lunch program at the library OVPARC to occur the first week of June. For 18 years old and under June 17th through August 1st. For details see the flyer at the library.

Speaker 2 Marilyn Miller said she likes the slower and safer highway project. She hopes it continues for the bike and sidewalks.

Speaker 3 Jerry George asked if the timeline of the highway 33 project is temporary. The bike lane signs need to be bigger. Question what Channel Islands bike club has to do with the project. Asked if the bike lane is going all the way to Casitas Springs.

Speaker 4 Lance DesBaillets (sp) thinks the bike lane should be removed. He encourages people to be bold and loud about this, to be angry but factual.

Speaker 5 Alex Laine said he agrees with Board member Aikens who said it is a bait and switch, that nobody is using the bike lane. Suggested putting speed bumps instead. He supports the intent. He's tired of people driving 45 miles or faster only to get one car ahead of the person in front of them. He's not sympathetic with speeders.

Speaker 6 John Guelcher (sp) said they should survey people who live around the project. If it increases patronage to the businesses, he's in favor of the project. He lives near Elmhurst elementary School. He knows of a person whose father was killed in the

crosswalk. He believes it's a death trap to use the bike lane at this point. It's a drastic improvement. He can walk along the sidewalk now with no concerns. He suggested they put up a sign that says this is a demonstration project. Social media is a problematic source.

Speaker 7 Teena Broumand said Creek Road is being impacted. Note the road diet project started as a request from the county. It started with traffic going too fast. County can do something about the side roads such as Creek Road and Santa Ana. AutoZone influenced the county to forgo a traffic assessment. The underlying problem of getting kids to school safety remains.

Speaker 8 Jim Stallings spoke about the concern that the highway project has increased traffic on Santa Ana Road, but he's not seen any indication. He also spoke about the pickleball court and said the rec commission years ago had no problems to build the patio cover, the barbecue area, the kitchen overhang, and the playground equipment. So, he wonders why there's a problem with the Parks department moving forward in a timely manner.

Speaker 9 Cathi Stallings asked what the parks department is waiting on. A zoning clearance was all that was needed according to Barbara Kennedy.

6. Ventura County Fire Department – Fire Hazard/Abatement/Insurance

a. Chief Barry Parker -Chief Barry Parker spoken provided tips and status on fire hazard issues, activities and goals for abatement, breast reduction, controlled Burns, and the coordination with the Ojai Valley fire council to help people reduce risk. You mentioned www.vcemergency.com for people to keep in touch on an issue. He advised when you must evacuate, focus on taking just a few things like your medications, your animals with their food, and your hard drives.

7. Approval Past Minutes 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 12 - moved to just prior to item 32.

8. October 2023 Special Meeting – Tabled for approval, May 13, 2024, meeting.

Aikens motioned for approval of the October 2023 special Meeting minutes; Burg seconded.

9. November 2023 - Tabled for approval, May 13, 2024, meeting - Kennedy motioned for approval of the November 13, 2023, minutes, Burg seconded.

10. January 2024 - Tabled for approval, May 13, 2024, meeting. - Aikens motioned for approval of the January 8th, 2024, minutes, Kennedy seconded.

11. March 2024 - Tabled for approval, May 13, 2024, meeting. - Burg motioned for approval of the March 2024 meeting minutes, Aikens seconded.

12. Minutes Workshop – All minutes were approved.

13. Survey Results from OVPARC assessment district - OVPARC assessment district survey results ... Handout provided by a Garman. Key points: to date, there are 50 respondents. It appears there are issues with the QR code that not many people know how to use. The survey is also to be offered by .PDF via email. A question was raised, asking what percentage of the total Oak View residents is represented by the number of respondents. It was also suggested that a comments box be part of the survey for people to comment on the Community Center and the OVPARC. It was noted that Casita springs is included in the survey because the Tax Assessment includes those neighborhoods.

14. Dog Park – Colter had little data to share.

15. Skate Park – Colter had little data to share.

16. Highway 33 Bike Lane – Garman provided hand out from Caltrans.

17. Caltrans Update – Combined with Item #16 per commission.

18. GSA Parks Update – Colter - mentioned that Chief ranger retired and has been replaced, the department is hiring a project manager, and has hired staff to help clear weeds.

19. Update: Oak Dell Park – Colter said a lease signed with the Ojai Valley Baseball League which has 200+ members. Also, the County requires a permit application for large events.

20. Update: Oak View Community Park - Colter refer to the pickleball court to be installed near the community center. He also mentioned the status of the state structure is on hold.

21. Update: Oak View Park and Resource Center - a draft budget to support the facility has been completed. It's based on the tax assessment. A new tot lot is to be paid by the tax assessment.

Kennedy took the time to invite people to a spaghetti dinner on Thursday May 16th. She also mentioned the center obtained a few additional room renters.

22. Update: Ojai Valley Trail – Colter said 90% of the design drawings are done. They are talking to a contractor on how to phase the reconstruction to be done as quickly as possible for no longer shutdowns. It is estimated to take a couple months and be done by late summer or early fall. The trail will be wider by approximately one foot, fencing won't continue the whole way as it has, as this will allow bikers more room to pass people in certain spots, but there will be continuous fencing and civil areas.

23. Update: Casitas Springs - noted that this area is included in the Tax Assessment. Mentioned that the town has received a grant for making improvements.

24. Update: Park Host / Signage – Combined with item #30 - Colter said signage providing information in the signage of who to contact if there's an emergency has not been completed yet.

25. Update: Pickleball OVCC – there is formal approval, but the paperwork still needs to be signed and the decision on who will oversee the courts. Kennedy asked who is supposed to sign the document. Kennedy requested a meeting with Colter, LaVere, and Clint, to address this.

26. 2024 OVAC Goal Setting - Kennedy said the commission needs to reach out to more people in Oak View. Doing a survey plus other outreach.

27. Commissioner Closing Comments -

Aikens – Anacker – Burg - Kennedy – Lomax – McKeen – Robles

McKeen asked Colter to provide information on grant funding. She asked who manages the community center building. She asked if Colter could apply or get us a grant. Colter said he will send information on grants. McKeen asked whether Ojai Basketball is paying for the use of the Community Center. Colter said there would need to be up to five times the money of the basketball fees to pay for the cost of maintaining the OVCC. Lomax and Kennedy mentioned that Ojai charges outsider fees to use their recreational facilities. Lomax stressed the positive impact of having local control of the OVGC similarly to the control of the OVPARC. The discussion then focused on the use of volunteers, as possible, and the difficulties with that.

28. Officer Closing Comments - None

29. New Park Host roles and responsibilities; operational changes - New Park host roles and responsibilities - it was noted that the park house is vigilant regarding the homeless, drug paraphernalia, and picks up the micro trash to keep the place clean. Chair Lomax asked Colter if he will bring to the Board specific job duties description for review soon enough. Colter said he is willing to hear ideas for what to expect of the park host.

30. Signage – combined with #24

31. Hwy 33 project – 16, 17 & 31 were combined.

32. Future Agenda Items – Would be sent to Garman to add for next meeting.

33. Adjournment – **Next Meeting: Monday, July 8th, 2024, 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/>