



**OJAI VALLEY  
MUNICIPAL  
ADVISORY  
COUNCIL**

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, September 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM  
Meeting via ZOOM  
Ojai Valley, CA**

Chair: Chris Cohen, Vice Chair: Joseph Westbury  
Council Members: Barbara Kennedy, Grace Malloy, Terry Wright

**1. Call to Order of the Meeting**

Executive Officer Clensay called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

**2. Flag Salute**

**3. Roll Call**

**PRESENT:** Chair Cohen, Council Member Terry Wright, Council Member Barbara Kenney, Vice Chair Joseph Westbury, Council Member Grace Malloy (joined at 7:05 pm)

**ABSENT:** Council Member Grace Malloy (at roll call)

**STAFF:** Maruja Clensay, Executive Officer

**4. Adoption of the Agenda**

Chair Cohen suggested to move ahead of this item until more members are able to join meeting.

- a. Item #9 postponed to subsequent meeting date still to be determined.

Upon call of the roll the vote was as follows:

**AYES:** Members Wright, Kennedy, Westbury, Cohen

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Member Malloy

**5. Public Comments by Citizens on matters Not Appearing on the Agenda (Time limit per item – three minutes).**

No members of the public desired to speak on matters not appearing on the agenda.

- 6. City of Ojai Planning Commission Update** – Member Quilici could not attend tonight, submitted updates via email shared by Executive Officer Maruja Clensay.
- a. City of Ojai has begun reviewing the land use element of the Ojai General Plan, expect feedback any day from the California Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) on the draft housing element of the General Plan submitted in July. The City has until October 15<sup>th</sup> to submit a final version of the housing element to HCD.
  - b. The Oaks Hotel is planning to re-open as the El Roblar Hotel, the city of Ojai is anticipating a public hearing on the matter at their October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - c. The Rancho Inn is asking for an expansion of their Chief Peak Bar for scheduled events, also anticipate a public hearing on that matter at their October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - d. A pizzeria is planning to open at the former Jersey Mike's location on Ojai Avenue. Public hearing also happening at the October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - e. Continuing efforts to include the review of the formula business ordinance and clean-up of title 10 of the planning and zoning section of the municipal code.

**7. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2021**

Member Malloy moves to approve the minutes, motion seconded by Chair Cohen.

Upon call of the roll the vote was as follows:

AYES: Members Malloy, Vice Chair Westbury, Chair Cohen

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Members Wright, Kennedy

ABSENT: None

**8. In-Person October OVMAC Meeting**

Discussion and decision regarding whether to meet in-person, outside (weather permitting) at the Oak View Community Center, at the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting

**Council Discussion/Comments:**

Executive Officer Clensay – Potentially anticipating several members of the public attending this meeting to discuss the newly advertised increase in speed limit through Casitas Springs. Supervisor LaVere's office has heard from a few people. We have Cal-Trans representative and a CHP Officer penciled in for a future November OVMAC hearing, to address and questions or comments received from the general public at this meeting. We have not received any comments directed to MAC regarding this matter. There is the potential to have this meeting virtually to allow these representatives to attend since they are based out of Los Angeles and elsewhere, given that District 7 of Cal-Trans is quite large.

Member Wright – Could Cal-Trans virtually join the meeting (if MAC is meeting in person) provided there is a computer there?

Executive Officer Clensay – Yes, would just need to work out the equipment component of that with the Community Center, that is easily accomplished.

Member Wright – I would personally like to go back out there (meet in-person).

Member Kennedy – Yes, I do. (Would also like to return to in-person meetings.)

Member Malloy – Would like to be outside so would not have to mask, have the ability of see people's faces and hear each other. My preference would be to meet outside, zoom, inside.

Member Westbury - I like the concept of the zoom but seems like the first 30 minutes of the meeting spent trying to figure how to make everything work, have a hard time following. I struggle with this technology, although I like it, it makes my life a little easier. But I'm ready to meet in-person, works better for me.

Member Wright – If the panel, all of us are separated, far enough apart, could have more tables across the front, we would be separated far enough apart, we could be mask-less. Anyone that would like to make a comment could go up to the podium and remove their mask during their comments. Don't see it as an issue, could work it out.

Member Malloy – With the County ordinance everyone needs to be masked, right?

Executive Officer Clensay – Yes, unless you are speaking or consuming water/etc.

Member Kennedy – The Lions Club meets outside every other week in the back patio, we have a small PA works great. The big room is an option, in case it is not being used during the meeting, which it's usually not. We can certainly separate six feet apart there very easily. The community would be more involved if we were back in person.

Member Wright – does the County ordinance depend on how many people as far whether you can be inside or out, or have to wear a mask? If you have 2 people or 100 people indoors is masked?

Member Malloy – Yes.

Member Kennedy – Indoors is masked until October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Cohen – I agree the public participation is so much greater when we do these (meetings) in-person. That for me is the reason to do it. I think meeting in-person outside sounds good, it's a cautious step back towards that, probably the safest. Maruja if we can have a PA system so that everyone can hear each other, I think that would be a great way to go.

Executive Officer Clensay – Yes absolutely. Member Kennedy, the PA system you use is that your own property?

Member Kennedy – I'll find out if it is available, it might be at the Lions Club. I'll find out if we can use it.

Executive Officer Clensay – If not I can check in with GSA to see if there is a PA system we can use to allow proper amplification with proper spacing to be outside.

Member Westbury – Is the outside area lit?

Member Kennedy – Yes, there is patio lights.

Executive Officer Clensay – I hear a potential motion to move to in-person meetings effective October 18, outside weather permitting. Any refinements to that motion?

Member Kennedy moves to make the motion to meet in-person, motion seconded by Member Wright.

Upon call of the roll the vote was as follows:

AYES: Members Wright, Malloy, Kennedy, Vice Chair Westbury, Chair Cohen

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carries 5-0.

## 9. Future Item Scheduling

- a. Fire Safe Council would like to have Grazing Presentation when our meetings return to in-person
- b. Reschedule Ventura County Fire Protection Presentation to October or November meeting, dependent on availability and location (virtual or in person)

Chair Cohen – Is there anything else that we know from them about scheduling, do we need to make any decisions on that?

Executive Officer Clensay – I think it would be who the MAC to have the Fire Safe Council and the grazing presentation happen sooner rather than later. To have maximum light in the sky, they will be bringing some of their goats and will requiring outdoor. Compared to the Fire Protection Presentation we can have the technology required and zoom them in to a live hearing in November or December. Or if they want to attend in person, they are welcome to do so.

Member Wright – We should get that into the paper, having goats there will bring in a lot of people.

Executive Officer Clensay – Yes, that is a good way to come back in person.

Member Malloy – That would be a good time to also gather emails.

Executive Officer Clensay – Yes, absolutely. I am very eager to continue to build our distribution list.

Member Kennedy – Is it allowed to share the agendas on Facebook?

Executive Officer Clensay – Yes, they are all public meetings. The OV MAC has its own page on Supervisor LaVere's website, you can look at all agendas and minutes. Please share.

Member Wright – What about the Cal-Trans speed limit presentation?

Executive Officer Clensay – That is up to the discretion of the MAC, dependent on whether we would be hearing a lot from the public at this meeting (October 18) should we receive tons of feedback. They are always available to do this, so if we find that at the October in-person meeting we're getting a lot of people asking about then we can potentially put it (an item) on the November or December agenda.

Member Malloy – Can we see how much more feedback Matt (Supervisor LaVere) gets between now and then, I don't feel super confident people knowing to come to the MAC with that commentary. Can we get a report at the October meeting, then we can decide about bring Cal-Trans in for November?

Executive Officer Clensay – Yes.

Member Kennedy – And the CHP, they use to come to the MAC meetings quite often as well as Cal-Trans, it would be good to see them back.

Executive Officer Clensay – Yes, and we would have the enforcement component along with Cal-Trans. They can talk about their studies and how they can to the determination. It is at the MAC's pleasure if and when you'd like to hear that, just let me know and they are available.

Chair Cohen – Sounds good to have the Fire Safe Council at the next meeting and the Fire Protection for the one after and depending on feedback have Cal-Trans join at some point after.

Member Wright – Right now the signs don't agree with what's painted on the road. Have they (Cal-Trans/CHP) been advised of that, shouldn't that be done immediately? How can they enforce without fixing that first, the road still says 35 mph and the signs say 40 mph.

Member Kennedy – the community has been talking and they certainly do not want to keep it at 40 mph. Just got bike lanes approved and now raising the speed limit, doesn't not make sense together. People are completely against it and not for it.

Executive Officer Clensay – That has been a lot of the dialogue that Supervisor has been receiving. There's been a multi-modal analysis that was done showing the narrowing of lanes, the introduction of cross walks, and then a study that they did in 2019 that justifies them bumping it up to 40 mph. It does make sense to at least have a dialog with them. On the context of the multi-modal plan, we were able to discuss that with the new Cal-Trans representative, project improvements to the 33 are slated for fall of 2024. They are confirming the exact scope which will include potentially portions of if not all of the multi-modal improvements identified in that study. They will not be able to do the same demonstrations that they've done in front of Nordhoff high school but do have the green light to do an analysis. 9/2023 for implementation.

Chair Cohen – May be is it a good idea to proactively schedule a session at an upcoming meeting, about both issues.

Member Kenndey – There is another meeting that I have been invited to, VCTC. Regarding adding bike lanes, and safe passage from the school to the Oak View Park and Resource Center (OVPARC). I think having the sooner rather than later conversation should be had.

Executive Officer Clensay – Would you feel comfortable doing it at the November meeting so we can figure out the virtual component at the OVPARC? And still garner people to attend in-person and participate? November 15<sup>th</sup> for this meeting?

Member Kennedy – Yes

Member Malloy – Maruja can you get this to the Ojai Valley News.

Executive Officer Clensay – Yes, I will send a separate email highlighting this meeting to get more publicity for this meeting.

Member Malloy – How much would it cost to send a post card to residents within the MAC area to inform that the MAC exists? Can the MAC view the mailer before it goes out?

Executive Officer Clensay – We can explore doing a hard mailer, just did a mailer for the Saticoy MAC, cost a few thousand dollars to mail to a bit over 2,000 properties. Let me price something out and review with the Supervisor. Yes, will connect with MAC before it goes out.

Member Wright – It's more than the property owners, it's everyone using Hwy 33, will take both newspapers the VC Star and the Ojai Valley News, to get the story out there.

Executive Officer Clensay – I'll explore with our office staff Ana on whether we send to the VC Star, if not already we certainly will do so. We would do a mailer to property owners and residences/occupants.

Member Malloy – Do any MACs have Instagram? There is a whole realm of people that seem to only communicate by social media.

Executive Officer Clensay – Don't know if the Oak Park MAC has an Instagram, do other members of the board maybe want to entertain that social media platform for MAC things?

Member Kennedy – Next Door is also a popular platform.

Executive Officer Clensay – What I'm hearing is we need to explore more platforms to share our agenda. I will think about a strategy and take all this input back.

## **Informational Items**

### **10. Councilmember Comments**

Chair Cohen – this discussion of increased outreach I think is the first item for number 10. With the goal to having more people attend. Are there any other comments from council members?

Executive Officer Clensay – I have a request, in preparation for the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting I would like to put flyers in some establishments in Ojai, Meiners Oaks and Casitas Springs. As

you all think of locations that would be great. As another way to garner more people to the meeting.

Member Malloy – I have a master list of establishments in the Meiners Oaks and downtown areas that will allow postings.

Member Kennedy – Will also send a list to Maruja.

Executive Officer Clensay – potentially at one of the later meetings we will be getting another general plan screening application for the turtle sanctuary. They are acquiring another property to expand their operations. That will be coming once it's deemed complete and staff is ready to present. Thank you, Member Wright, I will email my contact at Cal-Trans tomorrow and let them know that currently the street signs and numbers on the road do not match and also ask them to attend the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chair Cohen – One clarifying question on the location for October 18<sup>th</sup>, will that be same location as prior meeting, but outside?

Executive Officer Clensay – Will be at the same location, the Oak View Community Center, outside in the patio area behind the building.

## **11. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM**

**Next OVMAC Meeting will be October 18, 2021 in-person at the Oak View Community Center.**