



Members of the Council:
Chair-Scott Horn
Vice Chair-Edward Villa, Sr.
Catharine Hogue
Debbie Hanna
Renee McBride
Alternate- Susan Turgeon

CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES January 31, 2023

The Casa Conejo MAC held a Meeting Wednesday, January 31, 2023,
6:00 p.m. at Newbury Park High School, 456 North Reino Rd., Newbury Park

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Supervisor Gorell** at 6:05 pm. MAC members **Edward Villa, Sr., Scott Horn, Catharine Hogue, Debbie Hanna, Renee McBride, and Susan Turgeon** were present.

2. Flag Salute

Ed Villa led the flag salute.

3. Swearing in of New MAC Members

Supervisor Gorell led the swearing in of new Casa Conejo MAC members, **Debbie Hanna, Renee McBride, and Alternate Susan Turgeon.**

4. Selection of MAC Chair & Vice Chair

- **Ed Villa** nominated **Scott Horn** for Chairman and seconded by **Catherine Hogue**. Nomination was approved 5/0
- **Scott Horn** nominated **Ed Villa** for Vice Chair and seconded by **Catherine Hogue**. Nomination was approved 5/0
- **Supervisor Gorell** turned the meeting over to the new **Chair, Scott Horn.**

5. Agenda Review

Scott Horn asked that we let **Ashley Neier**, the Student Representative give her report after the Supervisor's comments since she had to leave early.

6. Approval of Minutes from the regular meeting on November 16, 2022, Scott Horn moved to approve the regular minutes from November 16, 2022, and **Ed Villa** seconded the motion. It was approved 5/0.

7. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell

- **Supervisor Gorell** opened by stating how honored he is to be elected to serve the Second District, and that he had the opportunity to serve in the past as State Legislature where he represented most of Ventura County including Casa Conejo area from 2010 and 2014.
- He also served as a Ventura County Deputy District Attorney where he worked closely with the Sheriff's Department for seven years in helping to keep communities safe.
- The issues he focused on during the campaign are the same things he intends to focus on while serving in office and they include issues of public safety, addressing thoughtful and humane ways to solve homelessness, job creation and affordable housing.
- He is committed to providing access to middle class jobs, middle wages, affordable housing and a wonderful quality of life he has enjoyed so many years living here.
- **Supervisor Gorell** is concerned about the public safety issues like the Chilean Gangs breaking into homes in the middle of the night or stealing catalytic converters from your driveway during the day. I also know oversized vehicle parking is becoming an issue.

- **Supervisor Gorell** spoke briefly about the Borchard property knowing it is front and foremost on people's minds. He said it is interesting there is no project that has been proposed with the property and that the property is not a county property, but a city property. It really is left up to the city of Thousand Oaks to decide what they want to do with the property. He recognizes there is a long-term easement in place because of the property acts as a water retention basin. He was briefed by the Public Works Department who he views as the subject matter experts and supports the opinion of the Director of Public Works and that is the position he is taking.
- **Supervisor Gorell** thanked people for coming out to meet him and he talked about his sidewalk office hours and that he is always available to talk to. He provided his cell number and contact information. He then turned the meeting back to the **Scott Horn, the Chair**.

8. NPHS Student Representative Ashley Neier Report

- **Ashley Neier** spoke about the school dance coming up on March 11th, "A Night in Italy." the dance is a big fundraiser for the student government and is used for school beautification projects.
- They will be selling Valetines Day Grams which can be purchased by students, family members and friends. It is a good way to embarrass your son, daughter or grandchild which is part of the fun.
- February is Black History Month, and they are featuring influential black individuals on Instagram.
- February 6th is Counselor Appreciation Day. Counselors are often overlooked, and they want to make sure they are recognized for the work they do.
- **Ashley Neier** is proud to report that they raised nearly \$10,000 for breast cancer awareness and sold over 1,200 pink shirts.
- She and **Scott Horn** also reported on the national powerhouse X-Country team on becoming the #1 in the nation with two of the runners also being recognized by Gatorade as Athletes of the Year which is a huge honor.

9. Public Safety Reports (CHP, Sheriff's Department) Ventura County Sheriff's Senior Deputy Christopher Jones

- No new crimes have been reported in Casa Conejo, He said that the residents of Casa Conejo are doing a great job of reporting incidents and it shows because other areas are getting hit.
- **Senior Deputy Jones** suggested having a catalytic converter shield installed by your local muffler shop. They are relatively inexpensive and help reduce crime.
- There has been several commercial burglaries and organized retail thefts occur in the area.

California Highway Patrol Officer Ryan Ayers

- **Officer Ryan** stated there was only one crash in Casa Conejo to report since the last meeting. Someone reached over to adjust their radio and became distracted and crashed into another car.
- **Officer Ayers** mentioned new legislation concerning cell phone usage. Second cell phone violations could now be a point on your record which is equivalent to a speeding ticket.
- He reported on a driver that crossed over double lines to pass a car and ended up in a head on crash that took his life. He suggested to just slow down, the extra time saved is not worth your life.
- **Officer Ayers** brought up the discussion from the last MAC meeting about oversized vehicles and the number of complaints he receives on this subject by Casa Conejo residents. Officer Ayers reiterated that without signage stipulating an ordinance against oversized parking he cannot enforce the parking situation. He suggested to look at Oak Park where they had put in place an ordinance against oversized parking, and it appears to have ended the situation.
- **Scott Horn** following discussion among the MAC members, made a motion to proceed with the placement of signs enforcing oversized parking in Casa Conejo and bring the matter to Supervisor Gorell to work with the County and the CHP in creating the necessary ordinance to place signs and begin enforcing oversized parking in Casa Conejo. Motion was seconded by **Catherine Hogue** and carried a 5/0 vote in favor of the motion.

10. Council Comments on Items not on the Agenda

- **Scott Horn** provided information on where to get premium mulch for free and talked about the new charging stations that opened next to Taco Bell in the Gateway Shopping Center at the Corner of Wendy and Old Conejo Road.
- The New MAC members **Debbie Hanna, Renee McBride, and Alternate Susan Turgeon** had the opportunity to introduce themselves to the public and talk about the goals for being on the Casa Conejo MAC.
- **Scott Horn** read a letter written by **Jenny Hess**, one of the original MAC members reminding people of some of the work the MAC has done over the years, ie. Improving flow of traffic with Walnut Elementary and stopped unfair ticketing of parents dropping kids off to school, worked with PWA to create an affordable sidewalk improvement program.
- **Scott Horn** paused the meeting to bring out a cake for everyone to partake and celebrate together the work of the previous MAC members and thank them for all the work they have done.

11. Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

- **Wendy Zimmerman** spoke about her experience on the MAC and the initiatives that she has worked on including developing a bike path from the Borchard Park to iHop, looking at ways to improve ingress/egress during emergencies, and watershed protection. She encouraged the new MAC members about how important their role is and the work they do for Casa Conejo.
- **Karen Wilburn** spoke and thanked **Wendy Zimmerman** and **Richard Gaz** for their hard work and service on the Casa Conejo MAC. The community is better and safer because of their efforts. She also welcomed the new MAC members. She also addressed comments in the previous minutes made by **Shawn Moradian** and provided her view on the zoning ordinance and lot splits.
- **Jene Gear** a resident of casa Conejo for 64 years expressed his concern about traffic from heavy equipment if the Borchard property was ever developed.
- **Jenny Hess** spoke and welcomed **Supervisor Gorell** and thanked him for his military and public service. She asked that the Supervisor be clear on his position regarding the development of the wetlands and encouraged him to reconsider his opinion.
- **Richard Gaz** spoke about being a resident along with his wife for 60 years in Newbury Park. He is excited **Supervisor Gorell** was elected to office and welcomed the new MAC members to the board. He spoke about a survey that was done and how important it was to get that feedback from residents and hear what they had to say about their community.

12. Advisory Items

- **Oversized Public Vehicle Enforcement, Scott Horn** spoke and mentioned that this item was taken care of in earlier business during Officer Ayers report when a motion was proposed and carried on this subject.

9. Information Items

- **Wildfire, Protection and Response Plan, Scott Horn** spoke on the importance of developing a plan considering what happened previously with the Woosley Fire that caused a traffic jam during evacuation. He mentioned that state has set aside funds for this type of planning and encouraged people who may want to be involved in this project to come forward.
- **CERT Training for Casa Conejo and Newbury Park Residents, Scott Horn** spoke on the viability of CERT training which help train people on providing emergency services during the absence of first responders in a disaster. Information to be provided on this topic next meeting.
- **Combined Community Program with Walnut Elementary School, Scott Horn** spoke about in the past there was a time when they had a community event with the school and talked about doing another event in 2023. He said he would try to report on the subject at the next MAC meeting.

- **Locking Trash Bins, Scott Horn and Catherine Hogue** spoke on locking trash bins and how they can help with winter storms and high winds. They discussed talking with Newbury Disposal about providing them to residents as an option in the future. **Scott Horn** spoke about a program that Newbury Disposal offers where you can ask for smaller trash bins if you don't have a lot of trash and can receive a lower payment in return.
- **Street Sweeping Calendar, Scott Horn** spoke about posting the street cleaning calendar for 2023 soon.
- **Converting Hwy. 101 Service Lanes to Through Lanes, Scott Horn** spoke about how the current service lanes can be converted into through lanes which would reduce traffic congestion on the freeway. Talked about working with Supervisor Gorell's office to see about the possibility of converting these lanes.

11. Correspondence

There was no correspondence reported.

12. Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items reported.

14. Adjournment at 8:03 pm to Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Motion to adjourn made by **Catherine Hogue**, seconded by **Debbie Hanna** and passed with 5/0 vote in favor