

CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES of Meeting, September 16, 2009
The Casa Conejo MAC held an official meeting Wednesday, September 16, 2009, 6:00 P.M.
Walnut Elementary School, 581 Dena Dr., Newbury Park

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by *Supervisor Linda Parks* at 6:09 P.M. MAC members *Jennifer Lee Clark, Clara Ann Deemer, Megan Sandoval, Bobbi Ross-Neier, Janell Ann Smith, Edward J. Villa, Jr., Dustin Woomer* were present.

2. Swearing in of MAC members

Reciting the Oath of Office, the seven MAC members were officially sworn into office by Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks.

3. Selection of a Chairperson

By agreement among the MAC members *Edward Villa* was chosen as the Interim Chair.

4. Flag salute

Supervisor Parks led the flag salute.

5. Adoption of the Agenda

The adoption of the agenda passed 7-0 on a motion by *Bobbi Ross-Neier*, seconded by *Clara Ann Deemer*.

6. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

a. State Brown Act rules that govern public MAC meetings

Supervisor Parks summarized key points from the Brown Act guidelines for public meetings, and MAC members were provided with copies of a State of California publication on the subject.

b. Certificate of Appreciation for Robert Bohlke

A commendation expressing appreciation for Casa Conejo resident Robert Bohlke's public interest was noted by Supervisor Parks. Mr. Bohlke was not in attendance to receive it.

Supervisor Parks commented on challenges faced by the County due to the State budget crisis. She said that the Board of Supervisors was discussing reopening contracts with unions representing County workers, due to reduction in revenue from the State. The County had eliminated 100 positions, and was now in the process of considering lay offs and furloughs. She said that County spending needed to be reduced, but that an exception had been made for the Sheriff's Department, which had received an extra \$5 million out of the County reserves to avoid layoffs.

7. Council Comments

a. Goals for the community and the MAC

Dustin Woomer said that he was an urban planner by profession, and that he viewed the MAC as a conduit between the community and the County Supervisor. He said that the MAC could be a voice when new projects came forward, and help disseminate information, for example regarding services provided by the Fire and Sheriff's Departments. As future items he would like to see addressed by the MAC, he included the creation of a website, helping make available resources for residents struggling with issues such as foreclosure, and getting involved with water issues.

Clara Ann Deemer spoke about her interest in programs to keep up the quality of life in Casa Conejo, including beautification projects such as tree planting.

Bobbi Ross-Neier discussed her interest in service learning programs, saying that her goal was to function as an advocate for the youth of Casa Conejo. She said she would be looking for ways to bring the community together.

Edward Villa noted that he worked for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in the West San Fernando Valley. He expressed his interest in bringing the community together and forming bonds. He

said his goal was to keep Casa Conejo a nice place to live. Addressing the problem of abandoned homes would be important.

Janell Smith said that her goal was to help neighbors become more connected to policy makers and sources of assistance, in order to enable community members to help themselves more effectively without more expense.

Jennifer Lee Clark said that her goals would emphasize a focus on what is good for children.

Megan Sandoval commented that a third generation of people raised in Casa Conejo were now living there. She said her goal would be to make the community safe for this new generation. She looked forward to Neighborhood Watch involvement.

As the MAC members began to speak, a resident asked them to say where they lived in Casa Conejo, and the members did that.

8. Public Comments

Tony Pavia said that Michael and Theresa Drives were like racetracks, and that parent drivers for the middle school were speeding, especially in the AM. He requested increased patrols by law enforcement. **Captain Brent Kerr** of the Sheriff's Department addressed the concerns, also raised by **Nathan Borin** in connection with traffic on Michael and Wendy Drive. **Michael Gaura** said that traffic noise from Borchard Road in his backyard could be improved by a block sound wall, and that addressing this concern could be a future agenda item. **Stan Meng** requested assistance with instances of vandalism that he said he had experienced. **Amy** said that she lives on Jenny Drive and that the high school traffic has impacted the street. She described the problems arising from a squatter living in an empty house. She commented on a traffic accident that occurred at the intersection of Wendy and Gerald in August and said the City's road work related to the sewer line project was responsible. She noted that the intersection was a crossing point for students at three schools. **Rick Toey** said that abandoned homes posed problems in terms of appearance and also public safety. He said that the community offered nothing for students to do after school, and that they needed a place to go. **Roy Ho** complained about the proliferation of rabbits. He said that he lived next to an abandoned house and was concerned about rats and trash and the lack of pool maintenance there. **Mary Ann Loman** expressed her view that it was important for Casa Conejo to remain an unincorporated community. **Nathan Borin** requested information about widening Old Conejo Road past Ruth Drive to Reino Road. He said that presently drivers were taking shortcuts on Ruth as a result of the incomplete widening.

9. Information items

a. The Neighborhood Watch Program (Ventura County Sheriff's Department)

Captain Brent Kerr talked about the program, saying that block captains would be needed for streets to get the program started. He said that **Sergeant Jeff Miller** would be in charge and would attend future MAC meetings. Volunteers could contact him.

b. The Community Emergency Response Team Program (Ventura County Fire Department)

Dr. Ramona Armijo of the Fire Department introduced the CERT program, and a sign up sheet was passed around. She said that with enough volunteers, training for the program could begin with the new year.

c. Volunteer Graffiti Removal Team

Wayne Schuetz volunteered to head the graffiti removal team for the community, and would be participating in a training session provided by the Public Works Agency, which would also give supplies to support the work.

10. Action items

a. Ratification of the MAC bylaws

On a motion by **Jennifer Lee Clark**, seconded by **Megan Sandoval** and approved 7-0, the MAC voted to ratify the bylaws that had been approved for the Casa Conejo MAC by the Board of Supervisors.

b. City of Thousand Oaks sewer line project, Wendy Dr. and Casa Conejo streets

A representative from the City of Thousand Oaks staff, Tom Pizza, discussed the work of the City's sewer project. He said that the repaving of the streets impacted by the project would be completed by the end of the month. No MAC action was taken on the item.

11. Adjournment to 6:00 P.M., November 18, 2009

Interim Chair Villa adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM to November 18, 2009.