

CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 16, 2013

**The Casa Conejo MAC Held an Official Meeting Wednesday, January 16, 2013,
6:00 p.m. at Walnut Elementary School, 581 Dena Drive, Newbury Park**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Dustin Woomer** at 6:01 P.M. MAC members **David Ayers, Janell Smith, Shannon Prachyl, Richard Twomey, Jr., Steven Wasco, and Edward Villa, Sr.** were present.

2. Flag salute

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Dustin Woomer suggested moving the Conejo Recreation and Park District presentation to before Information Item 9a.

4. Approval of the Minutes

Edward Villa, Sr., moved to approve the November 14, 2012 minutes as submitted. **David Ayers** made the second. Motion passed 7/0.

5. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks told the MAC that the new Conejo Valley Health Care Agency medical clinic at the old Borders will have free flu shots on February 13. She said flyers are available with other locations, dates, and times. She invited the Casa Conejo community to attend the upcoming Community Beautification event at Newbury Park High School on April 13. Community members can bring recyclables, electronic waste, etc. to the event for disposal. She said there will be a forthcoming mailing to the community about the event. Supervisor Parks said she is working towards getting a countywide bookmobile. She told the MAC that the Region Manager of Southern Edison California, Rudy Gonzales, presented plans to the Board of Supervisors recently, including working towards less brown outs and offering to train CERT teams about how to respond to a downed wire. She mentioned she got the Board of Supervisors to drop any Transportation Department plans to widen Wendy Drive to four lanes, including changing the County General Plan when next they review the circulation element to keep two lanes in the unincorporated area. Finally, Supervisor Parks mentioned an upcoming dinner featuring Michael Dukakis as the guest speaker on January 29. There will be reduced priced tickets available for young voters to attend.

Janet Wall told the MAC the individual with the neon sign on Michael Drive appeared in court on January 11, 2013. He has until February 8 to file a pre-trial motion, and the issue can move to a jury trial within ten days of that filing.

6. Public Safety Reports (CHP, Sheriff's Department, etc.)

Senior Deputy Michelle Kristol, Ventura County Sheriff's Department, introduced herself to the MAC. She will be taking over for Senior Deputy Natoli as beat coordinator for Thousand Oaks. She told the MAC that on December 3rd there was an incident of vandalism on Lois Avenue, and on December 14th a vehicle's rear tail light was damaged on Jenny Drive. She reported thefts from vehicles on Cathy Drive, Gerald Drive, and Rudman Drive, and cautioned people to not leave personal items in full view in cars. She said the Sheriff's Department advised the public in a newsletter and in The Acorn to not leave packages on doorsteps, particularly during the holidays, because it attracts thieves. People should try to retrieve packages in person.

7. Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Steve Giboney expressed concern over national policy.

Nathan Borin said he would like a left turn lane added to Old Conejo Road westbound at Jenny Drive. **Dustin Woomer** replied that the MAC agreed to wait until the Wendy Bridge construction is completed before deciding on

any need for proposed changes, and agreed there may be congestion problems on Old Conejo Road after bridge construction is finished.

Rob Lendin would like to see some follow up on the flood channel behind his house on Henry Drive. He was told by Watershed Protection District that a contractor would be sent on December 12. **Janet Wall** said she would follow up for him.

Richard Gaz suggested that the MAC mail out a survey to the Casa Conejo residents to assess community concerns and create a priority list for the MAC to address in the future.

Catherine Hogue said she saw increased traffic violations on Borchard at the South 101 entrance, Borchard and Michael Drive, and Borchard Road and Newbury Road. It was suggested the lights could be synchronized to reduce confusion. **Supervisor Parks** pointed out they are City streets and an enforcement issue, and said she would pass the information on to the City engineer.

Wendy Zimmerman wants to encourage the development of a multiuse path alongside the Arroyo Conejo from Vons on the east side to Trader Joe's on the west. She said there is a need for a safe path for bikes and pedestrians. **Supervisor Parks** suggested there might be grant funds available for such a project.

Jim Bovard told the MAC his backyard backs up against Borchard Road where the traffic noise is very loud due to the development of Dos Vientos. He said with that sound walls should have also been included in the development. He feels pressure should be applied to the County or City to ensure measures are taken to protect existing residents from the noise impacts from new development. He also suggested a petition could be circulated asking homeowners along Borchard Road to pay half to put up sound walls. **Dave Ayers** said it is a City road, and the City Traffic Department offered leeway to build a higher than normal wall.

Lynn Holmes would like a crosswalk installed between the driveway to Borchard Park and the driveway into Trader Joe's on Reino Road. The current crosswalk leads to steps into the park, and in order to get to the park and not use steps, one has to cross mid-block. **Supervisor Parks** said her office will look into getting this resolved and ask CRPD about putting in a ramp in place of the steps.

8. Council Comments on Items not on the Agenda

No comments were made.

9. Information items

a. Crosswalks to Walnut Elementary School

David Fleisch, Ventura County Transportation Director, and Richard Herrera, Traffic Engineer, presented findings for requested crosswalks in Casa Conejo. The Transportation Department found no warrant for a 4-way stop at Dena Drive and Lesser Drive. It was proposed to extend the "No Parking" zone on Dena Drive 44 feet between Lesser Drive and the Walnut Elementary School driveway.

An analysis showed enough pedestrian traffic at Rudman Drive and Lesser Drive to install a crosswalk and ramp for people with disabilities. In order to do this, the 96 feet of "No Parking" for buses would be moved towards Gerst Drive. It will cost approximately \$8,000-10,000 to move the signs and to re-do the sidewalk.

Mr. Fleisch also discussed the possibility of putting a traffic signal at Gerald Drive and Wendy Drive. He said a 4-way stop is not warranted there. A discussion ensued about the signal previously being listed for a Safe Routes to School grant. He said a signal there would cost approximately \$200,000 to install. If a signal were to be installed, it would be predominantly green on Wendy Drive unless triggered by cross traffic. Mr. Fleisch presented a handout with data from the CHP on the collision history at the intersection. Supervisor Parks stated the signal should be a priority request.

Mr. Fleisch also said he would look at other intersections in Casa Conejo to see if stop signs are in appropriate areas. He said there is a warrant process for installing stop signs.

Richard Twomey, Jr. moved to accept the proposal by the Transportation Department to install a crosswalk at Lesser Drive and Rudman Drive. **Dave Ayers** made the second. The motion passed 7/0.

Edward Villa, Sr. made a motion to ask the Transportation Department to place a signal at Wendy Drive and Gerald Drive. **Dave Ayers** made the second. The motion passed 7/0.

b. Conejo Recreation and Park District Presentation (moved up on the agenda before Information Item 9a)
Tom Hare, Administrator of Parks and Planning for Conejo Recreation and Parks District (CRPD) presented an overview of upcoming events celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year, including a Play Conejo Challenge of 100 things to do at Conejo parks, and answered questions regarding parks in the community.

Priscilla Desjardins commented that she has seen people at Borchard Park let dogs drink out of the drinking fountains meant for people. She also said some of the benches need to be painted. **Tom Hare** responded that he would look into a few rehabilitation projects and that they would make great project for Scouts.

Janell Smith asked whether there could be a dog park built in the community. **Tom Hare** said he would love to have a dog park in Newbury Park, but he needs the land and funding for such a project. He said a focus group meeting recently voted against a dog park at Banyon Park, citing issues with increased traffic. He said he is looking at a lot near the corner of Reino Road and Albertson's to purchase or rent, but he also needs agreement from neighbors. **Janell Smith** asked whether CRPD had the ability to organize dog owners for a fundraiser. **Tom Hare** said he would look into more events like the successful Bark in the Park.

A question was asked whether adding practice obstacles and training spots for mountain bicyclists would be a possibility in the future. **Tom Hare** said he met with bike enthusiasts regarding putting bike jumps at Lang Ranch Community Park, but was met by resistance from neighbors. He said issues like this and dog parks can be difficult to organize because there are no groups already formed to help propel projects.

A question was asked whether CRPD could increase park rangers. **Tom Hare** responded that he would love to, but funding is not available. Currently there are seven park rangers that work 7 days a week for 60 parks. He said Ventura County Sheriffs and Thousand Oaks Police also help enforce ordinances and laws.

c. Wendy Bridge Widening Update

Janet Wall reported there is no change and that work is continuing and on schedule. Updates for closures can be found at the website.

d. Old Conejo Road Berm Update

Janet Wall reported that Cliff Finley with the City of Thousand Oaks e-mailed that the berm was installed on Old Conejo Road up to Ruth Drive. However, he said the the Ruth/Wendy overlay has not been completed yet and a cross drain will be added, but there is no estimated completion date available.

e. Contact Information for Removal of Shoes on Utility Lines

Janet Wall reported that there are flyers available with information on how to get shoes removed from the lines.

f. Graffiti Removal Intervention Team Update

Janet Wall announced that individuals interested in being a part of GRIT can contact her to her to set up an appointment with Watershed Protection District for safety training. **Ed Villa** explained the GRIT removes graffiti on County bridges and in the flood control channels, but not on private property. Mr. Villa also suggested that those on the team can design a logo for t-shirts.

10. Action Items

a. Subcommittee on "Welcome Home, Please Drive Safely" Signs

Dave Fleisch said the Transportation Department permits such signs in the community. **Supervisor Parks** suggested the MAC form a sub-committee to decide how the signs will be created and designed, if desired, with a community identifier, and to do a walk with Transportation to discuss where to place the signs. **Dustin Woomer**, **Richard Twomey, Jr.** and **Shannon Prachyl** volunteered for the committee.

11. Suggestions for future agenda items

Information Items

Wendy Bridge Widening Update

Old Conejo Berm Update

Graffiti Removal Intervention Team Update

Action Items

Election of MAC Chair and Vice Chair

Sound Wall on Borchard Road

Casa Conejo Community Survey

The MAC discussed whether to include adding a left turn on to Jenny from Old Conejo Road. They decided to wait until all construction on the Wendy Bridge is finished before moving ahead with assessing the traffic conditions on Old Conejo Road.

12. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m. until March 20, 2013 at Walnut Elementary School