

CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
May 15, 2013

**The Casa Conejo MAC Held an Official Meeting Wednesday, May 15, 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 6:05 P.M. MAC members **Richard Twomey, Jr., Edward Villa, Sr., David Ayers, Janell Smith,** and **Shannon Prachyl** were present. MAC member **Steven Wasco** was absent.

2. Flag salute

Dustin Woomer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Election of MAC Chair and Vice Chair

Dustin Woomer opened the floor for nominations for the position of MAC Chair. **Richard Twomey, Jr.** nominated Dustin Woomer, and **Janell Smith** nominated David Ayers. The MAC approved **David Ayers** for the 2013-2014 Chair.

Chair David Ayers opened the nominations for Vice Chair. **Richard Twomey** nominated Edward Villa, Sr., and **Edward Villa, Sr.** nominated **Janell Smith**. The MAC approved **Edward Villa, Sr.** for the 2013-2014 Vice Chair.

4. Approval of the Minutes

Edward Villa, Sr. moved to approve the March 20, 2013 minutes as submitted. **Janell Smith** made the second. The motion passed 6/0.

5. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was revised to have a presentation by **Ron Bottoroff** after Item 5, and move Item 10.a to be heard after Item 6.a.

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

Officer Greg Musgrove, California Highway Patrol, told the MAC that the speed radar in Casa Conejo had been vandalized by being tipped over. They hope to have it repaired and back on the street in the next week and he asked residents to let the CHP know if they have any leads to the vandals. **Shannon Prachyl** requested enhanced enforcement at the new crosswalk on Lesser Drive at Rudman Drive during school start and stop times. Officer Musgrove said he would patrol it.

Sr. Sheriff's Deputy Michelle Kristol warned residents of recent thefts from cars and recommended that people lock their vehicles and not leave anything of value in their car and if they do, to make sure it is hidden.

7. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks told the MAC she has provided fliers for the May 18th Safety Fair in Newbury Park. She expressed her gratitude for the firefighters who protected homes during the Springs Fire. She also reported that the County has enacted an urgency ordinance she introduced that regulates the Adult Filming Industry in response to multiple adult filming locations that were disrupting residents in Ventu Park.

8. Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Priscilla Desjardins asked if there was any follow-up about her concern she raised at the January meeting regarding drinking fountains at Borchard and Peppertree Park. She suggested that the fountains could include water for dogs so it would discourage dog owners from letting their dogs drink from the fountains meant for people. Supervisor Parks said she forwarded her concern to Conejo Recreation and Park District staff and was told it would be cost prohibitive to replace the fountains. MAC members recommended that Ms. Desjardins contact a Board member with the Conejo Recreation and Park District or staff to further express her concern.

Catharine Hogue said she was concerned about Southern California Edison lines, phone lines and cable lines that were too close to a pine tree in her backyard and asked who could address this. **David Ayers** recommended she contact Edison and **Janelle Smith** suggested she visit the Time Warner office in Newbury Park.

Kit Korf asked for a status report on the house on Michael with the neon sign. **Supervisor Parks** said she would check and get back to him.

9. Council Comments on Items not on the Agenda

David Ayers told the MAC that Dena Drive in front of Walnut Elementary School is in shambles from Lesser Drive to Gerald Drive. **Supervisor Parks** said she would refer his concern to the County Transportation Department and get back to him.

Janelle Smith recommended “Keep Clear” wording be added to the roadway on southbound Wendy Drive at the intersection with Theresa Drive because it is difficult to turn left there. After discussion, the MAC chose to wait until after the Wendy Drive bridge work is complete to see what the impact may be.

10. Information items

a. Wendy Bridge Widening Update

Cliff Finley, Thousand Oaks City Engineer, said the Wendy Bridge widening project will require a change order to be approved by the Thousand Oaks City Council and a loan from the City to be reimbursed in the future. He said however that he expects the project will be completed by the end of the year.

b. “Welcome Home, Please Drive Safely” Sign Locations

Edward Villa, Sr. presented the first of the signs and asked for comments on sign locations. He said he would be in favor of fewer signs and would like assistance with installation using a metal band to hold the sign to existing poles. He suggested that a sign go on light poles at Wendy Drive and Ruth Drive, Theresa Drive at Borchard Road, and on Old Conejo Road at Ruth Drive, saying he supported less signs than the twelve under consideration. **David Ayers** said he liked the idea of having the signs on the roads entering the neighborhoods because that was where people could relax after getting off the main roads and drive slower. Suggestions relating to size of lettering, reflectivity and size of sign, among other design elements, were discussed. David Ayers agreed to measure the size and lettering of similar signs in Westlake Village and Thousand Oaks. Concerns that the signs might become objects of graffiti were responded to by **Edward Villa, Sr.** who said the Graffiti Removal Intervention Team (GRIT) would see they are quickly cleaned up if that occurs.

c. Graffiti Removal Intervention Team (GRIT) Update

Edward Villa, Sr. reported on graffiti and said it has been slow now but expects there will be more once school lets out for the summer. He reported that they tested the use of a high pressure hose to remove graffiti from his block wall and it worked well. He said they are looking at ways to assist with removal from private property in the future.

11. Action Items

a. Support for SCAG Study: Pedestrian/Bicycle/Disabled Path Along Channel

Supervisor Parks said there is an opportunity to apply for a planning grant from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to study using the maintenance roads along the flood control channel in Newbury Park for bicyclists, pedestrians and people in wheelchairs to get to some of the many destinations along the route, including parks, shopping, library and schools. Additionally an educational component could be added to provide information on hydrology and aquatic life along the way and also a bicycle “rules of the road” training area to teach new cyclists safety measures. She said it also offers a way to beautify the chain link fenced-off channel area. The grant will be awarded to projects that can provide transportation options that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles. She said that Dustin Woome is assisting in writing the grant proposal. **Richard Gaz** asked if grant money could go for fixing sidewalks. **Dustin Woome** explained the funds are not coming from the County but a different pot of money that can only be used for a specific purpose. **Supervisor Parks** asked if the MAC would like to vote to support the submittal of the proposal for the grant to do the study.

On a motion by **Dustin Woomer**, seconded by **Janelle Smith**, the MAC approved a support letter for the grant. Motion passed 6/0.

b. Sound Wall on Borchard Road

Supervisor Parks reported that she met with the head of County Transportation and the County Counsel on how to fund a private wall to reduce noise levels for homes that back Borchard Road. They told her that these kinds of projects are what assessment districts are for and she is finding out further if there is a minimum number of houses that are needed to make up a district. To use an assessment district to pay for the wall, the County would pay upfront and residents who would have the new wall in their backyards would repay the County over fifteen years through an assessment levied on their property tax bills. She said she would only consider moving forward if it is supported by the residents there. She said City staff had offered to waive height limits so the wall could be eight feet high instead of six feet high. **David Ayers** voiced concern with how the wall would look on Borchard Road. **Jim Bovard** said he was very much in support of it and would volunteer to help get the wall for this area. **Supervisor Parks** said she would put him in contact with another resident who is leading this effort.

c. Casa Conejo Community Survey

Supervisor Parks said she recalled that Richard Gaz, who had requested a survey of the community, would bring back suggested questions for the survey. **Richard Gaz** said he recalled differently though was happy to develop some brief questions and come back. He commented that one of the questions could be about the bicycle/pedestrian/disabled path along the channel. Supervisor Parks offered they may want to wait and see if the planning grant is awarded and the study is done before surveying. She also suggested having an open-ended question for residents to note other issues of concern they may have that aren't asked about in the survey. The MAC asked that the item be placed on the agenda for the next MAC meeting to review possible survey questions.

12. Suggestions for future agenda items

"Welcome Home, Please Drive Safely" Sign Design and Locations

Questions for a Community Survey

Update on SCAG Planning Grant Application: Pedestrian/Bicycle/Disabled Path Along Channel

Status of Neon Sign on Michael Drive

13. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m. until July 17th at 6:30pm at Borchard Park