

CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
September 18, 2013

**The Casa Conejo MAC Held an Official Meeting Wednesday, September 18, 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 **David Ayers** at 6:02 P.M. MAC members **Richard Twomey, Jr., Edward Villa, Sr., Dustin Woomer, Janell Smith, Steven Wasco** and **Shannon Prachyl** were present.

2. Flag salute

Janell Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Edward Villa, Sr. moved to approve the July 17, 2013 minutes as submitted. **Richard Twomey, Jr.** made the second. The motion passed 7/0.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as written. **Edward Villa, Sr.** made the motion, **Janell Smith** made the second. The motion passed 7/0.

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

Officer Greg Musgrove, California Highway Patrol, said the radar trailer will be back in the next couple of weeks. He commented about the possibility for a crossing guard and the need to paint the curb red for no parking at the Lesser Drive/Rudman Drive crosswalk. **Transportation Director David Fleisch** agreed to look at painting the curb there. **Shannon Prachyl** stated that a crossing guard is needed in the morning at least between 7:50 and 8:20am. **David Ayers** commented that Jenny Drive is a long open road with no speed humps and cars speeding. **Mr. Fleisch** said speed humps must meet a set of warrants for traffic volumes and speeds and pointed out that residents pay for their installation, and that two-thirds of the residents on the street must approve of them as shown on a petition. His Department then seeks comments from the Fire Department, CHP and Sheriff's Office. He agreed to review whether Jenny Drive meets the warrants.

Sr. Sheriff's Deputy Michelle Kristol warned residents of ongoing thefts of catalytic converters from Toyota trucks and older model SUVs. She also pointed out that there is a rise in residential burglaries and how they recently apprehended a suspect connected to six burglaries from Oxnard to Thousand Oaks. She recommended residents sign up for NIXLE service to get Sheriff Department updates on police activity in their area.

6. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks commented positively on the new sidewalk, tree removal and fence painting enhancement by Mr. and Mrs. Pressey. She said she brought handouts on the Wendy Drive/101 Lane closure, mentioned an upcoming townhall on nuclear preparedness on September 25th at Thousand Oaks City Hall, and an upcoming Senior Summit at CSUCI on November 2nd.

7. Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Nathan Borin asked that Ruth Drive be listed along with Jenny Drive for speed control measures. **David Hillard** asked how to get speed humps on Lesser Drive because he said people go 50mph at night. **Shannon Prachyl** suggested a solar radar speed sign could be installed.

Debbie Ambrose expressed concern about traffic back-ups on Wendy Drive if a signal is installed at Gerald Drive.

Richard Gaz commented on erosion reported by Rob Linden whose home backs up to the South Branch Arroyo Conejo flood control channel. **David Ayers** said the issue has been resolved and showed photos of the recently completed bank replacement alongside the property.

Nathan Borin pointed out an error in the July 17, 2013 minutes where it was reported that he offered \$300 to get a stop sign at Gloria Drive and Jenny Drive or Frankie Drive, when in fact it was Ruth Drive, not Jenny Drive, for which his offer applied.

8. Council Comments on Items not on the Agenda

David Ayers stated he has looked at the Casa Conejo flood zone and that Borchard Park acts as a flood basin in the event of a storm.

9. Advisory Matters

a. Drainage Issues on Jenny Drive

Cliff Finley, Thousand Oaks City Engineer, stated the City contacted the commercial building owner on Old Conejo Road to fix any broken sprinklers and request they cut back their watering to avoid runoff. The property manager reported back that they had reduced their watering schedule and had made repairs. He said the City installed a berm on Old Conejo Road and a cross gutter on Ruth Drive. He also said the City is in discussions with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding drainage issues involving the 101 freeway.

Nathan Borin pointed out there is no cross gutter at Jenny Drive where it intersects Old Conejo Road, and an underground drain is needed. **Steve Wasco** said there has been a significant increase in water flowing on the streets in recent years that he believes is related to the development of the business park and that the water all goes down Jenny Drive. He commented that they can't leave their trash cans on the east side (lower side) of Jenny Drive when it rains hard or they get washed away. **David Ayers** showed a map he put together that illustrates how the north end of the business park does not have the drains that the south end (closer to Wendy Drive) has and results in added water going down Jenny Drive. **Bill Keene** said he lives on Jenny Drive, seven houses from Old Conejo Road and flooding is an issue.

David Fleisch said the County will look at adding a concrete curb and gutter on Jenny Drive the next time they pave the road. **Mr. Finley** indicated that the business park across Old Conejo Road had been developed in the 1980's and that the drain discharging on Jenny Drive was installed probably when Old Conejo Road was the state highway. Mr. Finley also agreed to continue to review the issue to help resolve the water concerns.

A concern was raised that the new pavement in front of 851 Jenny Drive is an inch above the driveway and blocks the yard's drain. **Mr. Fleisch** said he would follow up.

b. Speed Control Measures on Jenny Drive, Including Speed Humps and Stop Sign

David Ayers commented that Jenny Drive needs speed humps because students use Lesser Drive and Jenny Drive to go to the high school, and commented about a speeding resident. He said there were several cul de sacs between the intersection of Jenny Drive/Lesser Drive and Old Conejo Road, and suggested a stop sign is needed.

Shannon Prachyl said residents need to take back their streets. She said residents can give the CHP license plate numbers of people who are speeding and the CHP will follow up. This was confirmed by **Officer Musgrove** who said he will send a letter to the speeder and that it is effective, and he will occasionally visit a resident if needed. He said you can notify him of the license plates of speeding drivers at his email: [gmusgrove@chp.ca.gov](mailto:gumusgrove@chp.ca.gov). **Ms. Prachyl** also expressed concern about drivers not stopping for children and parents crossing the crosswalk at Lesser and Rudman Drives.

Janelle Smith departed at 7:15pm.

David Fleisch said it takes engineering, speed enforcement and education to make roads safe and that there are now funds in Safe Routes to School grants for projects to help educate. He suggested that the MAC and the School District may want to consider these grants for temporarily assigning a crossing guard, and to help educate neighbors, possibly with the assistance of the CHP.

Mr. Fleisch described a new type of speed hump called speed cushions that are more acceptable to the Fire Department. **Dustin Woomer** suggested striping lanes to narrow Jenny Drive and/or Lesser Drive in order to slow drivers, for example adding a bike lane, noting the streets are close to 40-feet wide and as such encourage speeding.

c. Wendy Bridge Widening Update

Cliff Finley updated the MAC on the Wendy Bridge widening project emphasizing his appreciation for the patience of residents during construction. He said upcoming construction includes paving east of Old Conejo Road, closure of the freeway to pour cement, and landscaping. An additional \$1.5 million was put in the construction budget to add a lane to the northbound on-ramp. **Bill Keene** asked why it is being done all at once, Mr. Finley said to be able to maintain pedestrian access. Mr. Gaz asked if there will be a bike lane and Mr. Finley said there would be as well as a free right turn lane from Wendy Drive to westbound Conejo Road.

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

Edward Villa, Sr. asked for input on the proto-type sign he held up and said they will make the “Relax” and the “Casa Conejo” bigger. **Shannon Prachyl** agreed the letters should be bigger. **Mr. Villa** said they would try to place the signs on light poles so they would be more visible at night and agreed to make the blue in the sign lighter shade of blue. **Steven Wasco** moved to recommend Mr. Villa’s changes, **David Ayers** seconded the motion which passed 6/0.

e. Graffiti Removal Intervention Team (GRIT) Update

Edward Villa, Sr. asked if anyone in the audience wanted to join the volunteers in the GRIT team. He noted that the flood control channels remained free of graffiti except for an area at the Jenny Drive bridge.

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

Supervisor Parks noted that the County’s grant application was in the top 10 of 77 applications and full funding of the \$40,000 was anticipated to be awarded soon.

g. Casa Conejo Community Survey

Richard Gaz provided revised questions from the committee. The MAC agreed to review the questions thoroughly and finalize it for mailing to residents at the next MAC meeting.

12. Suggestions for future agenda items

Questions for a Community Survey

13. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. until November 20th at 6:00pm at Walnut Elementary School