



## OAK PARK MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Members of the Council:*

Chair Jane Nye

Vice Chair Seema Chandra

JL Diaz

Michelle Santucci

Brian Trushinski

### OAK PARK MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

**January 26, 2023**

**The Oak Park MAC held a meeting on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 7:00 PM**

**Oak Park High School, Room G-9**

**899 Kanan Road, Oak Park, CA 91377**

- 1. Call to Order of the meeting and Roll Call.** The meeting was called to order by Chair Jane Nye at 7:06 PM. MAC members Seema Chandra, JL Diaz, Michelle Santucci, Brian Trushinski, and OPHS student representative Catherine Cheng were present.
- 2. Presentation of the Colors and Flag Salute by BSA Troop 127, Killer Cobra Patrol BSA Troop 127 presented the Colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 3. Oath of Office for new and returning Oak Park MAC members.** Supervisor Gorell administered the Oath of Office for new MAC members Michelle Santucci and Brian Trushinski and returning MAC member, JL Diaz.
- 4. Introduction and Welcome for Supervisor Jeff Gorell, Ventura County 2<sup>nd</sup> District.** Supervisor Gorell welcomed the newly elected and returning Oak Park MAC members and thanked them for their service. Supervisor Gorell thanked the BSA Troop for presenting the Colors and Flag Salute. Supervisor Gorell mentioned that this was not the first time that he represented Oak Park – he was just sworn in three weeks ago but was California State Legislator for two terms representing most of Ventura County, including Oak Park. He loves Oak Park and recognized the great school district and noted that Superintendent, Dr. Jeff Davis was in the audience. Supervisor Gorell mentioned that he values accessibility and thinks it's important for residents to be able to reach him, directly. He will attend all the Oak Park MAC meetings, will provide his personal mobile number, and will be open, available, and transparent to access as needed. He mentioned that he holds monthly sidewalk office hours – he takes a table and sets it up in front of a library, coffee shop, etc. The first one will be in Thousand Oaks in February. Details will be publicized. Supervisor Gorell lives in Camarillo on the Camarillo Grade and before that lived in Thousand Oaks. He is a Navy Reserve Captain, he is also a dad of two boys 13 and 8, and the most challenging job is being the President of an HOA. He is good at fixing things at a neighborhood level. Supervisor Gorell introduced Dale Thomas, his Community Field Representative, who is responsible for day-to-day issues in Oak Park. Dale Thomas is an Oak Park resident. Dale Thomas said that she was honored and privileged to be at the MAC meeting and to work with the residents of Oak Park.
- 5. Selection of MAC Chair and Vice Chair.** Seema Chandra nominated Jane Nye to be Chair and JL Diaz nominated Seema Chandra for Vice Chair, both were seconded by Brian Trushinski. This was approved 5/0.
- 6. Adoption of the Agenda.** Seema Chandra moved to adopt the agenda and JL Diaz seconded the motion. It was approved 5/0.
- 7. Approval of the meeting minutes of November 3, 2022.** Brian Trushinski moved to adopt the minutes. Seema Chandra seconded the motion. It was approved 4/0 with 1 abstention by JL Diaz.
- 8. Public Safety report.** Senior Deputy Christopher Jones introduced himself and mentioned that he has been with the Sheriff's Department for 25 years. He has worked in the Conejo Valley for more than 20 years. He is currently assigned to Oak Park. Gave an update of two Oak Park citizens who were battered just before Christmas – investigation is still on-going, but just made four arrests (all high school students). Also, catalytic

converter crews are back stealing catalytic converters again – three in the same night. Now hitting Honda Accords in addition to Prius cars. Also, one vehicle’s window was smashed and rifled through the car. Around Christmas, porch pirates were stealing packages from homes.

## **9. Council Comments**

**Catherine Cheng** said just before the New Year, they had their second Rally, which was a great success. The Sophomores won, which was a surprise to the Seniors who were disappointed. Just before finals – dogs were brought to campus to reduce student stress. The Talon newspaper released their Fall Summary with allowed student journalists to educate the students on issues. In January, the new bell schedule was discussed. Last week, the school had the Lunar New Year celebration brought by the Chinese Conejo Cultural Association – Lion Dancing, food, and games were brought to the students. The Wellness Center, which was build last year, has been successful in reaching its objectives – hosting the Great Kindness Challenge Week in efforts to promote student interaction and connectivity. Course advisement will be held in mid-February. Seniors are starting to hear back about college acceptances.

**Seema Chandra** welcomed Supervisor Gorell and Dale Thomas and said she looks forward to working with them.

**JL Diaz** congratulated Supervisor Gorell on his election and said he is looking forward to working with him. JL Diaz asked Dan Cooper of the RSRPD Oak Park Committee to give an update – on his behalf – regarding three sand volleyball courts to be added to Deerhill Park. There was good support for this addition. Seema Chandra asked about our budget and expressed an interest in adding Pickleball courts. JLL Diaz said the Oak Park Fire Safe Council just received a \$20K grant from Cal Fire , which will really help to fund activities. Supervisor Gorell asked who wrote the grant. JL wrote the grant. Jane Nye recommended that Supervisor Gorell include the Fire Safe Council in his monthly Town Hall meetings.

**Michelle Santucci** welcomed Supervisor Gorell to the Oak Park community and said that she has lived here for 24 years and looks forward to helping Oak Park residents.

**Brian Trushinski** said that he received an email from the TWSD saying that rates for potable and recycled water is going up 6%, so he recommends strengthening our water conservation efforts, including turf removal. Michelle Santucci said that she just got a new rain barrel and is looking forward to hooking it up before the next rain event.

**Jane Nye** said the results of the OPUSD Board of Education elections are that Denise Helfstein is President and Tina Wang is Vice President and the new Oak Park MAC Liaison is Jim Moynihan. For the report from Triunfo Water and Sanitation District – Metropolitan Water District has extended the drought plan until June. For Oak Park, we are still watering once a week for 10 minutes per zone. There were only 19 violations in January. The TWSD staff did a great job during the storms, monitoring the pump stations – there were no leaks.

## **10. Public Comments**

**Eric Steiner** brought up his concerns about the Hawthorne and Bowfield landscaping and requested that this topic be discussed with Charles Alvarez and CSA #4. He requested that this be added to a future agenda item.

**Deena Parry** brought up the need to trim trees in Oak Park and to post MAC meeting notices on social media and on the two welcome signs. Brought up the topic of investigating changing the welcome signs to more modern digital signs like OPHS has.

## **11. Adjournment of the Oak Park MAC Meeting at 7:55PM**

Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District introduction of candidates for election to the Oak Park Parks and Recreation Planning Advisory Committee

## **12. Call back to Order Oak Park MAC Meeting at 8:06PM**

### **13. Information Item**

Callegus-Las Virgenes Interconnect Project (Maya Hoholick and Jennifer Lancaster)

For detour information, weekly construction schedules, and other project information, visit [www.CMWD-LVMWDInterconnection.com](http://www.CMWD-LVMWDInterconnection.com)

Construction will continue through 2023 with project completion expected in Feb 2024.

### **14. Advisory Matters**

**Approval of the 2023 MAC Meeting Calendar** – last Thursday of each month

**Oak Park MAC Assignments** (see attached)

### **15. Written Communications**

**Joanne and Steven Kozel** sent an email on Jan 25, 2023, regarding adding meeting agendas and meeting minutes to Supervisor Gorell's web site, adding communications and a master calendar to Supervisor Gorell's web site, and changing the meeting venue to the Oak Park Community Center and doing live streaming. This will be reviewed by Supervisor Gorell and his staff.

### **16. Future Agenda Items**

None were requested by the MAC, but resident Eric Steiner requested the landscaping topic be added to the next meeting.

### **17. Adjournment**

**Chair Nye** adjourned the meeting at 8:34 PM.

The next MAC meeting will be held at 7:00PM at OPHS room G-9 on Thursday, February 23, 2023.