



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

The Oak Park MAC held a meeting on Thursday, February 23, 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 7:04 PM. MAC members Seema Chandra, JL Diaz, Michelle Santucci, Brian Trushinski were present. OPHS student representative Catherine Cheng was absent.
2. **Flag Salute.** JL Diaz led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Adoption of the Agenda.** Seema Chandra moved to adopt the agenda and JL Diaz seconded the motion. It was approved 5/0.
4. **Approval of the meeting minutes of January 26, 2023.** JL Diaz moved to approve the minutes. Michelle Santucci seconded the motion. It was approved 5/0.
5. **Public Safety reports.**

Ventura County Fire Department – Division Chief East County Jeff Shea

- Introduced Battalion Chief, Guillermo De La Rosa (greater Conejo Valley). Plan to include Engine Company 36 (Oak Park) going forward. That engine company was currently on an emergency call. They are staffed every day with fire fighters and paramedics. They are here to serve the community. Warnings about approaching storm over the weekend. Will augment staffing for flood conditions – 2 swift water teams deployed, additional fire-fighting staffing deployed plus heavy equipment ready to help with any mud slides or tree clearances. Resident, Deena Parry thanked Jeff Shea for his service and asked about whether Oak Park has a private ambulance company. American Medical Response (AMR) is the private ambulance company that provides transportation and emergency response for Oak Park. Gold Coast is for the Oxnard area. Every 911 call goes into the Fire Department dispatch center – everything is GPS coordinated and residents will get the fastest response time possible – closest ambulance, closest fire truck, and closest paramedic when 911 is called.

Ventura County Sheriff – Senior Deputy Christopher Jones

- Catalytic converter thefts have gone back up. If residents hear sawing noises, please call 911 immediately. Community involvement is essential. Transnational criminal organizations may be involved. Residential break-ins have increased. This usually happens around dinner time. Be sure to have cameras and alarms on your homes and cars. Battery event that occurred around Christmas in Oak Park – additional arrests were made for a total of 8 people. Excellent job by Detectives. License plate reader recommendation – City of Thousand Oaks is using the Flock Safety, which helps the Sheriff ID suspects and reduce crime. Sr. Deputy Jones brought this recommendation to Supervisor Gorell and the Oak Park MAC. We would need a total of 3 cameras. \$3500/year per camera + \$350 install fee. Flock Safety does all the maintenance and keeps all the records. The system is solar powered, so no infrastructure is needed. Next step – Flock Safety costs would have to be added to budget, which was already submitted. It is early enough that the budget could be adjusted to include this per Charles Alvarez. A representative from Flock Safety will attend a future MAC meeting.

CHP – Officer Ryan Ayers

- Highly recommends the Flock Safety license plate readers to help all aspects of law enforcement (residential burglaries, retail theft, and auto theft). Good news for Oak Park area – no crashes locally. Did have one road rage incident on Deerhill. State-wide since Covid, road rage incidents are the worst upward trend for incidents in CA. Do not react or put yourself in harms way. Recently had two wrong-way drivers in Ventura County – one was a fatality. Moorpark CHP just received four new cadets out of the Academy – residents may see paired up CHP officers during the day. Still working some traffic complaints in Oak Park – some speeding around the schools, complaints around Red Oak Elementary School regarding drivers going through stop signs without stopping, and overall congestion and parents not willing to protect their children at drop-off locations. CHP continues to work with the school principals and monitor the situation. In addition, oversized vehicle issues are being addressed and enforcement is resuming now that we are in normal conditions. Reminder to stay home during stormy weather conditions – don't drive if not essential.

6. Comments from Supervisor Jeff Gorell

The Supervisor was unable to attend tonight's meeting and Dale Thomas spoke on his behalf. Certificate of Recognition were presented to JL Diaz, Michelle Santucci, and Brian Trushinski as newly elected Oak Park MAC members. Recognition certificates for outgoing MAC members will be sent to Alon Glickstein and Janice Smets. Dale mentioned that Supervisor Gorell has accomplished quite a bit in a short period of time – serving on the Board of Supervisors, initiated the proclamation to end the Covid emergency declaration withdrawn in Ventura County as of Feb 28, held sidewalk office hours from 12-2pm at Thousand Oaks Library on Feb 17, the next sidewalk office hours will be at Oak Park Library on Thu, Mar 30 from 12-2pm. Supervisor Gorell is asking for inputs from residents on what they want on Supervisor Gorell's web site. Please contact Dale Thomas with all ideas.

7. Council Comments

Catherine Cheng sent in her comments - Future Freshman Night was held last night, which allowed families who are considering enrolling their student to OPHS next year as a member of the class of 2028. The rest of the grades are preparing to register for classes, with Juniors registering this coming Sunday.

- The second blood drive of the year was held on Feb 16. We had roughly 40 units of blood donated, and for the final blood drive of the year we were considering opening it up to adults.

- The Spring Rally is tomorrow! Our Spring Fling dance was supposed to accompany this rally, but it was postponed from Feb 24 to Mar 25 due to heavy rain and wind.

- Fine Arts Assembly was held today, where our Choir, Wind Ensemble, dance team, visual arts classes, as well as the cast of the upcoming Addams Family play provided the students currently attending our school a glimpse into the visual and performing arts. This assembly last occurred in 2019, and all members involved were elated to bring back this event.

- Girls' Basketball has made CIF Finals, playing the final match this coming Saturday.

Seema Chandra – No updates.

JL Diaz – This weekend is the community clean-up event – rain or shine. Update on the Fire Safe Council is coordinating with other Fire Safe Councils around Ventura County and one of the activities is a Town Hall meeting in March, led by Supervisor Gorell. Will be held in Thousand Oaks. More details to follow.

Michelle Santucci – No updates.

Brian Trushinski – On Feb 21, Brian met with Ventura County Public Works agency (Charles Alvarez and Valeria Lopez plus Dale Thomas). They had a tour of the district and what is under the jurisdiction of CSA #4 and landscaping (tree maintenance and irrigation). There is a patchwork of ownership – not all owned by the county, some is owned by RSRPD, some by HOAs, some are owned by residents. Brian has a unique ability to coordinate between all owners. On Sun, Feb 19, Brian met with Deena Parry and noted overgrown trees, pinecone issues, signage, lighting, entry sign upgrades, and leaning trees. Concerns were brought up with the County and issues were discussed. Enhanced Landscape is already starting to work on the tree trimming. The signage upgrade and plantings to be discussed by the MAC. County has ordered signs for to show Recycled Water usage (20 locations).

RSRPD – Oak Park Planning Committee discovery meeting – provided a binder with lots of information. Committee meets 4X a year. Next meeting on Apr 13 at Oak Park Community Center. Invited to visit new Duck Pond. Grand Opening may be delayed to April. Park issues are limited to budget limits – must set priorities. Steven Kozel brought up concerns re debris in the street. Brian will investigate next steps. Dale will add a future agenda item on a Landscape Update including status on Turf Removal + Enhanced Landscape update. Let's close with community on landscape budget and priorities (and a "parking lot" list).

Jane Nye – TWSD - Feb 22 – There was a leak repair on Myrtle Ct in Oak Park; at the upcoming Feb 27 TWSD meeting, the Board will discuss rescinding the 1 day per week watering restriction; at the Jan 23 meeting, the TWSD Board voted to extend the wastewater customer assistance program for another year – providing financial assistance to low-income residents.

Other - I submitted a repair request to VC Public Works via the app – to replace several downed traffic pylons at Kanan and Los Arcos and the work was completed on Feb 21.

8. 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.

Steven Kozel mentioned that it is hard to get information about Oak Park. Requested that Supervisor Gorell's website be the central repository for events. Also wanted emails for Oak Park MAC members posted. Requested minutes for Nov 3, 2022, be posted on website.

Deena Parry agreed with Steven that Oak Park MAC member emails be posted. Also saw drones during landscaping tour. Expressed concern about safety of drones and dogs off leash – requested better signage. Brian responded that RSRPD heard the concern but didn't commit to a timeline. Lastly, mentioned an almost robbery in 2020 and is concerned about solicitors coming to residents' homes. Residents should call the Sheriff if they have concerns.

9. Advisory Matters

a) Possible Zoom capability for MAC Meetings

Seema Chandra asked about the cost of doing this.

Michelle Santucci differentiated between the terms 'Live Streaming' and 'Zoom.' The technology costs are different between the two.

Seema Chandra made a motion to deny the request to add either service. The cost is too high, and we would need staff to support this. No second was made so the motion did not pass.

Brian requested more information about options and cost. Dale Thomas will do the research and bring it back to the MAC.

Michelle Santucci moved that we ask Dale Thomas to do research and report back. The motion was seconded by JL Diaz. Yes – 4; No – 1 \; no abstentions. The motion passes 4/1.

- b) Possible conversion of Oak Park MAC entry signs to digital
Discussed with CSA #4 and it would cost \$50K per sign to convert and there is no electricity. Dale Thomas requested the MAC give feedback on what can be done.

Brian requested that we look at what we can do rather than what we can't do because of budget. Was in support of a digital approach to be able to update events easily.

Michelle commented on Kanan sign refresh – areas to explore the costs of initial investment + infrastructure. Security concerns about a digital approach. She also thought the location should be reconsidered. Sign is not located near a stop sign or signal. Sign should be more visible. Decide on Oak Park brand – is digital too urban?

Seema worked on signs for 2 years and likes the wood signs – gives a homey feel. Many residents read the signs. Doesn't support spending a lot of money on digital signs. Moving to a signal or stop sign is reasonable.

Michelle talked about community engagement – have young students help update the signs. Have Supervisor Gorell take a photo with the youth.

Dale Thomas reminded the MAC to watch the budget.

Jane Nye mentioned using sponsors to fund upgrades.

Decision to defer topic until future time.

10. Information Item

- a) Oak Park Fire Conditional Use Permit - CUP (Christopher Alberts and Mindy Fogg, RMA Planning; Brianne - VCFD)
Presentation to consider the redesign of radio tower at Fire station 36. New 80ft tall lattice tower to replace the existing 36ft tower plus new communications shed. Cost would be \$47K. Permit would then go to Planning for approval.
Motion to approve the new 80ft lattice tower was made by Brian Trushinski, seconded by Seema Chandra – motion passed 5/0.

11. Written Communications

Jane Nye received an email from Kathy Moghimi-Patterson a new Oak Park resident who volunteered to take an active role in our community – wanted to get involved. Jane Nye forwarded email to Dale Thomas.

12. Future Agenda Items

VCFD Wildland Fire Hardening requested by Brian Trushinski (with the following details):

Larry Williams is the Fire Prevention Officer for Ventura County (he works out of the Camarillo office). Larry and I have worked together for years on wildland fire prevention and hardening (i.e., fire protection actions) for open space lands.

Larry is a super helpful and all-round great guy. He explained to me last year that he is on a State-committee preparing updated wildland fire hardening regulations for new and existing community development including residential homes. The new regulations will be requiring some significant requirements for all

property owners to better protect their homes/businesses. The State committee is still drafting the language and is subject to State approvals.

From what I recall hearing from Larry, the new regulations might (might) be approved for new development in California sometime this fall 2023 – subject to State approval. Existing development is proposed to go into effect sometime later in 2024.

Some key items being discussed by his committee include:

- Removal of trees, possibly even oaks, if the trunk is within 5 feet of a structure.
- Trimming of tree branches/limbs and shrubs that are within 5 feet of a structure, as well as anything within 3-5 feet that is above a roofline.
- Prohibiting the installation of new & removal of existing artificial turf in what they call State Zone 0 (i.e., within 5-10 feet of a structure) regulations starting in 2024.
- Prohibiting the placement of wood chips/mulch beyond 5 feet of a structure (current regs. since 2014 do not allow wood chips/mulch within 5 feet of a structure).

There may be additional things being considered at this time by the Committee.

The MAC would really appreciate a presentation from Larry or his Fire Prevention Team on :

- Current existing wildland fire hardening regulations (some State & County-approved regs. have been around since 2014, even earlier, but a lot of people are unaware of these).
- New wildland fire prevention regulations that were approved and went into force starting Jan 1, 2023.
- Regulations currently being discussed by his State Committee and what those regs. Might mean to Oak Park residents and businesses.
- What the VCFD would like Oak Park residents and businesses to consider doing now to be better prepared for the upcoming wildland fire period.
- What the VCFD considers to be ‘best practices’ for wildland fire hardening

It would also be outstanding if he brought information handouts (flyers, publications, etc.) for attendees to take with them.

13. Adjournment

Chair Nye adjourned the meeting at 9:06 PM.

The next MAC meeting will be held at 7:00PM at OPHS room G-9 on Thursday, March 30, 2023.