



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD  
Brian Trushinski, Chair  
Michelle Santucci, Vice Chair  
J.L. Diaz  
Jane Nye  
Seema Chandra

**REGULAR  
MEETING**  
**Draft Minutes in italics**

**NOVEMBER 21, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**

Municipal Advisory Council  
Oak Park, California

Oak Park High School  
Room G-9  
899 North Kanan Road  
Oak Park, CA 91377

**WEB ACCESS**

At: [ventura.org/oakparkmac](http://ventura.org/oakparkmac)

MAC Calendar, Agenda, and Minutes

Welcome to the meeting of the Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) an advisory council for the unincorporated area of Oak Park to Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell.

## LEGAL NOTICES

Persons who require accommodation for any audio, visual, language, or other disability to review an agenda or to participate in a meeting of the Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council per the American Disabilities Act (ADA), may obtain assistance by requesting such accommodation by calling (805) 214-2510 or e-mailing [ashley.bautista@ventura.org](mailto:ashley.bautista@ventura.org). Any such request for accommodation should be made at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting for which assistance is requested.

All agenda reports and supporting data, including those filed in accordance with Government Code Section 54957.5 (b) (1) and (2) are available from Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell's office at 2100 E Thousand Oaks Blvd, Suite E, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. The same materials will be available and attached with each associated agenda item, when received, at the following website: [ventura.org/oakparkmac](http://ventura.org/oakparkmac)

Documents including staff materials, comment emails and letters, photos, etc., distributed to the Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council regarding any agenda item during an open session or after the meeting concluded, are posted online and made available for public inspection at [ventura.org/oakparkmac](http://ventura.org/oakparkmac)

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment is the opportunity for members of the public to participate in meetings by addressing the Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items. Public comments by a member of the public at a single meeting are limited to a cumulative total of five minutes at such meeting unless the time allotment is increased or decreased by the Chair depending on the number of speakers. The public comment period during the opening part of the meeting to address non-agenda items is limited to 30 minutes total for all speakers; this 30-minute limit does not apply to items on the agenda.

To maintain a public meeting environment conducive and welcoming to receiving public comments from all members of the public, the audience is discouraged from engaging in displays of support or opposition to staff reports or public comments, including clapping, yelling, booing, hissing or cheering, that may create a disruptive environment for members of the public wishing to participate. Any person who disrupts or impedes the orderly conduct of a meeting will be instructed to cease the disruptive conduct. Failure to do so may result in that person being removed from the meeting.

Members of the public who would like to augment their comments with visual or audio presentations must submit their materials to the [supervisorgorell@ventura.org](mailto:supervisorgorell@ventura.org) for review at least 48 hours before the meeting. The review will be conducted to determine

only whether the materials are on matters within the jurisdiction of the Municipal Advisory Council, would be disruptive of the meeting, or would foster illegality, such as identity theft. If it is determined that materials are about matters not within the Municipal Advisory Council's jurisdiction, or would be disruptive of the meeting, or would foster illegality, use of County-provided equipment will not be allowed.

### **Email or Mail Public Comment in Advance of the Meeting**

If you wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item by email or mail, please submit your comment by 12:00 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting. Indicate in the Subject Line the Agenda item number (e.g., Item No. 9) on which you are commenting. Your email or written comment will be distributed to the Municipal Advisory Council and placed into the item's record for the minutes of the meeting. Public Comments submitted in writing are public records and subject to disclosure. An unredacted version is made available when records are requested by a Public Records Act request. Please do not submit personal contact information you do not want to be made public. Please submit your comment to [supervisor@ventura.org](mailto:supervisor@ventura.org) or mail to:

Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council  
Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell  
2100 E Thousand Oaks Blvd Suite E  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

### **In-Person Public Comment**

If you would like to provide a verbal comment in person during the meeting, upon arrival at the meeting location, check in with staff and complete a comment card. When your name is called for public comment, please proceed to the podium. If you do not wish to pre-register but would like to provide in-person comments at the meeting, you must check in with the staff prior to the agenda item being called.

### **Video Recording – Live Stream Information of Meeting**

View the meeting on the livestream at the following link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@vcd2super/streams>.

## **OPENING**

1. Call to Order 7 pm Brian Trushinski, Second by Seema Chandra
2. Roll Call Seema Chandra, Brian Trushinski, JL Diaz, Carter – High School Rep
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America - Brian Trushinski Led
4. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council held on Thursday, October 24, 2024. Changes please note.
5. Agenda Review – *Right before consent agenda Announcements and other businesses. Please add. Motion to approve – Seema – all in favor*
6. Consent Items 11-15 *Motion to pull 11-14 Brian Seema pull 15 JL motion to move, Seema second, All in favor*

7. Public Comments – *No public comments*
8. Written Comments – *No written comments*
9. Council Comments

- *On November 9, two separate homeowners concerned about the pruning, and perhaps removal, of an Oak tree on another neighbor's private property, independently contacted two MAC members, Michelle Santucci and Brian Trushinski. The concerned homeowners were advised to contact Ventura County Resource Management Agency, Code Compliance who is investigating if there was a violation and will determine the course of action.*
- *JL – Concerned about Mountain Fire. Heart goes to people impacted by fire. Thanks to VCFD for doing a great job.*
- *Seema – Mountain Fire thanks to VCFD. A lot of friends in area. Terrible fire. Congratulate Brianna Adams and Jane. Seema has been on the MAC for 80 meetings. This is her last meeting. Thankful for experience.*
- *A commendation and flowers were presented to Seema for her dedicated service.*
- *Brian reported Landscape Committee updates as reported in the committee report.*
- *Homeowners association has asked County to remove trees. The County has determined that the trees are in the HOA area.*
- *Some sidewalk lids were broken and have been replaced.*
- *Contractors staying on top of turf cutting.*
- *JL made comments about donating to fire victims, he asked for a report of the after action report and he encouraged residents to get information from firewise to harden their homes. Donations can go to VCCF.org. JL also asked for future presentation on evacuation routes from the office of emergency services.*

10. Supervisor Jeff Gorell Comments – *Mountain Fire recover, Special meeting November 22 and next full Board of Supervisors meeting December 10 in Simi Valley. Comments about hardening homes and making sure that Oak Park is prepared for any future emergency. Brian Trushinski commented on being cautious of recovery efforts and scams from contractors. Seema recognized for 8 years of service and presented with a commendation. Sup. Gorell made note of her thoughtfulness and commitment to public service. Commended her for community outreach and ideas for fire open house. He also commended her attention to detail and questions about Public Work responsiveness. He thanks Brianna Adams for commitment to community with new role in 2025. Commitment to RFP.*

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda items are routine and non-controversial. Items are reviewed and approved together by the Council as recommended and without discussion unless an item is pulled for separate action by the Board on the Regular Agenda. Consent items are heard at the Council's discretion and may be heard at any time during the meeting.

## **RECOMMENDATION TO RECEIVE AND FILE**

### 11. Ventura County Fire Department Report

- This month, Ventura County experienced its first large fire of the year. The Mountain Fire burned more than 20,000 acres, destroyed nearly 200 homes in Camarillo and forced hundreds of residents to evacuate. The Ventura County Fire Department was supported by numerous agencies from across the state in responding to the fire. Those efforts are still underway at the time of this report. We are grateful for their assistance.
- A Local Assistance Center was being set up to guide residents and businesses affected by the fire through the recovery process and share information about assistance that might be available. Additional information will be available at [vcrecovers.com](http://vcrecovers.com).
- Once conditions enabled property owners to return to their properties, eight Community Patrols were established to assist in sorting through the remains of burned homes for items that might have survived. Those firefighters wore personal protective equipment so they could work safely in the ash and debris, which also allowed the property owners to stay safe.
- Additional Santa Ana wind events are bound to happen. Everyone should remain vigilant about avoiding activities that could start a fire, such as a hot muffler against tall weeds, a dragging tow chain, a tossed cigarette or an outdoor fire pit.

## **RECOMMENDATION TO RECEIVE AND FILE**

### 12. Ventura County Sheriff's Office Report

- During the month of October, deputies working the Oak Park Community responded to 118 calls for service in October. They took 13 crime reports and 11 incident reports in October. Incident reports are generated from calls for service where deputies were unable to establish a crime but documented the incident. Those incidents are reviewed by Detectives to see if any further follow-up is required.

- Vandalism: There was one vandalism report for the month. There was hate speech graffiti painted on an intersection. There were no witnesses. Investigation is ongoing by the East County General Investigative Unit and there are no suspects at this time.
- Forgery / Fraud cases: The victim fell prey to an internet pop up scam. The victim was told there was a fraudulent charge to their bank account. The suspect said they would refund the charge then refund a larger amount then had the victim wire transfer the amount to the suspect. The case is being investigated by East County Financial Crimes Unit.
- Victim learned there was a fraudulent student loan taken out in their name. This crime occurred outside of the sheriff's office jurisdiction and was forwarded to the appropriate unit.
- Victims' personal information was used to obtain services. This crime occurred outside of the sheriff's office jurisdiction and was forwarded to the appropriate unit.
- As a reminder banks and other legitimate businesses will not ask you to provide your personal information such as social security numbers or bank information. Also, if you are asked to pay the subject on the phone by gift card or crypto currency this is a scam. Please be wary of pop-up ads on your computer. This is often hackers trying to compromise your bank information. Call the Sheriff's Office immediately.
- Auto Crimes: There was a burglary from a motor vehicle. The actual burglary occurred in the month of March but was not reported until this month. The case was investigated by the General Assignment Unit and closed with no suspect information.
  
- Burglary: There was a vehicle burglary report this month. Unknown suspects smashed the victim's vehicle window and stole property out of the vehicle. This case is under investigation by the General Assignment Unit.
- Thefts: Known suspect was using computer servers from the Oak Park School District to mine crypto currency. The devices were removed from the servers. Due to the complexity of the case the investigation is still ongoing by the Financial Crimes Unit.

- The victim had jewelry stolen from their home. There were no signs of forced entry. The victim believed a housekeeper was the suspect. The homeowner called the suspect and the jewelry was returned. They did not desire prosecution for the theft.
- There was one misdemeanor battery report for the month. The incident was between two family members. A warrant was sought for the suspect by the DA's Office.

## RECOMMENDATION TO RECEIVE AND FILE

### 13. California Highway Patrol Report

- CHP Moorpark and the California Highway Patrol will be kicking off our annual CHiP's for Kids Toy Drive event this month. You can drop off new, unwrapped toys at the CHP Moorpark Area office Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We will also be holding our televised drive-through drop-off event Friday, December 6th at the Walgreens on Ventu Park Road in Thousand Oaks.
- CHP Moorpark is hosting a Start Smart class on Thursday, November 21st from 6:00pm-8:00pm at the Moorpark CHP Office at 610 Spring Rd. in Moorpark. This is a FREE class offered to current and prospective teenage drivers and their parents/guardians to discuss important issues such as tips on how to avoid crashes, safe driving habits, dynamics of a crash, consequences of a poor choice behind the wheel, parental roles and responsibilities, and legal and civil liabilities. Call the Moorpark CHP office to reserve your spot at (805) 553-0800.
- The California Highway Patrol will be conducting a Maximum Enforcement Period (MEP) over the Thanksgiving weekend. The MEP will run from Thursday, November 28th through Sunday, December 1st. A focus for this MEP will be seatbelt use by ALL vehicle occupants. Maximum Enforcement Periods have been a part of California Highway Patrol (CHP) policy for many years and have specific deployment and reporting procedures. During an MEP, field commands are required to deploy the maximum amount of uniformed personnel to address primary collision factor violations, impaired drivers, and assure a prompt response to any incident causing a hazard or traffic delay.
- The California Highway Patrol is hiring 1,000 officers to help make California's roadways safer. If you or someone you know would like to join the CHP, visit [www.betheCHP1000.com](http://www.betheCHP1000.com) for more information and to speak with a local recruiter. Also, the CHP is hiring more than just officers. We are currently looking to fill 165 dispatcher vacancies across the state and are also looking for Commercial Vehicle Inspection Specialists to inspect the growing number of commercial vehicles on California highways. The CHP will provide you with the training for all three of these positions. More details and applications can be found at [www.chp.ca.gov](http://www.chp.ca.gov).

- Follow CHP Moorpark on social media for traffic updates, sig alerts, evacuation notices, roadway closures, and general information on what the CHP is doing in your area.

## **RECOMMENDATION TO RECEIVE AND FILE**

### 14. Landscape Committee Report for November 2024

- Landscape contractor for Oak Park CSA 4 services for 2025. Ventura County Public Works is extending the current contract with Enhanced Landscape Management until June 2025. Staff are reassessing the 2024 RFP contractor bid submissions to find ways to reduce the +80% cost increase for 2025 services. Staff will attend the November MAC meeting to receive Council and public suggestions for cost and landscaping service reductions to remain within the approved County budget.
- Ventura County Public Works (Watershed Protection District) draft 2025-2030 California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) Routine Maintenance Agreement for Medea and Lindero Canyon Creeks and their tributary streams. WPD's draft 2025-2030 Agreement will be discussed at the November 21, 2024, MAC meeting. Council and the public will have an opportunity to provide input on what should be included in the District's final 2025-2030 Agreement submission to CDFW.
- Juniper hedge trimming at the southeast corner of Kanan Road & Tamarind Street. The entire hedge line has been removed and replaced with a gravel base material to provide safe conditions for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians at this busy intersection. • Revitalized planting areas along Hawthorn Drive (both sides) between Cremona Way and Kanan Road. These specific planting areas were in the Steiner report (2023) as Areas J, K, L, M, and N. The MAC supported this project in April/ May 2024. There are approved budget funds. County Public Works has not yet authorized Enhanced Landscape to prepare a planting plan and cost estimate.
- Updates from Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks District:
  - The District held an advertised community meeting on November 14, 2024, at the Oak Canyon Community Park Center (Kanan Road) to introduce Mr. Eric Lundstrom (Oak Park-Wood Ranch District 5 RSRPD Board Member) to Oak Park residents. Ten residents attended and presented ideas and suggestions regarding the District's services. Topics included wildfire abatement, removal of invasive plant species, general landscaping, maintenance of trails, parks, and open spaces, long-term environmental management of Medea Creek upstream of Hollytree Dr. to the Oak Park/Agoura Hills municipal boundary, CDFW permitting process for creek maintenance activities, requiring mountain bike bells for hiker safety, and the new Deerhill Park pickleball facility.
  - The District has received approximately \$2.3 million grant money for improvements on RSRPD lands along Medea and Lindero Canyon creeks



(removal of invasive plant species, wildfire hazard palm trees, and dead materials that are channel blockages). Envicon Engineering is working with CDFW to secure the mandatory regulatory permits. • The Deerhill Park pickleball facility is in its third plan check for a building permit from the Ventura County Building Safety Division.

- The District is working to resolve a major hillside sediment debris flow that encroached into the backyards of residential properties in the Smoke Tree Ave. community.
- The District is working with the Ventura County Resource Management Agency to obtain the mandatory permit for trimming an oak tree on RSRPD property that is encroaching into the backyard of 42 Medea Creek Lane. This item was raised by the homeowner at the MAC's October 24, 2024, meeting and Brian Trushinski notified RSRPD.
- Friends of Oak Park Open Space is working with the District on various Medea Creek projects including invasive plant species removal, oak tree planting, and public awareness for environmental health and sustainability.
- Friends of Oak Park Open Space expressed notable concern that the District has not been following mandatory CDFW regulations for the significant riparian vegetation removal work in the ephemeral headwaters of Medea Creek immediately upstream of Hollytree Dr. Friends want a management plan created that prevents future environmental damage in this environmentally important reach of Medea Creek.
- Oak Park residential property owners each pay about \$41.00/year for RSRPD services. Costs associated with labor, materials, insurance, utilities, etc. increase annually thus resulting in a deepening budget-deficit situation. It is financially difficult to maintain what already exists in Oak Park. Community engagement should occur on service expectations and possibly a future assessment increase.

#### RECOMMENDATION TO RECIEVE AND FILE

15. Oak Park MAC Request Tickler Log - *Seema has a question on number 4 on the tickler log – Lindero/Kanan - no sidewalk it's not accurate it's only on Lindero between VC/LA County – Request is to work with LA County because it impacts Oak Park Residents/ Please work with LA County for a solution – we should work with the LA County to reopen this item.*

#### REGULAR AGENDA

**Regular Agenda items are heard at the Council's discretion and may be heard at any time during the meeting.**

16. Oak Park Landscape Request for Proposal Update and Recommendations

Brian provided an overview of the budget and the percentage of the 1.6 million budget that goes to things like utilities, landscape, crossing guards and other maintenance costs. Each property in Oak Park unincorporated has an assessment tax that is 17.28 annually. Countywide Vta County unincorporated has gone up 80%. 130% increase from last Oak Park contract for landscape.

The County's Landscaper (GSA Supervisor) has offered the following feedback regarding possible cost savings measures for landscaping, specifically in the CSA4 area of Oak Park:

- Service could be schedule weekly during the summer and every other week during the winter, the changeover would be take-place in approximately April and October.
- An initial investment could be made to change some areas to hard-scape; follow up service would be minimal and water use would decrease.
- There is a criteria for fertilization aeration, and dethatching of turf areas such as along the center median of Kanan Road; this could be eliminated but residents would see a difference in the look of the turf.
- The purchase cost of all plants are marked up by the suppliers from what the landscaper pays. The elimination of annual plantings and conversion to perennials would be a one-time cost but a decrease in product and labor over time.
- Historically all trees were trimmed once every 3-years. This could be extended. Whatever criteria is desired, needs to be specified in the RFP scope.
- *Expectations; eliminating terminology as "garden like" in the scope.*
- *Carter mentioned that he likes the idea of Turf*
- *Brian recommends reducing irrigation use/water is expensive/contractors are professionals and would turn off irrigation if they needed to/rely on professionals that are committed to that*
- *JL would like line by line items*
- *Carter mentioned high school has added a artificial turf*
- *Seema likes idea of keeping weekly during winter but reduce other items to save water or resources and to trust landscaper about these impacts*
- *Steven Kozel – clean up debris – it is a risk. Gardners are just blowing stuff not cleaning it up. After all the winds. Watering is important but we water too much. We should water less. Put in rocks not plants. Do not recommend artificial. Do more tours and get community input. Restrictive water supply concern.*
- *Manju – local biologist/ecologist - friends of Oak Park open space Must know urban ecosystem for maintaining landscape. Excessive trimming going on. Native plants/grass recommended for plating. Make sure qualified people on board so that the landscaper has an arborist. Natural landscape is important. City of Irvine important model on urban landscape.*
- *Janna – would like to be more involved with landscape committee. She is concerned with the budget. She wants to know why the MAC pays for the crossing guards. She has lived in Oak Park for 45 years and she believes the School District*

*should pay for the crossing guards. She is requesting for it to be on the agenda. She says they are needed but doesn't think the MAC should pay for them. She thinks there isn't enough of a budget to cover it from the MAC.*

- *Brian made a comment that the MAC invited the school district to come and speak and community members did not want the MAC to end support of the crossing guards. This will be an item in the budget discussion in February.*
- *Supervisor Gorell mentioned that cities pay for crossing guards. The conversation with School Board hasn't yeilded response because they don't have the funding. The County offered to pay half the salary for a school resource officer, and they wouldn't meet half-way because of the deficit with school funding statewide.*
- *Debbie – recommend incremental turf. Maintenace less without grass. Water consumption. No fertilizer. Native grass. Issue is maintenance crews need to know what they are doing with native plants.*

*MAC comments:*

*JL: getting the RFP out and making sure the services will not be impacted knowing that having an RFP/evaluation may take time/hope*

*Seema: Weekly maintenance/like the idea of the perennials/not doing annual plantings/fertilization. More natural better for people.*

#### 17. MAC 2024 Achievements Draft For Discussion

*Brian made note that this shows the achievements for 2024 that Michele Santucci led. The Council reviewed last month and indicated it would be brought back. The point of discussion is if the Council has any input for the Achievement document. JL moved to approve. Seema made a second to approve. Sup. Gorell said it would be in newsletter and on MAC website. Document approved.*

#### 18. MAC 2025 Draft Work Plan For Discussion

*Brian shared they would approve in January with new MAC Board. Tonight was another review of the document for input. JL feels like this is a good starting point for a work plan for 2025. Evacuation Plan close to his heart to start in January. Making sure that they have a good disaster preparedness response if a fire comes to the area. We are vulnerable to wildfire and must be prepared. Seema indicated that landscape should be mentioned in the draft work plan. She believes there needs to be improvement in landscape being drought tolerant/native plants. Important to consider adding to work plan. Carter believes #8 is important and relevant to inform people. Comment from Joel Goldes – 25 year resident and first MAC meeting. Applaud the MAC for including #1 in the draft work plan for long term plan for Medea Creek/correction that it's Lindero Creek not Lindero Canyon Creek. He would recommend combining landscape action and disaster response. Removal of evasive plants important because they are flammable. He had his home insurance canceled because of flammable plants and now he knows the risk so he's taking steps to replace on his own property and thinks there should be a campaign in Oak Park to take action. Steven Kozel would like more community*

*members on committee. Lindero Canyon welcome sign – please use drought tolerant plants.*

19. Ventura County Public Works Watershed Protection District draft 2025-2030 California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) Routine Maintenance Agreement for Medea and Lindero Creeks and their Tributary Streams - MAC/Public Input; Written submission from Brian Trushinski, Oak Park MAC Member

*Item has been discussed at 4 meetings. The ask is that all agencies that maintain the creek channel that the agreement and reporting is followed. This agreement expires end of 2024. Request is that input be considered by Public Works before new agreement is approved. Community aesthetics, wildfire protection and environmental protection. The request is that there is a balance and proper reporting to fish and wildlife.*

*Debbie Sharpton: Debbie has provided written comments. Does the County do CEQA for maintenance agreements? She would like to see it. Requesting better multijurisdictional management of the area.*

## **CLOSING**

20. Adjournment ***Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm by Brian Trushinski.***

Next Oak Park MAC Meeting January 30, 2025, 7 pm OPHS High School G-9, 899 Kanan Rd, Oak Park.