



Members of the Board  
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD  
Brian Trushinski, Chair  
Michelle Santucci, Vice Chair  
J.L. Diaz  
Jane Nye  
Brianna Adams

# REGULAR MEETING

## Draft Minutes

**February 27, 2025, 7:00 pm**

Municipal Advisory Council Oak Park

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

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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).

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**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 [district2@ventura.org](mailto:district2@ventura.org) or mail to: Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council, 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 7:07 pm Brian Trushinski
2. Roll Call Present: Brianna Adams, J.L. Diaz, Michelle Santucci and Brian Trushinski, Absent: Jane Nye, OPHS Student Rep Madeline was present.
3. Pledge of Allegiance Brian Trushinski
4. Approve Minutes of the January 30, 2025, MAC meeting Moved by Michelle Santucci, 2<sup>nd</sup> by J.L Diaz, Approved.
5. Agenda Review - Request by Michelle Santucci to correct Letter F for Fire report in consent items it was listed without an associated Letter. Approved.
6. Approve Consent Items: Reports found [here](#).
  - Consent Item A:** Ventura County Public Works Agency, Transportation Division: 2016 California Department of Fish & Wildlife Agreement
  - Consent Item B:** Recommendation to Receive and File: Ventura County Sheriff's Office Report
  - Consent Item C:** Recommendation to Receive and File: California Highway Patrol
  - Consent Item D:** Recommendation to Receive and File: Landscape Committee Report
  - Consent Item E:** Recommendation to Receive and File: OP MAC Tickler Log
  - Consent Item F:** Recommendation to Receive and File Ventura County Fire Department Report – Request by Ashley Bautista to have Fire Battalion Chief Austin to speak about report. Consent Agenda Approved as Amended.
7. Public Comments – no public comments
8. Written Comments – no written comments received

## 9. Council Comments:

- Michelle Santucci announced a good opportunity for residents to attend a Firescape presentation March 1, 2025, hosted by Triunfo Water (online registration requested)

## 10. Committee and Liaison Reports:

[CSA 4 Landscape Committee](#) (Brian Trushinski) - Printed report provided.

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Liaison (Brian Trushinski)

- Announced that Mr. Eric Lundstrom (Oak Park representative on the Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District) will be presenting this evening.
- Annual weed abatement program for wildfire safety will start earlier this year to meet the Ventura County Fire Department's June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
- Community Center lagoon/pond continues under environmental monitor program for water quality and wildlife habitat.
- Medea Creek has three phases of work to remove palm trees and invasive plant species under a \$1.5 million grant from the State.
  - Phase 1 (Bromely Drive to Kanan Road). CDFW Alteration to Streambed Agreement has been issued.
  - Phase 2 (Kanan Road to Calle Rio Vista). CDFW still reviewing the Permit application. Contractor package being prepared.
  - Phase 3 (Calle Rio Vista to Conifer Street). Environmental field work is nearing completion. Draft report being prepared for CDFW review.
- Fire Safety Council received a \$700,000 State grant for wildfire management on Lindero Creek. RSRPD to manage the project.
- Bid for the Deerhill Park pickleball court facility approved by RSRPD Board of Directors. Contractor is "Pacific Tennis Courts". Court redesign, resurfacing, and sound attenuation to begin in March and completion by late April. Public awareness information will be posted around the courts soon.
- Oak Canyon Community Park parking lots, bike paths, and walking trails will be resurfaced soon.
- Rental fee for use of the Community Center (Buena Vista event room) has increased by 25% to \$2,800.00 as a revenue generator and to be competitive with other area facilities.
- There is an increase in illegal dumping of large household items in Mae Boyar, Oak Canyon, and the Community Center. Signage about illegal dumping and fines being posted at these locations.
- RSRPD Board of Directors voted to initiate the process of hiring a consultant to assess the possibility of increasing the annual property assessment for Simi Valley and Oak Park.
- Legislative Committee (Brian Trushinski & Michelle Santucci) - No updates.
- Oak Park Unified School District Liaison (Brianna Adams) - Oak Hills elementary expanding programs for younger ages.

- Fire Safe Council Liaison (JL Diaz) - Fire Safe Council guest speaker (Mr. John Faucher: Chairman)
- Triunfo Water & Sanitation District Liaison (Jane Nye) - No report presented as Ms. Nye was absent from the MAC meeting.
- OPHS Student: Madeline shared a new Dress Code committee has been established and that she is a member. New policy would apply to new school year.

#### 11. Announcements and Other Business

- Brianna Adams requested that reinstatement of a left turn traffic option at Los Arcos and Kanan Road be placed on the March MAC agenda.
- Ashley Bautista provided an update on Supervisor Gorell's efforts to explore a not-for-profit public electric utility for Ventura County to replace California Edison. Supervisor Gorell is partnering with Senator Stern on enacting legislation to improve utility service and accountability.

### Regular Agenda

#### 12. Presentation from Mr. Eric Lundstrom

- Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District Board Member Representing Oak Park
- Provided a personal introduction and shared his desire to stay regularly connected with Oak Park residents to listen to community members and provide updates to the MAC.

#### 13. Presentation from John Faucher, Board Chairman Oak Park Fire Safe Council

- John Faucher (Chairman), and Ed Reiner (Operations) of the Oak Park Fire Safe Council attended a meeting of the Oak Park Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) on Thursday evening, 2/27/2025.
- John gave a synopsis of what the Fire Safe Council is, and what it does. They are a group of volunteers who seek to protect life and property from wildfire by educating the local population about wildfire safety, helping neighborhoods to self-organize, and working with local, state, and national agencies to promote fire hardening and wildfire education.
- Fire Safe Council is taking on four major initiatives:
  - **Firewise.** The council currently has at least seven Firewise communities recognized in Oak Park (Country Glen, Country Meadows I, Country Meadows II, Regency Hills HOA, Canyon Cove, Mae Boyar East, and Tract 3141). These communities have been created because some residents have taken action to minimize fire danger and have been certified by the National Fire Prevention Association. The communities have created a plan to educate the residents and carry

out various fire-mitigation actions over the next three years.

Certification may mean insurance discounts. The fire-mitigation actions help with fire safety: installing 1/8-inch mesh against embers, replacing plastic dryer vents with nonflammable aluminum vents, moving flammable sheds and furniture away from houses, and creating a vegetation-free zone in the first five feet around a house.

- **Education.** The council attends Station 36 open houses, and other community events, hold town hall meetings, and discuss wildfire safety precautions.
- **Grants.** The council partners with Cal Fire, Ventura County Fire Department, Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council, Santa Monica Resources Conservation District, and other entities to locate, apply for, and manage grants to help with fire defense. For instance, Rancho Simi Parks and Recreation District maintains almost all the open space around Oak Park, as well as Medea Creek; but it doesn't have the funding to keep these areas clear. (The Council) helped to get and manage a Cal Fire grant of almost \$700,000 to clear vegetation in Medea Creek.
- **Assessments.** Council has a team of three assessors who will inspect residents' houses on request and make recommendations for fire-hardening action.

#### 14. Draft CSA4 Budget - First Input Session.

- The CSA4 Budget was part of the packet agenda and available on the Oak Park MAC website. Brian Trushinski noted that residents currently pay a County of Ventura property assessment fee of approximately \$17 annually that goes towards the CSA 4 budget and that all labor, utilities, supplies, and maintenance costs are annually increasing. The \$17 assessment is very low for all the services that Oak Park is receiving. Unfortunately, costs exceed revenue and the County has been forced to make regular draws from the Oak Park budget Reserves to pay for the costs, which is an unsustainable financial situation.
- At the March meeting, the MAC needs to go line by line in the draft budget to evaluate spending and what level of service can be continued or items that need modification/ reduction. Brian Trushinski suggested that the MAC might want to discuss the possibility of recommending an increase to the current property assessment rate (higher than \$17/year) in order to meet the growing community requests for landscaping services and to stop the draw-down of the Reserves.
- Brian Trushinski asked the Education Committee Liaison Brianna Adams to reach out to the School District and invite them to come to the next meeting to discuss crossing guards which comes out of the CSA 4 budget (\$350,000 is being requested from the School District for 2025/26).

- Brian Trushinski also asked for more information about Ventura County Watershed Protection District's "Green Streets Program" and the cost of that program. He asked that the County present what tangible benefits this Program has provided in the past couple of years in Oak Park (e.g., how many pollution sites have been identified along creeks and other open spaces that they are scientifically monitoring, what actions were taken to correct these problem sites, how many violations were issued to offenders, where are the current and emerging environmental problem sites in Oak Park, etc.). He said that we already know what the Program does and its goals; what we want to know is what was done specifically with the collected field data specifically, in order to improve the health of the environment and community residents. Otherwise, the Program is just a data collection exercise that offers no physical results or benefits to protect/ improve the natural environment, habitat, and to Oak Park residents' quality of life. Brian suggested that without this information, perhaps the Green Street annual budget should be adjusted. The Program also needs to include Medea Creek from Kanan Road to the Oak Park/ Agoura Hills municipal border.

#### 15. 2025 Oak Park MAC Work Plan – Volunteer Assignments

- Medea and Lindero Creeks Long-Term environmental, wildfire, flooding, and aesthetics Management Plans – Brian Trushinski
- Lindero Canyon Road 'Welcome to Oak Park' Monument Sign – Brian Trushinski, JL Diaz
- Community Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Evacuation Plan – Brianna Adams & JL Diaz
- Communication Channel for Community Awareness and Engagement with the Oak Park MAC – Brianna Adams & Michelle Santucci.
- Phased replacement of CSA 4 irrigation system – Brian Trushinski, Jane Nye
- Geographic Information System (GIS) Mapping Tool of landscape property ownership in CSA 4 – Ashley Bautista shared that Public Works has created this tool for internal use and she is checking on a public facing model. This application will be presented at a future MAC meeting for public awareness. In the meantime, if someone has a concern about a landscape issue on a property in Oak Park, they should contact Ashley (Supervisor Gorell's office) and she will be able to identify the property owner.
- Oak Park MAC information updating on Supervisor Gorell's website – Ashley Bautista commented that the website is going through an update, and information can be added at any time to the site. Contact her directly with requested information to add to the website.

- Quarterly 'Speakers Nights' - all Board members and community members can provide suggestions for speaker nights and the Supervisors Office can help coordinate event.

## **CLOSING**

15. Adjournment 9:20 pm Brian Trushinski

Next Oak Park MAC Meeting March 27, 2025, 7:00 pm OPHS High School G-9,  
899 Kanan Rd, Oak Park.