



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Brian Trushinski, Chair

Michelle Santucci, Vice Chair

J.L. Diaz

Jane Nye

Brianna Adams

Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council Draft Minutes April 24, 2025

OPENING

1. Call to Order Brian Trushinski 7:02 pm
2. Roll Call Brian Trushinski, Jane Nye, Brianna Adams, JL Diaz, Michelle Santucci and Carter Licht (OPUSD student representative)
3. Pledge of Allegiance Brian Trushinski
4. Approve Minutes of April 16, 2025. Moved by Michelle Santucci, Brianna Adams second, All in Favor
5. Agenda Review and Approval. Michelle Santucci mentions Item 16 to have the proper spelling of Kanan Road. Brianna Adams Moved to approve, Michelle Santucci second, All in Favor.
6. Approve Consent Agenda. Items 6A and 6E moved to be pulled by Brian Trushinski, Michelle Santucci Moved, Brianna Adams second. All in favor.
 - Consent Item A: Recommendation to Receive and File: Ventura County Sheriff's Office Report
 - Consent Item B: Recommendation to Receive and File: California Highway Patrol
 - Consent Item C: Recommendation to Receive and File: CSA 4 Landscape Committee Report
 - Consent Item D: Recommendation to Receive and File: April 2025 Oak Park MAC Tickler Log
 - Consent Item E Recommendation to Receive and File: Ventura County Fire Department Report.
 - Consent Item F: Draft Budget Proforma: Revenue and Expenditures

7. Public Comments

- A. Janet Jackson- Came with literature to pass out to the MAC regarding to the trees along Los Arcos. Trees on Los Arcos are eucalyptus and pine; two very flammable types of trees. Ms. Jackson requested that the trees be cut down and be replaced with native trees like Oak and Sycamore. Oak Park could experience similar wildfire destruction that occurred in Malibu (Palisades Fire). She read a report that cites a report explaining the dangers of Eucalyptus.
- B. JoLynn Khordodi – Highly flammable trees that are planted along public streets and maintained by the County are hanging over backyards and roofs. She asked that the County and the MAC reconsider its position and not cut down the trees. She said that her home caught fire during the Woolsey Fire and now she is an advocate for wildfire preparedness. Focus must be shifted for more fire preparedness, beginning with addressing County trees that hang over properties.

8. Written Comments

- A. Jane Nye received a text message regarding a pothole near Oak Hills Elementary School. It was reported to Ventura County Public Works and fixed in less than 48 hours. A graffiti incident has also been reported to Public Works.
- B. Brianna Adams received a message with regards to a park bench.
- C. JL Diaz corresponded with two constituents that resulted in him inspecting trees on County property that hang over a backyard.
- D. Brian Trushinski and the CSA 4 Landscape Committee investigated graffiti on a service utility box at the end of the Bowfield Street cul-de-sac (Kanan Road). The graffiti is gang-related and has been reported to the Ventura County Sheriff's Office.

9. Council Comments- None.

10. Oak Park MAC Committee and Liaison Reports:

A. CSA 4 Landscape Committee (Brian Trushinski)

Received notification that trees on a private HOA property were being cut down without County Planning Department -authorized permits. When approached, the HOA's contractor said that they were unaware that County permits are legally mandatory before any tree work on private properties is allowed to commence. commences. Trushinski cited the Ventura County Tree Protection Ordinance that is provided in detail on the County's website.

B. Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Liaison (Brian Trushinski)

The Deerhill Park pickleball courts will be opening soon in mid to late May. Repaved bike paths will be opening soon. RSRPD has retained "Sustainable Mitigation" to undertake vegetation management on the Districts lands for wildfire hardening. The work needs to be completed by the June 1st deadline as required by the Ventura County

Fire Department (VCFD). VCFD will be inspecting their work in June, for compliance. Michelle Santucci asked about the weed abatement program and Brian Trushinski explained the guidelines.

C. Legislative Committee (Michelle Santucci & Brian Trushinski)
No updates.

D. Oak Park Unified School District Liaison (Brianna Adams)
A music teacher will be available to Oak Park elementary schools starting next semester. A garden coordinator will be available to Oak Park elementary and middle schools to teach students how to be sustainable and grow food. These new resources have been made possible by a State grant. The OPUSD Individual Career and Academic Plan survey results showed that safety, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs, and access to extracurricular activities are top priorities from respondents. The Reagan Library has initiated a partnership with Oak Park schools to begin a youth leadership program.

E. Fire Safe Council Liaison (JL Diaz)
JL Diaz urges residents to engage with the Firewise program if they are interested.

F. Triunfo Water & Sanitation District Liaison (Jane Nye)
There will be an upcoming coffee tasting event at a local coffee shop that will feature coffee brewed with pure local water. There is free compost soil available to the public at the La Virgenes Compost Facility off of Lost Hills in Calabasas.

G. OPHS Student Liaison (Carter Licht)
Student body elections have just wrapped up this week with next year's representatives being chosen. There will be a rally next week at OPHS. The students are excited to finish off the school year.

11. Announcements and Other Business

Michelle Santucci requests an Item on the May Agenda. This Item will be a mid-year Oak Park MAC 2025 Work Plan update from each MAC member. Report-outs suggested to occur at the June MAC meeting. Mentions that the paving operation systemic intersection project will resume on April 28 and last one week between the hours of 9am and 2pm.

12. Supervisor Gorell or a representative from his office for remarks.

Supervisor Gorell provided comments on efforts to hold Edison accountable through legislation that is supported by the Board of Supervisors in partnership with Senator Stern. Community members can read more about the effort at the following link:

<https://conta.cc/3CsYbYD>. He also spoke about efforts to explore a not-for-profit Municipal Utility for Ventura County. More information on that at the following link: <https://conta.cc/40xQAkR>.

Regular Agenda

Pulled Item 6A: Presentation by Elizabeth Garnier of the Thousand Oaks Police Department on the Volunteers in Policing program (VIP).

- After the conclusion of the report, Trushinski inquired about the feasibility of replacing the private company that provides crossing guard services to Oak Park USD with trained VIPs from the Thousand Oaks Police Department. Supervisor Gorell's Office will work with the MAC and OPUSD to explore the suggestion as a possible approach to significantly reduce the CSA4 budget.
- Jane Nye said that she is happy that a portion of the MAC's budget goes to funding the Volunteers In Policing program.
- Michelle Santucci says she appreciates the work of Volunteers In Policing.
- JL Diaz asks if Oak Park is the only unincorporated area in the Conejo Valley in which Volunteers In Policing patrols, to which Elizabeth Garnier replied yes.

Pulled Item 6E: Ventura County Fire Department report by Battalion Chief Welsbie
Brush clearing (fire hardening) deadline is approaching on June 1. The VCFD wants to work with homeowners to meet this mandatory regulation. This is a partnership with residents; not a policing action but rather a program to help residents protect their property. Welsbie stresses the importance of being responsible and prepared before the Fall fire season. Thirty-two recruits will be graduating from the VCFD academy next month.

- Carter Licht thanks the Chief for his and the department's work.
- Brianna Adams thanks the Chief for community engagement.
- JL Diaz inquires about the retirement of Larry Williams.
- Michelle Santucci thanks the Chief and the department for the continued transparency and honorary work.
- Jane Nye asks about the process involved in the upcoming brush clearing inspection process in June. Welsbie explains that VCFD staff from each fire station goes into the field and surveys parcels with a laser range finder to verify 100-foot clearance requirement has been met. Nye asks about how fire hydrant maintenance and painting is conducted, Welsbie replies that Ventura County Public Works maintains the paint on fire hydrants.
- Brain Trushinski says he is impressed by the evolution of fire prevention technology in recent years. Welsbie says that the VCFD is very progressive in how they implement new methods of firefighting.

13. Proclamation Apraxia Awareness Day Presented by Ashley Bautista on behalf of Supervisor Gorell.

- Oak Park resident Orfa Kolina Chow speaks to the Council and explains what Apraxia is and the difficulties that children with Apraxia have. Kolina Chow expressed immense gratitude to Supervisor Gorell and the entire Board of Supervisors for declaring May 14 as Apraxia Awareness Day in Ventura County.

14. Ventura County Public Works Agency Oak Park Service Ticket System:

www.vcpublicworks.org/report-a-concern

- Ventura County Public Works Agency receives praise of council members Brian Trushinski and Jane Nye for the Agency's efficiency in addressing ticketed reports.

15. Bike Lanes and Safety: Following community concerns raised at the March 2025 MAC meeting, the Board will discuss bike lanes and opportunities to improve cyclist safety. (Brianna Adams)

- Brianna Adams would like Public Works to paint/demarcate more bike lanes in Oak Park besides those existing on Kanan Road.
- Jane Nye would like to see faded bike lane lines repainted along Kanan Road from the stretch that is from Lindero Canyon Road to Oak Park High School.
- Michelle Santucci said that e-bike safety is an issue in Oak Park, not only along the creek walking path, but along Conifer. She has noticed a greater presence of CHP in Oak Park, but youths on e-bikes often avoid the CHP.
- JL Diaz said that e-bikes are becoming more common and getting more powerful. There is a great risk that e-bike riders could hit pedestrians on sidewalks. There must be more discourse to youths that use e bikes with regards to safety.
- Carter Licht said that it is important that youth know the laws that pertain to e-bikes as he believes that most people are unaware. There is another side to this as well, youth are outside with e-bikes with their friends instead of staying indoors. This is better for socializing.
- Michelle Santucci said that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department recently towed e bikes in Westlake Village. She read laws that relate to more powerful e bikes.
- Public Comment 1: E bikes and e scooters have no place on sidewalks.
- Public Comment 2: There should be school-wide programs to educate students on e-bike rules and safety. Parents must educate their children.
- Public Comment 3: Shocked that it is even legal for youth to ride e bikes.
- Public Comment 4: Asks about the legality of youth making e-bike trails, jumps, and other alterations along Madea Creek, especially during late night hours where groups use bright spotlights during their activities. Trushinski says it is

illegal and gives further detail. Such activities are a clear violation of State laws (California Department of Fish & Wildlife) and offenders can and will be charged under these laws.

- Public Comment 5: Kids are using shovels to construct ramps on Medea Creek late at night.
- Public Comment 6: At least 8-12 youth make jumps in Medea Creek and ride.
- Ashley Bautista: Ventura County Sheriff's Department has been cracking down on illegal e-bikes. She will inquire with the Department to see if a representative can engage with the MAC on this topic.

8:38 PM arrival by Supervisor Jeff Gorell, agendaized.

16. Shopping Center Signage at Kanan/Lindero Canyon Rds. (Brianna Adams)

- Signage in the form of banners and flags was falling down and obstructing the view of the Oak Park sign. It is private property. Sup. Gorell's Staff contacted the property management through the lease manager with a message of the concern. Code enforcement also reached out and the signage has been removed.

17. Legacy Recognition: Discussion on how to recognize a community member who has passed. (J.L. Diaz)

- J.L. Diaz has been exploring a commemoration for the late Ron Stark. He said it is more cost effective to have a street renamed instead of a plaque or bench. Ashley Bautista explains that the parks in Oak Park are operated by Rancho Simi Parks and Rec District and they do not have naming opportunities at their parks. She suggests that a plaque or bench be considered at the County library in Oak Park may be more suitable. Bautista said that she will look into how to set policy going forward since this is a first. J.L. Diaz said that he will work with the constituent.

18. 2025 Oak Park MAC Work Plan: Status of Activities (assigned MAC members)

- Michelle Santucci: Included in the Work Plan for Communication. Works closely with Brianna Adams and Ashley Bautista. The Oak Park MAC Facebook and Instagram pages were launched March 18 and the first content was posted on the same day. Future content will include meeting reminders and updates of MAC activity and community events. A piece appeared in the Acorn this month on the MAC authored by a community member, Tom Hansen. The Acorn is a great communication channel. During the second quarter of the year, a communication plan and schedule will be developed to help manage future content of interest to the community.

- Brianna Adams: Has been looking into the feasibility of a fire evacuation plan since there is no formal plan by VCFD for safety reasons. She plans to meet with Supervisor Gorell to discuss some form of an evacuation plan.
- JL Diaz: Assigned to investigate the creation of an Oak Park entrance monument on Lindero Canyon Road. Working with Ashley Bautista on the matter.
- Brian Trushinski: Various agencies are addressing the flood and fire planning aspects on the Medea Creek Longterm Management Plan. The Plan will create a balance of environmental, wildfire, flooding, and community aesthetics. The Ventura County Watershed Protection District stated a couple of years ago that it was in agreement with the engineering modeling (hydrological and hydraulic flood levels) that the Ventura County Resource Conservation District (RCD) completed for Medea Creek. The Watershed Protection District has not implemented the modeling results to date due to budget constraints. This Management Plan will revisit those engineering conclusions and incorporate in the final design of the Creek. Trushinski also reported that the new interactive Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of landscape areas in Oak Park is well underway at the County and should be ready to roll out to the public at the June MAC meeting. The GIS platform will allow residents to identify accurate locations of observed landscaping/ tree removal violations and where maintenance is required. Other data that will be accessible include property addresses and ownership, buildings, parks, schools, trails, roads, parks, and creeks, for example. A distance measuring tool will be included.

CLOSING

19. Adjournment at 9:23 PM

Next meeting May 29, 2025, Oak Park High School RM G-9