

OAK PARK MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES of Meeting, March 24, 2009
The Oak Park MAC held an official meeting Tuesday, March 24, 2009, 7:00 P.M.
Oak Park High School G-9, 899 N. Kanan Rd., Oak Park

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by *Chair Michael Paule* at 7:02 P.M. MAC members Michael Paule, Jay Kapitz, Michael Green, Derek Ross, and Mike Mc Reynolds were present, along with OPHS student representative Bar Hadari.

2. Flag Salute

Jay Kapitz led the flag salute.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The adoption of the agenda passed 5-0, on a motion by *Jay Kapitz*, seconded by *Mike Green*.

4. Approval of the Minutes of February 24, 2008

The minutes were approved 5-0, on a motion by *Mike Green*, seconded by *Jay Kapitz*.

5. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks commented on the retirement from County service of Public Works Agency staff member *Steve Williams*, who for decades has helped oversee Oak Park matters. She noted that she had discussed the application for a farmers' market in the Oak Park Plaza with the director of Planning for the County, and that the application materials had been deemed complete that day. She said that she was actively seeking grants to help incentivize conversions of household lawns to water wise practices, and that water rates were being predicted to rise 30%. She announced that she would help host a school traffic safety fair in May in Oak Park. The latest in Supervisor Parks' series of Slow Growth dinners was set for the following Thursday, she said, and the dinner would feature State Senator *Fran Pavley* as the speaker. She said that the formal opening of a new park in the Santa Rosa Valley was set for the following Saturday. She announced that Oak Park's Community Beautification Day, with opportunities for recycling household things, would take place at OPHS on May 16. She reported that the Board of Supervisors was looking at the possibility of some County job lay offs in June due to budget constraints.

(there is no # 6)

7. Public comments

Tom Reyes talked about cars parking too long on Tamarind, and *Captain Brent Kerr* outlined what the laws are and the procedures for dealing with violators. Mr. Reyes also spoke about a leaking sewer line on the northwest corner of Tamarind and Kanan Rd.; *Michael Paule* said that the Triunfo Sanitation District would investigate it.

Harvey Kern announced that he would be departing Oak Park in June, and the new editor of oakparkupdate.com will be *Derek Ross*. Chair *Michael Paule* expressed deep appreciation for Harvey Kern's community work, said that his leaving would mean a definite loss to Oak Park. At a later date the community would be properly thanking him. Michael Paule also congratulated Derek Ross on his selection as editor.

Janna Orkney reported on the Triunfo Sanitation District's workshop on water efficient landscaping.

8. Council Comments

Mike Mc Reynolds, the MAC's schools' liaison, reported that two Oak Park Unified School District schools were selected as California Distinguished schools, OPHS and Medea Creek Middle School. He also noted that with a 9.2% local unemployment figure it was especially important to shop locally to stimulate the local economy.

Michael Green reported on the OPUSD Environmental Education Awareness Committee, and he said that the high school's PFC was to be commended for holding an excellent event on emergency preparation. He also commented on the opening of the "gorgeous" Simi Valley dog park.

Jay Kapitz presented the following statement from an Oak Park resident who would have liked to have had it added to the minutes of the December MAC meeting: "No parking signs on Doubletree Road at Clearhaven Drive were placed in error. To avoid this type of error in the future the following procedures were discussed by Jay Kapitz and Supervisor Parks and should be followed in the future: Requests for traffic safety studies or improvements shall be made by the full MAC to Supervisor Park's office who will then coordinate same with the County Traffic Division. If a MAC sub-committee wishes to make a request then their request shall be directly to the MAC." Jay Kapitz said that everyone would miss **Harvey Kern**; he wished him luck. He thanked **Derek Ross** for taking on the responsibilities of editor.

Derek Ross thanked Harvey Kern, and said that the changes at oakparkupdate.com would be exciting for both of them. He announced that a CERT training class would be starting up in the coming weeks, and that on the coming Thursday the OPHS Safe Kids Task Force would be meeting with CERT director **Diane Starzak** and that a new teen CERT program was in planning stages. He said that on July 17 at the Community Center a workshop on how to get involved locally would be held, with Supervisor **Linda Parks** and State Senator **Tony Strickland** participating. He said that the workshop would help to identify and develop community leaders in Oak Park. He reminded everyone of the need to support local business.

Bar Hadari said that there would be an open house for returning students, and that on March 12 the evaluation team for the California Distinguished Schools program paid a visit to Oak Park. She said that sophomores had all been provided with a DVD on safe driving created to honor the memory of an Oak Park student who perished in a car accident. On March 19 the principal of OPHS had resigned, she said. The school's annual musical production would be "The Wizard of Oz". She noted the concerns over the budget for schools. Finally, she reported that on the coming Saturday there would be a blood drive and free bone marrow test to benefit A-Negative leukemia patient **Tim Potter** at the Mormon church.

Michael Green noted that the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt at Mae Boyar Park could benefit from stepped up traffic enforcement.

Michael Paule commended **Derek Ross** and **Diane Starzak** on the recently held disaster preparation workshop held at the high school, adding that there was great community participation. Regarding the Triunfo Sanitation District, he reported that in the coming month the Board would be voting on a resolution to become an all-elected board, and that water shortage contingency planning for Oak Park was being worked on.

9. Information items

There were none.

10. Action items

a. MAC recommendation, traffic safety improvements for Sunnycrest Dr.

Sara Piesco spoke, saying that she remained in favor of installing stop signs and that she felt that having them would have prevented an accident in which a car hit a house, but that she would also support getting speed feedback signs. **Michael Paule** said that input from residents made it clear that there was no consensus in favor of installing stop signs on Sunnycrest Dr. He said that he was willing to try speed feedback monitors made available by the Transportation Department to see if they would prove effective in improving traffic safety. **Michael Green** commented that there did appear to be a consensus that a problem exists on Sunnycrest Dr., and that he was still considering whether lowering the speed limit where it is marked 40 mph could help. **Supervisor Linda Parks** noted that the crosshatching markings on the roadway introduced by the Transportation Department did appear to be working to lower speeds, as reflected in comments from residents. **Officer Randy Hosking** explained that the 85% of recorded drivers' speeds on

Sunnycrest Dr. was actually closer to 49 mph, so that reviewing the speed limit could lead to the result of raising the speed limit to 50 mph, not lowering it. **Michael Paule** made a motion, seconded by **Michael Green**, and approved 5-0, to request a traffic study of speed on the fastest sections of Sunnycrest Dr., and to request recommendations from the Transportation Dept. of two possible downhill locations for installing speed feedback signs.

b. MAC recommendation, OPUSD request for bases for portable crosswalk signs, one cart to transport MCMS signs, and one additional portable crosswalk sign for MCMS; not to exceed \$500
Jay Kapitz made a motion, seconded by **Mike Mc Reynolds**, and approved 5-0, to approve the expenditure.

c. MAC recommendation, traffic safety improvements for the vicinity of the Deerbrook Rd., Ellesmere intersection (cont. from Feb. meeting)
The item was continued to the April meeting.

d. Standing Landscape Committee update and recommendations
Michael Paule reported that trees on Golden Eagle were dying and needed attention from Enhanced Landscape. He observed that the CSA #4 contingency fund had been unexpectedly reduced in the present fiscal year by expenditures to repair sidewalks in conjunction with tree removals, and he said that this unanticipated expense should have been publicized before it was incurred.

11. Adjournment to 7:00 P.M., April 28, 2009

Chair Paule adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM until April 28, 2009 on a motion by **Jay Kapitz** that was seconded by **Mike Green** and passed 5-0.