

OAK PARK MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
of an official Meeting, September 24, 2019.
The Oak Park MAC held an official meeting
on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the
Oak Park High School Room G-9, 899 N. Kanan Road, Oak Park.

1. Call to Order of the meeting

The meeting was called to order by *Chair Seema Chandra* at 7:03 PM. *Alon Glickstein, JL Diaz* and *Janice Smets* were also present, along with Oak Park High School student representative *Logan Prince*. *Jane Nye* was absent.

2. Flag Salute

Alon Glickstein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The MAC voted 4-0 to adopt the agenda including the postponement of item 11. C. to the October MAC meeting, with *Seema Chandra* making the motion seconded by *Alon Glickstein*.

4. Approval of the Minutes of August 27, 2019

Janice Smets made a motion to approve the draft minutes seconded by *JL Diaz*, and passed 4-0.

5. Public Safety reports

CHP Officer Jed Johnston reported to the MAC on behalf of the *Moorpark CHP Station Acting Commander Michael Logie*. He said that the CHP had conducted a pedestrian safety special enforcement detail on September 13 from 6 AM until 10 AM that focused on crosswalks and school zones. *Community Liaison Officer Susanka* had arranged for this special enforcement detail. Three CHP officers and a sergeant, in three vehicles, worked this assignment which resulted in 21 citations and 2 warnings given to drivers of vehicles. There was also one DUI case, with the measured level of impairment falling slightly below the legal limit. He also reported on stopping vehicles making illegal left turns at Oak Bend and Doubletree Road in the past month. There six out of eight citations were given to Oak Park residents, one to a Simi Valley resident and another to a resident of Woodland Hills. *JL Diaz* asked about a fatal accident which occurred in Agoura Hills, and Officer Johnston said that the Moorpark CHP Station did not conduct investigations for Agoura Hills in Los Angeles County. He also asked how to report malfunctioning traffic lights, and the officer advised that people could call 911. A residents also asked whether there would be any follow up to the September 13 special enforcement detail, or repeat of it in the future.

6. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks noted that there was a new schedule with some changes to the route for the Kanan Shuttle aimed at cutting expenses while not impacting the times when it is used most. Printed copies of the schedule and route map were on the back table. She expressed appreciation to the Agoura Hills City Council for contributing \$35K for the Shuttle for the current fiscal year. She thanked the Ventura County Sheriff's Office and the CHP for the volunteers newly introduced into Oak Park. She said that *Lisa Weagley*, who was present at the MAC meeting, was the new Director at the Oak Park Community Center for the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District (RSRPD). She noted that on October 3 a joint meeting of the RSRPD Board and the Oak Park Parks and Recreation Planning Committee would take place there. She said that a Board of Supervisors' agenda item on the use of glyphosate in County maintained landscaping areas was anticipated for a date in October, and that an after-action report on the Woolsey Fire would be presented in January at a Board of Supervisors meeting held at City Hall in Thousand Oaks. A resident asked whether the after-action report would include information about fallout

from Rockeddyne due to the Woolsey Fire, and Supervisor Parks said that it would include discussion since the fire was believed to have originated there.

7. Information items

a. Oak Park Library activities update with Rose Galvez

Librarian Rose Galvez reported on the success of the summer programs at Oak Park Library. In addition to numerous special guest performances and STEM activities over the summer, 218 residents signed up for the summer reading program and reported reading over 300K pages. After reading 500 minutes, participants of the summer reading program were eligible to receive a book and more than 185 books were given out. Over one thousand residents came to the Library for its organized activities. The new mobile County library van visited the Library too. Rose Galvez expressed deep appreciation to the Friends of the Oak Park Library for assisting with the funding for the summer programming. She encouraged residents to join the Friends.

Chair Chandra presented **Rose Galvez** with roses and a certificate of appreciation from the Oak Park MAC.

b. Oak Park Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) update with Diane Starzak

Diane Starzak thanked the MAC for supporting the CERT team for 22 years. Emergency supplies purchased through the CSA #4 funds and stored by the CERT team behind Fire Station #36 have been an especially valuable resource. She reported that 34 people were currently receiving CERT training in Oak Park. She said that one major lesson learned from the Woolsey Fire in Oak Park was the importance of good communication, and that CERT training helped serve that end. She urged residents to sign up with VCalERT at www.vcalert.org for accurate information during times of emergency. She introduced the director of CERT training for students at Oak Park High School, who said that in this tenth year of the program the teens would be joining with the adults for the first time for a joint final drill on October 19 at the Ventura County regional training center in Camarillo.

8. Public Comments

There were none apart from speakers present for agenda item 11. a.

9. Council Comments/Liaison Reports

Logan Prince reported on the High School's homecoming events, and an upcoming College Night in Calabasas. He said that October 4 was Mental Health Awareness Day.

JL Diaz asked how to report problems with sidewalks, and Supervisor Parks responded that this can be directed to the Transportation Department with the VCPWA Connect! App found at VCPublicWorks.org and that members can go through her office to report problems.

Seema Chandra commented that she had participated in the clean-up of Medea Creek as part of the State-wide California Coastal Clean-Up Day on the past Saturday.

Janice Smets said that she had been discussing the City of Thousand Oaks' forestry plan with City staff member **Garrett Crawford**, and that she would like to have him speak about it at a MAC meeting. The other MAC members present agreed to have this added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

10. Written Communications

Chair Chandra note that the Supervisor's office had forwarded an e-mailed letter from Carmento Drive resident **David Jones** in opposition to the proposed Churchwood Dr. area cell tower application. Mr. Jones was out of state and not able to attend the MAC meeting.

11. Advisory Matters

- a. **Construction and operation of a new Verizon wireless stealth communication facility, County of Ventura Conditional Use Permit (CUP) PL 16-0059, on Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Open Space land, approximately 700' east of Kanan Road/Churchwood Drive intersection; with a Mitigated Negative Declaration document prepared as part of the project in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): <https://vcrma.org/mitigated-negative-declaration-archives>**

Planner **Becky Linder** made a presentation about the application. After public comments, MAC comments, and after Planning staff and representatives from Verizon **Mike Fischer** and **Todd Smith** responded to questions raised, the MAC voted 3-1 to recommend denial of the permit as presented in the application materials and of the site that was being proposed, on a motion by **Janice Smets** that was seconded by **Alon Glickstein**, with **JL Diaz** abstaining from the vote. **Alon Glickstein** made a new motion to recommend keeping the cell tower site at the Kilburn tank area, but the motion did not receive a second.

Residents who spoke to express opposition to aspects of the proposal were **David Lelie**, **Bob Anozesen**, **Edin McDonnell**, **Paige Nielsen**, **Angela Hong**, **Beth Meyer**, **Danya Haggart**, **Shadee Haber**, **Marcia Haber**, **Andy Kastenber**, **Jennifer Aaronson**, **Chad Skopp**, **Shawn Dreben**, **Wei Zhang**, **Shawn Andersen** and **Bahareh Ramezani**.

David Lelie presented the MAC and the Planning staff with his printed proposals for improving the project. **Bob Anozesen** and numerous other speakers objected to the location of the proposed tower. It was pointed out by numerous speakers that Verizon cell service had deteriorated in Oak Park since the project application had become publicized in the summer.

Chad Skopp objected to the potential impacts to human health and open space of the cell tower, and had questions about fire risk.

Shawn Dreben noted that he and his family had suffered massive effects from radio frequencies.

Wei Zhang explained why it made no difference if the site was used for 4G or 5G service.

Shawn Andersen disagreed with the site chosen, and wanted a mock up structure at the site to show the proposed size of the facility.

Residents forecast a sharp decline in home values near the site if the facility were built, asked why the School District Superintendent had been involved in choosing the requested site for the cell tower, and noted that the area was especially prone to high velocity winds.

Allen Rosen read from the Oak Park Unified School District Board's policy recommending a distance for cell towers of 1500' from school facilities and said that the Board prohibited cell towers on school property and had had no role in the decision making regarding the proposed cell tower. A resident read minutes from a 2016 RSRPD public meeting that appeared to contradict this account about the role of the School District.

Radio Frequency expert and consultant to Verizon **Mike Fischer** said that batteries were already present at every cell tower site, and were not a fire hazard. He explained the cell phone industry's and FCC's understanding about radio frequencies coming from cell tower sites, and how levels of safety for humans are determined. He pointed out that the actual height of the cell tower was 48' and that the remainder was artificial tree. He said that no correlation had been proven regarding house property values falling due to cell towers. He noted that Verizon engineers would need to answer questions regarding the types of batteries that would be used at this site, about other alternative sites considered, and about using fiber optics extensions to put the facility on a different site. **Janice Smets** commented on how she was sensitive to radio frequencies and how as a cancer survivor she would move away if a cell tower were located near her residence.

Responding to issues raised during Public Comments, Planner **Becky Linder** said that Planning could not speak to the issue of property values of homes located near cell towers; that the County's Building and Safety standards would apply in the construction of the cell tower, in particular as regards resistance to wind, the load capacity of the tower; and that the fenced area of the facility would be very small, 375 square feet, and will minimize impacts to the movement of wildlife. She said that the road leading to the cell tower would be left unpaved and will be slightly widened to 12 feet wide. She said that the originally requested diesel tank and back-up generator were eliminated from the project description by the applicant due to neighbor concerns about the fire hazards of storing fuel on-site.

Dan Paranick from the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District (RSRPD) commented that the District Board had approved a land lease this year for the cell tower project, estimated to bring in \$24K annually to the District, and that if the project application was denied the lease would not go into effect either.

Jennifer Welch from Planning explained that the next step in the review process would be a Planning Director's hearing, and that public comments would be included in the staff report for this hearing. If the public was not satisfied with that hearing's result, it could be appealed to the Planning Commission, and after that to the Board of Supervisors, and after that if the appellant was still not satisfied with the decision, they could file an appeal in Ventura County Superior Court.

Prior to voting, **Alon Glickstein** commented that he had heard the comments and understood the concerns of residents. It wasn't clear to him why the facility should be less than 1500' from school property and why a new site was considered necessary.

JL Diaz asked about the timeline for processing the application, and staff responded that a Planning Director hearing could occur within 2-3 months.

b. Time Extension of Conditional Use Permit (CUP) PL 18-0060 for Indian Springs Park, 4800 Rockfield Street, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

Planner **Jennifer Welch** explained the application and the MAC voted 4-0 to recommend an extension of the permit for the park, on a motion by **Alon Glickstein** that was seconded by **JL Diaz**.

c. OPUSD request for a 13th crossing guard position, at the intersection of Kanan Road and Deerhill Road; for an estimated \$11,606 annual cost beginning in 2019/20 (Agendized at the request of MAC member Alon Glickstein)

Postponed to the October 22 meeting.

12. Adjournment to the October 22 meeting in Oak Park Library

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:40 P.M.