

OAK PARK MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
of an official Meeting November 19, 2020.
The Oak Park MAC held a special meeting
on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 2:00 PM
remotely by Zoom.

1. Call to Order of the meeting

The meeting was called to order by ***Chair Seema Chandra*** at 2:03 PM. ***Alon Glickstein*** and ***Jane Nye, JL Diaz*** and ***Janice Smets*** also participated.

2. Flag Salute

Supervisor Parks led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The MAC voted 5-0 to adopt the agenda, with ***Jane Nye*** making the motion seconded by ***JL Diaz***.

4. Approval of the Minutes of September 9, 2020

Jane Nye moved to approve the draft meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by ***Seema Chandra***, and passed 5-0.

5. Public Safety reports

CHP Commander Michael Logie noted there had been two minor vehicle collisions attended to by the CHP since September. He reported that there had been some complaints about illegal parking, and that the CHP had worked diligently and peacefully to resolve them. He noted that people were usually compliant. He said that there was a new State Commissioner for the CHP since November 17, ***Amanda Rey***. He urged everyone to enjoy a safe and sober, undistracted, holiday season. Janice Smets said that there were cases of robberies such as catalytic converters taken from vehicles and that she would like to see about placing surveillance cameras onto traffic lights at the two entries to Oak Park. ***Commander Logie*** said that he was sympathetic to the concerns raised, that he could advise patrol units to be extra vigilant in Oak Park, and that the CHP would do its part to help solve the problem. He encouraged anyone who sees potential issues to contact his agency.

Ventura County Sheriff's Office Senior Deputy John Chiaromonte expressed appreciation for the CHP's work and said that his department used license plate readers as well as cell phone data to help solve crimes. He reported to the MAC about the previous months' criminal incidents in Oak Park. He said that there had been three residential burglaries involving perpetrators from Chile. Crashed back slider doors were found, and that pointed to similarities with the Chilean activity seen earlier in the County. A political campaign sign had been stolen, and the thief was identified. A golf cart had been stolen at the high school but was later found on campus in the bushes. There were some thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles, and he urged residents to lock their cars. He noted that the Volunteers in Policing (VIP's) for Oak Park were still out due to the pandemic.

6. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks noted that two new supervisors would be joining the Board of Supervisors. She congratulated ***Jane Nye*** and ***Seema Chandra*** on winning re-election to the MAC in the November 3 election. She said that the 367 people had been tested for Covid-19 earlier that week when a mobile testing van was in Oak Park. She expressed appreciation to the Elections Division for having convenient voting places in Oak Park. The voter turnout in Ventura County had been the highest ever recorded. She welcomed Public Works Agency staff ***Valerie Lopez*** to the meeting. She noted that the Ventura County Sheriff's Office had an outstanding record

solving crimes, and she said that Oak Park benefitted from also having resources from Thousand Oaks nearby. **JL Diaz** asked what the County was doing to prepare for fire season, and **Supervisor Parks** mentioned mandatory brush clearances from the Fire Department, and the introduction of goats in some areas. **Janice Smets** asked whether the county could better promote the use of W.O.W. for weed prevention, and **Supervisor Parks** said she had asked Public Works to review that.

7. Public Comments

Tony Principe of the company Westcord said he would appreciate input about the possibility of converting an empty retail space in an Oak Park shopping area into storage units. The MAC members expressed interest in learning more about the idea, and **Supervisor Parks** said the MAC could have an agenda item when a proposal was developed and submitted to the county.

Henry Steelman said that street sweeping was not useful, given no one was checking its efficacy and there were no signs to prevent parking on street sweeping days. **Jane Nye** said that it would be necessary to have street sweeping when student volunteers were picking up trash near the high school, because they are not allowed to pick up trash in the streets. **Supervisor Parks** noted that it may be a requirement of the Regional Water Quality Control Board to have streets swept for water quality. **JL Diaz** said it is necessary for safety to clean up leaves, but it could be useful to review if the service can be improved. **Seema Chandra** noted that there could be better publicity about the street sweeping calendar so that people would move their vehicles.

Carolyn Cass-Barton spoke regarding agenda item 10. C. on the pine trees within CSA #4 maintained landscaping areas. She said that she opposed tree removals. She said that streets and sidewalks could be repaired in place of trees being removed. **JL Diaz** said that he would like to be kept informed about the trees.

8. Council Comments

Janice Smets said that a heritage tree had been saved, thanks to **Carolyn Cass-Barton**. She said that she would be ending her service on the Parks and Recreation Planning Advisory Committee at the end of her term in January. She said that she had sent a list of questions about the Triunfo Water and Sanitation District (TWSD) to **Jane Nye**. **Chair Chandra** said that the list needed to go to the TWSD Board, instead of the MAC. She spoke about incidents of crime that were posted on NextDoor. She said that a mountain lion had been sighted near the Community Center.

Jane Nye expressed appreciation for the mobile van Covid-19 testing in Oak Park that week. She said that work on the water pipeline project planned by Calleguas in open space along Lindero Canyon Road could be delayed by a year. She thanked **Chair Chandra** for giving a speech supporting the Pure Water Project. She said that the proposed cell tower in the open space near Churchwood and Kanan Road was successfully appealed by resident **David Lelie** at the Planning Commission, and that the next step could be Verizon's appeal of that decision to the Board of Supervisors. She said that complaints about traffic signs on Conifer Street and about an abandoned blue donation box had been resolved. She said that she had attended a school board meeting and that **Superintendent Knight** would be retiring. She said that an Adopt A Road program may begin as a result of her summer audit of the litter along Kanan Road.

Seema Chandra said she had participated in the Covid-19 testing for Oak Park residents, and that it was very convenient and well-run. She had results within 48 hours, and she requested that the van return to Oak Park again. She also expressed appreciation for the ballot box used in Oak Park for the November 3 elections.

9. Written Communications

Seema Chandra noted communications from **Tony Principe** and **Henry Steelman**.

10. Advisory Matters

a. MAC recommendation, litter issues on south side of Kanan Road

Jane Nye made a motion, seconded by **JL Diaz**, to recommend two sets of cans to be installed along Kanan Road. It failed, 2-4, with **Alon Glickstein**, **Janice Smets**, and **Seema Chandra** dissenting. Then **Jane Nye** made a motion, seconded by **JL Diaz**, to recommend three sets of cans to be installed along Kanan Road. The motion passed unanimously.

b. MAC recommendation, guidelines for MAC assignments and liaison positions

Supervisor Parks said that she would prepare a list of protocols for the MAC for review at the next meeting.

c. MAC recommendation, pine trees in CSA #4 maintained areas

Valerie Lopez opened a discussion of how best to address complaints and issues with trees in the CSA #4 landscaping areas. **Carolyn Cass-Barton** said she wanted the County's protected tree ordinance to apply to the trees in the CSA #4 areas. **Seema Chandra** said that she would like to have a future agenda item for the MAC to discuss the landscape committee. **Jane Nye** made a motion, seconded by **Seema Chandra** to recommend reconvening the landscape committee for all landscaping decisions. The motion was approved 4-1, with **Alon Glickstein** dissenting.

d. MAC recommendation, letter to Board of Supervisors re appeal of cell tower

Jane Nye made a motion, seconded by **Alon Glickstein** and approved 5-0, to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors expressing the MAC's opposition to the proposed Verizon cell tower in Wistful Vista open space near homes.

11. Adjournment

Chair Chandra adjourned the meeting at 4:13 PM.