



OAK PARK MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Members of the Council:

Chair Jane Nye

Vice Chair JL Diaz

Seema Chandra

Alon Glickstein

Janice Smets

OAK PARK MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 31, 2022

The Oak Park MAC held a meeting on Thursday, May 31, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Oak Park High School, Room G-9

899 N. Kanan Road, Oak Park, CA

1. Call to Order of the meeting

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Jane Nye** at 7:01 PM. MAC members **Seema Chandra** and **Alon Glickstein** were present. **JL Diaz** and **Janice Smets** were absent.

2. Flag Salute

Alon Glickstein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Seema Chandra moved to place Item 9f after 9b and **Jane Nye** seconded the motion. It was approved 3/0.

4. Approval of the meeting minutes of May 31, 2022

Seema Chandra moved to adopt the minutes as submitted and **Alon Glickstein** seconded the motion. It was approved 3/0.

5. Public Safety reports

CHP Officer Ryan Ayers said CHP will be discussing traffic issues with Oak Park Unified School District at an upcoming meeting to help improve school traffic patterns, particularly at Oak Hills Elementary School and Medea Middle School. He announced the next Smart Start classes for beginner drivers will be in June and there will be a blood drive at the CHP Moorpark Station on June 21st. He said CHP will be on a maximum enforcement period during the Memorial Day weekend and that they are still running their Click-It-Or-Ticket campaign for seatbelt enforcement and education, which also includes child restraints. He announced the Moorpark and Ventura CHP Stations will be carrying the Special Olympics torch for the Ventura County leg of the run. He reported that catalytic thefts are still an issue, but that CHP arrested owners of a car that contained nine stolen converters. He said they are focusing on catching those in possession as well as those who are buying stolen converters. He mentioned programs like Etch-and-catch that can help prevent thefts. He said there have not been any vehicle thefts in Oak Park recently, but when they do happen many are preventable by locking car doors, removing or hiding valuables, and always turning the car off when not inside. He said CHP is currently addressing complaints regarding oversized vehicles in the community. Lastly, he reported that CHP is giving cell phone citations and new legislation will now add a point on your driving record for cell phone citations.

Ventura County Sheriff Senior Deputy Christopher Jones said there was only one felony crime in Oak Park involving money stolen from a local contractor, and discussed the Etch-and-Catch program to prevent catalytic converter thefts. He announced that the Sheriff's Office also offers a quarterly Smart Start class for beginner drivers. He discussed the County's Social Host Ordinance, which cites property owners if three or more underage drinkers are found on the premises, even if the homeowners are not present at the time. He said the fines are assessed to the property for the next tax cycle. He said the difference between the County ordinance and the City of Thousand Oaks ordinance is that the City requires four or more underage drinkers and their fines begin at \$2,500. He said the County is currently reassessing their fine structure to match surrounding cities. He discussed the tragic shooting in Uvalde, Texas and said that Sheriff's deputies have been reaching out to schools and driving through school lots to ensure safety. He reported that three more arrests of members of the South American theft groups have been made in Camarillo and Thousand Oaks and discussed proactive steps residents can take to be safe, such as motion sensor lights and setting an alarm and locking doors even when home. He urged residents to

call 9-1-1 immediately if an intruder has entered the home and to make noise and turn lights on. He cautioned against confronting an intruder.

Seema Chandra asked where people should report off-leash dogs. **Officer Jones** said Animal Services can be contacted. **Deena Perry** commented that if they are spotted in the park that Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District (RSRPD) should also be notified.

8. Public Comments

Deena Perry said unleashed dogs are a serious concern in the community, and while she understands this does fall under the Park District, she would like to see the MAC's involvement as well. She commented that the trees and plants on Kanan Road at Tamarind and Conifer Streets need to be trimmed.

Ning Rosenthal suggested looking into whether recycled water could be used for residential irrigation.

9. Advisory Matters

a. MAC Recommendation, CSA 4 Share of Sidewalk Repairs on Hawthorne Drive (No Tree Removals)

Charles Alvarez, Public Works Agency, Real Estate Services, said the CSA4 share of the cost for revised sidewalk repairs on Hawthorne Drive that ensures no tree removals would be \$10,740. He said the repair work would begin on June 1st. He also reported that sidewalk repairs at Mae Boyar Park would also not remove the tree and include reinforced concrete elevated over roots. He said work would begin at the end of the month.

b. Recommended Revisions to the Ventura County Sidewalk Standards from Public Works Agency, Roads and Transportation

Dave Fleisch, Public Works Agency (PWA) Assistant Agency Director, and **Christopher Kurgan, PWA – Roads and Transportation Director** attended. Mr. Kurgan presented an overview of the County's current sidewalk standards. He said sidewalks throughout most of the County are maintained by the adjacent property owners, and that Oak Park is unique in that liability for maintenance of 12 miles of sidewalk, about 25% of the sidewalks in Oak Park, is with County Service Area No. 4 (CSA4). He said sidewalk engineering standards must be compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) for height and slope. He said the County does put a priority on preserving trees and has two bonded contracted arborists that make recommendations, which means they accept the liability for their recommendations to the County. He said the majority of sidewalk damage involves vegetation issues and there are several methods to avoid these types of issues, including the use of tree boxes, planting appropriate trees, and proper watering and pruning. Mr. Kurgan said PWA did a comparison of Ventura County's standards to adjacent counties and cities, and he outlined examples of temporary solutions including rubber mats, permeable sidewalks, grinding and saw cutting. He also discussed permanent solutions such as root trimming, replaced panels, raised/reinforced concrete and meandering sidewalks. Lastly, he said PWA would bring the discussion of potential revisions to sidewalk standards to the Board of Supervisors on June 7th.

Carolyn Cass-Barton commented that the depth of the uplift could be ground down to 2 inches, that grinding more frequently could be a better solution, and that there are several areas in the community with uplifts that have been ignored. **Mr. Fleisch** said there is a limit to how thin the concrete can be ground down.

Vanise Terry read statements submitted by **Tamara Zderich** and **Jay Kapitz**.

f. MAC Consideration of Sending a Comment Letter to the City of Agoura Hills Regarding the General Plan Housing Element

Seema Chandra said she invited representatives from the Agoura Hills Planning Commission to attend the meeting, but they did not feel comfortable attending without the approval of the Mayor.

Public comments were given from **Cindy Larson, Janna Orkney, Frances Coutts, Bob Coutts, Carolyn Cass-Barton, Harry Medved, and Michelle Santucci** expressing concern about the impact of the Agoura Hills Housing Element and proposed re-zoning to allow housing units on Kanan Road and Thousand Oaks Boulevard, and support for the MAC to send a letter to the City of Agoura Hills voicing concern about the impact increased housing development on Kanan Road would have on evacuation routes for the Oak Park community. A petition with 1,058 signatures of residents in opposition to the Agoura Hills Housing Element was also presented to the MAC as evidence of widespread community concern that more housing would have on public safety.

Written comments were submitted by **Mary Wiesbrock**, Chair of Save Open Space (SOS), **Lynn Rollo**, and **Tamara Zderich**. SOS Chair Wiesbrock also submitted additional emailed comments from residents.

Supervisor Parks commented that the After-Action Report from the Woolsey Fire specifically called out issues in Oak Park and that the County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is in the process of purchasing modeling software on evacuation routes. She said County agencies will review the City of Agoura Hills Housing Element Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and she will make sure OES reviews it as well.

The MAC agreed their voice is needed to express the concerns of the residents in Oak Park whom they represent.

Seema Chandra moved that the MAC send a letter to the Agoura Hills City Council and Planning Commission to remove the three shopping centers on Kanan Road cited in the Agoura Hills Housing Element for rezoning for housing development due to concerns about the impact it would have on Oak Park's evacuation routes. The letter would be reviewed by Chair Nye and Councilmember Glickstein before being sent. **Alon Glickstein** seconded the motion, and it was approved 3/0.

c. MAC Recommendation, CSA 4 FY 2022/23 Budget

Charles Alvarez and **Debra Cavaletto**, Public Works Agency, presented the CSA4 FY 2022/23 budget. Ms. Cavaletto pointed out an adjustment to the Kanan shuttle and that landscape expenses have increased. She said CSA4 funding is doing well but added programs such as the shuttle have increased costs. She suggested the MAC should keep a cushion in reserves for emergencies. **Seema Chandra** expressed concern that CSA4 revenues only increased \$40K while expenses are up to \$400K for the next fiscal year. She said reserves could be used up in a couple of years if expenses continue to increase. **Alon Glickstein** commented that it may be the case that some programs will have to be cut to stop increased spending and the MAC should plan in advance for cutting costs.

Jane Nye commented that with the drought, water will be an issue for landscaping and the MAC should be proactive with their choices. The MAC discussed programs to potentially review in order to reduce spending such as the VIP program and landscaping, and possibly having Oak Park Unified School District help fund crossing guards. **Mr. Glickstein** commented that safety is important, and the school district may not be able to afford funding. **Mr. Alvarez** said that PWA will provide recommendations moving forward, but CSA4 does have money in reserves and there is no need for cutting programs at this time.

Jane Nye made a motion to accept the FY 2022/23 CSA4 budget as presented, and **Seema Chandra** seconded it. The motion was approved 3/0.

d. MAC Recommendation, Slope Repairs on Kanan Road at Trousdale Street

Mr. Alvarez presented a proposal to remove Acacias from the slope on Kanan Road at Trousdale Street and replace with Honeysuckle at an approximate cost of \$4,900. The request originated from a resident complaint that the Acacia bushes are harboring rats and snakes. Mr. Alvarez said staff recommends no changes because the honeysuckle will not make a difference regarding rats, and the planting of honeysuckle would require redoing the current irrigation to a drip system for watering. **Seema Chandra** commented that given their previous conversation regarding the state of the CSA4 budget and that this proposal is not a safety issue, she would concur with no changes. **Ms. Chandra** made a motion to not recommend approving the proposal, and **Jane Nye** seconded it. The motion was approved 3/0.

e. MAC Recommendation, CSA 4 2022/23 Landscape Priority List

Mr. Alvarez discussed recent projects for CSA4 areas, including fire safety vegetation clearance recently completed on the northeastern side of Kanan Road at Golden Eagle Drive and garden wall repairs at two locations on Hawthorne Drive that have been delayed due to supply chain issues. He mentioned the recent Oak Park site visit with Enhanced Landscape where the removal of grass from medians on Kanan Road due to drought watering restrictions was discussed. He said the State may soon require grass removal from medians and that Enhanced Landscape is looking into applying for available incentive programs. He said once they understand what programs CSA4 may qualify for, he will return with proposals. He also mentioned that Kanan Road medians and parkways are watered with recycled water and while that is exempt from the watering restrictions, there is concern that continued watering isn't conducive to support for water restrictions. With less watering, he said the grass and other plants will begin to die back and they can look into putting signage out.

Eric Steiner commented that he provided the MAC and PWA with photos of landscape areas in need of improvements on Hawthorne, Bowfield and Rockfield. He said he thinks these areas should be beautified with low water plants as they are the gateway into the community, and currently there is unsightly landscaping and runoff onto sidewalks. He said he would like to see these issues resolved with a landscape architect.

6. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks had held off her comments until the end due to the busy agenda. **She** announced an Educational Arroyo Conejo Channel Walk on June 1st at 7:30 am where people can walk the channel and learn about local flora and fauna in Newbury Park. She provided the results from the April Community Beautification Event at Oak Park High School saying it was very popular. She said PWA usually only schedules one event in each community but are looking into whether they can possibly do another one. She said COVID numbers are starting to increase and that 43 people are in the hospital and one in ICU in Ventura County to date. She said her office was notified by the Fire Department that they will be coming to a future meeting requesting a recommendation for a Conditional Use Permit for a new public safety communication tower for Fire Station No. 36. She discussed the Ventura County Ordinance Code pertaining to political signs that does not allow signs in the County's right-of-way. She also announced that the County has declared a Level 3 Water Supply Shortage and that Triunfo Water and Sanitation District will institute conservation measures including 1-day per week outdoor watering effective June 1st. Lastly, she mentioned that May 31st is Oak Park Unified School District's 45th birthday.

7. Council Comments

Seema Chandra commented on food scrap recycling and that she's very happy for the program.

Alon Glickstein announced that the Oak Park Community Foundation is looking for Board members and volunteers.

Catherine Cheng introduced herself as the new Oak Park High School ASB student representative on the MAC. She said there is an annual leadership retreat coming up, and also that ASB will be assisting with school registration.

10. Written Communications

Deena Perry communicated to the MAC regarding her concern about off-leash dogs in the community and parks.

11. Future Agenda Items

a. Review of CSA4 Funded Programs

12. Adjournment

Chair Nye adjourned the meeting at 9:53 PM.