

OAK PARK MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 3, 2022

The Oak Park MAC held a meeting on Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 7:00 PM
Oak Park Community Center, Buena Vista Room
1000 N. Kanan Road, Oak Park, CA

1. Call to Order of the meeting

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Jane Nye** at 7:06 PM. MAC members **Seema Chandra, Alon Glickstein, JL Diaz, Janice Smets** and OPHS student representative **Catherine Cheng** were present.

2. Presentation of the Colors and Flag Salute by BSA Troop 127, Killer Cobra Patrol

BSA Troop 127 presented the Colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

JL Diaz moved to adopt the agenda and **Alon Glickstein** seconded the motion. It was approved 5/0.

4. Approval of the meeting minutes of September 29, 2022

Janice Smets moved to adopt the minutes with changes to Item 7 to include her comments that she wanted to do more research on FDA standards and that she would like to have it on the next agenda for future discussion. She also noted that she would approve Item 7 and attached presentation in fact but not in content. **Seema Chandra** seconded the motion. It was approved 5/0 with suggested changes.

5. Public Safety reports

CHP Sgt. Samuel Clarkson said the CHP is primarily responsible for traffic issues and parking enforcement in the community. He reported on three non-injury crashes in Oak Park and said with daylight savings coming there tends to be an uptick in collisions so drivers should be aware. He urged residents with homes that back up to open space to always lock doors as perpetrators look for easy entrances. He announced the annual toy drive CHiPs for Kids and said donations can be dropped off at the Moorpark CHP Station. He also said the CHP has started a recruitment campaign for the "Join the CHP 1,000" and anyone interested in a career with the CHP can get more information at www.chpcareers.com

6. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks thanked BSA Troop 127 for attending the MAC meeting and presenting the colors for the flag salute. She also congratulated Sam Hong with BSA Troop 775 for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. She said the Oak Park Fire Safe Council (FSC) held a successful town hall event with speakers from the Fire Protection District, Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council, and Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District. She gave a special thanks to JL Diaz, Lori Gunn, Sam Gunn, Doug Wilson, John Foucher and Jay Fernandez from the Oak Park FSC for organizing the event. She announced the Board of Supervisors approved the installation of a memorial rose garden and monument at the Government Center by the Court House in honor of the late Supervisor Carmen Ramirez. She said the Board also proclaimed November 7th as Borderline Day of Remembrance in Ventura County and will fly the County flag at half-staff annually in honor of those who lost their lives.

7. Farewell to Supervisor Linda Parks

Chair Nye presented **Supervisor Parks** with a beautiful clock in appreciation and MAC members made statements of appreciation for her 20 years of service as County Supervisor and for her attention to the Oak Park community.

8. Council Comments

Catherine Cheng said the high school will hold its first blood drive of the year. She announced an upcoming 24-hour play, said the school will have a food drive in November, and the OPHS football team will be in the playoffs this Friday. Lastly, she said the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) will be touring the high school to ensure continuing accreditation with a focus on high quality learning.

Seema Chandra said she attended the Oak Park Fire Safe Council Town Hall and thanked JL Diaz for organizing the successful event.

Alon Glickstein announced that the Oak Park Community Foundation is looking for volunteers to join the Board and that the Foundation is there to help the community.

Janice Smets reported her findings regarding her attendance of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District (RSRPD) Oak Park Committee meeting, including designs for possible volleyball courts and reasons some residents don't think they will work. She also reported on RSRPD's tree trimming in July and her concerns that it should be done during winter in order to not distress the trees. She said she provided RSRPD with photos taken of distressed trees and trees growing sideways, which will be discussed at the next meeting.

JL Diaz said he's happy to continue serving on the MAC and thanked Dr. Smets for her service, and Alon Glickstein and the Oak Park community Foundation for their support in establishing the Oak Park FSC as a non-profit organization. He provided an update of the recent town hall and thanked RSRPD for the use of their venue for the event. He said future projects for the FSC include completion of the community risk assessment, which will be published before the end of the year, development of a community wildfire protection plan and community activities towards wildfire prevention. He said the FSC is also working with RSRPD and Friends of Oak Park Open Space to determine areas they can clear of dead brush, trees and plants for fire prevention.

Jane Nye said she has been cleaning graffiti in the community as residents report it to her, with the last being on the new trash cans. As OPUSD Board liaison, she reported the District of Choice was renewed, the new Wellness Center has been opened, and Dr. Davis recognized the schools' counselors. She discussed the Blue Point Alert System for the school, similar to fire alerts, integrated into the school PA system and goes to electronic devices. As Triunfo Water and Sanitation District liaison, she reported that the drought is in the third year and watering will be restricted to one day per week for ten minutes, but that customers are meeting the goals for the community. Lastly, she said the Triunfo office headquarters have moved from Ventura to Westlake Village.

9. Public Comments

Deena Perry thanked Supervisor Parks for her service to the community and thanked Mr. Glickstein and Dr. Smets for their service on the MAC. She said the Oak Park signboards look like they need updating or repainting, and that trees are covering much of the signboard on Lindero Canyon Drive. She also volunteered to assist with changing the signboard messages.

10. Information Items

a. Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Update on the Oak Park Pond

Dan Paranick, RSRPD General Manager, said there was significant damage to the pond at Oak Canyon Community Park after the Woolsey Fire. He said the last remaining project is the rehabilitation of the lagoon due to the mud and silt, and that it was a complicated design because of environmental sensitivities in the riparian area. He introduced **Jonathan Schwartz**, Project Manager, who provided an update of the project, including scope of the work, site plan, and photographs of the progress so far (attached). He mentioned they were able to save two large sycamore trees by moving the pump vault, and restore the root system of a giant oak tree. He also discussed new wetlands and cleaning pathways. Mr. Schwartz said RSRPD is on schedule to complete the project in January 2023, which includes pump installation and plumbing, gazebo reconstruction, planting and hydroseeding, waterfall clean-up, pathway lighting, and general site cleanup.

Janice Smets asked where the new wetlands would be located, expressed concern about mosquitoes, and asked about access roads. **Seema Chandra** asked how the pond would be refilled. **Mr. Schwartz** said the wetlands would be on the eastern end along the edges of the upper and lower areas, and that the moving water from the waterfall will help with mosquitoes who prefer standing water, in addition to having vector control come out. He said there will be work on road accessibility as needed and that the pond will be refilled through reclaimed water lines. He said RSRPD will put out information for volunteers when it comes time to plant. He said the pond will be stocked with fish and they will work on new signage regarding turtles.

b. CSA 4 Landscape Update from Ventura County Public Works Agency

Valeria Lopez, Public Works Agency, introduced **Greg Epstein**, Executive Director of Maintenance, and **Matt Kovacevich**, Accounts Manager, from Enhanced Landscape, who presented the October monthly landscape

report (attached). Ms. Lopez discussed the CSA4 turf removal rebate project and said they are moving forward with the application. She said they will look at drought tolerant options for planting when the time comes, but they are currently focusing on the removal project. She said it involved only grass removal and is based on the total square footage, which will come to a rebate of approximately \$360,000.

11. Advisory Matters

a. MAC Consideration of a Comment Letter on the Pure water Project (Submitted by MAC Member Janice Smets)

Janice Smets presented her draft comment letter and expressed concerns regarding the True Water Project, including EPA standards, length of the public comment period, and insufficient time to research the project.

Steve Bilson commented on a presentation he submitted to the MAC and discussed his concerns about high cost of the project and that the final water product would not be adequate to remove all cancer-causing chemicals. He said the project was similar to one in San Diego that did not have a final mitigation for molecules.

Oliver Slosser, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, spoke on behalf of the Pure Water Project saying it has ultra-fill, UV advanced oxidation and reverse osmosis treatment processes at work, and that it follows the California Water Resource Control Board regulations. He said the cost has a progressive framework and they will look for grants to supplement. He said their demonstration facility has been open to the public for two years.

Deena Perry expressed health concerns regarding the safety of the water.

Janna Orkney, who sits on the Triunfo Water and Sanitation Board of Directors, spoke about the history of the Pure Water Project and the processes the project uses to treat the water, remove chemicals, and blend to have potable water for the community. She said the public is welcome to address the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority meetings to learn more and provide comments.

Eric Schlageter, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, also spoke on behalf of the Pure Water Project as an engineer on the project. He detailed this difference between the Orange County and San Diego projects regarding buffers and said the process of a natural buffer has the same result as one that uses the treatment filtration processes. He said the project must abide by state and federal regulation standards. He said the public is welcome to visit the demonstration facility or go to the website for more information at www.ourpureh2o.com

Steven Kozel commented on the water project in Orange County that goes through the ground to be purified and that over 70% of the water has chemicals. He said he is a scientist (MS in biochemistry) and a health professional by training. He also said the wastewater purified in Orange County using advanced water purification and then injected into the ground water supply for additional filtering is pumped out of ground water stores with approximately 70% of wells contaminated with PFAS and requiring further treatment. He knows that cancer risk has a lot to do with health inequity issues and socio-economic status. He said there is a need for a new water source, and it should be evidence based.

Janice Smets moved to approve sending the comment letter as submitted to the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority. There was no second and the motion failed.

12. Written Communications

Seema Chandra discussed communication regarding mosquitos and the need for Vector Control to look at the biofilters.

Jane Nye discussed the crossing guard agreement she received, and a communication sent to Public Works regarding street dividers on Doubletree.

13. Future Agenda Items

No agenda items were noted at this time.

14. Honoring Outgoing MAC Members Alon Glickstein and Janice Smets

Supervisor Parks presented Certificates of Recognition signed by the Board of Supervisors honoring the service and contributions of outgoing MAC members **Alon Glickstein** with 12 years on the MAC, and **Janice Smets** with 4 years on the MAC.

15. Adjournment

Chair Nye adjourned the meeting at 9:08 PM.