



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

March 3, 2022

The Oak Park MAC held a meeting on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 7:00 PM
via Zoom Online/Teleconference.

1. Call to Order of the meeting

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Jane Nye** at 7:00 PM. MAC members **Seema Chandra, JL Diaz, Alon Glickstein, and Janice Smets** were present. OPHS student representative **Graham Ros** was absent.

2. Flag Salute

Jane Nye led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

JL Diaz moved to adopt the agenda as submitted and **Seema Chandra** seconded the motion. It was approved 5/0.

4. Approval of the meeting minutes of January 27, 2022

JL Diaz moved to adopt the minutes as submitted. **Seema Chandra** seconded the motion. It was approved 4/0 with **Janice Smets** abstaining.

5. Public Safety reports

CHP Officer Ryan Ayers reported on two non-injury collisions in February as a result of unsafe turning movements possibly from distracted driving or speeding. He said CHP will be out with the Sheriff's Department for enforcement on St. Patrick's Day. He said catalytic converter thefts have slowed down but have not stopped and urged residents to report any suspicious activity. He also discussed programs to protect your catalytic converter. He announced programs offered by the Moorpark CHP office, including weekend child seat installations and safety checks, VIN verification program, and monthly Smart Start for new drivers. He said CHP is starting an Age Well Drive Smart program for senior drivers as well. He discussed the Freeway Service Patrol that assists disabled drivers on the 118 and 101 freeways during peak rush hours that is free of charge. He said vehicle thefts are still happening and tend to be crimes of opportunity when cars are left unlocked. He urged residents to always lock cars. He also cautioned residents to be careful on the road and ensure windshield wipers and lights are working when the rains come. He said CHP is working on three active traffic complaints in Oak Park, and two open parking complains of oversized trailers. **Alon Glickstein** asked if one of the parking complaints was on Oak Bend, and that the property owner asked for an exemption, but the exemption applies only to oversized vehicles with engines, not to trailers, so they do not qualify. Officer Ayers said he has spoken with the vehicle owner and CHP is working with them. Lastly, he introduced **CHP Office Erika Islas** who will be assisting with the MAC and in the community. **CHP Officer Islas** introduced herself and said she looks forward to serving the community.

Ventura County Sheriff Senior Deputy Christopher Jones introduced himself and said he will be taking over for Senior Deputy Vo serving the Oak Park community. He reported three catalytic converter thefts in Oak Park recently from private residences and also from Rancho Simi Recreation Park District vehicles on Kanan Road. He said Priuses are mainly targeted and any suspicious noises at night should be reported. He said the South American theft crews are also targeting homes, especially those that back up to open space. He said those homes should maintain good brush clearance, not only for fire purposes but also for law enforcement to track them easier. He said a crew was caught last night in a pursuit that started in Camarillo and ended in Los Angeles. **Jane Nye** said there was graffiti found on a public utility box and asked how the community should handle graffiti since there are no graffiti abatement programs in Oak Park. **Senior Deputy Jones** said the Sheriff's Office

would not stop any effort to beautify the area and cover graffiti. **CHP Office Ayers** suggested the possibility of a Graffiti Removal Intervention Team similar to what Casa Conejo has in their community.

6. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks said the Public Works Agency will be coming to the Oak Park MAC on March 31st to discuss the revised sidewalk standards and receive comments. She said the standards would be heard by the Board of Supervisors on April 26th. She congratulated the Oak Park High School Mock Trial Team that won first place in the Ventura County Mock Trials and will go on to compete at the State level. She announced Seema Chandra was reappointed to the Women United of the Ventura County United Way that assists single mothers to become independent and thanked her for her service. Regarding concerns expressed about the Agoura Hills housing element and potential development on Kanan Road, she said the City of Agoura Hills has offered to make information readily available to Oak Park residents and that County staff will be reviewing the environmental impact report for the City's housing element, including the fire department, to ensure evacuation routes are not impacted. She said the City has pointed out there is not a proposal for development, they are only looking at zoning at this time. She said while it is not within Ventura County, they will look at the impacts if and where any proposals will interface. She provided an update on COVID saying starting March 1st masks will no longer be mandated for unvaccinated but will strongly be recommended in indoor settings, and after March 11th masks will not be required in schools or childcare facilities, but still strongly recommended.

7. Council Comments

Seema Chandra mentioned that the high school track is still closed to the public and the public would like to have access to walk on the track. **Jane Nye** said she was told it was an insurance issue and also to protect the track after it was improved because it is easily ruined. She suggested bringing it up to the school board.

JL Diaz, liaison for **Rancho Simi Recreation Park District (RSRPD)** reported on their last meeting where the issue of opening parks to drones use was discussed. He said they are monitoring the conversation and will provide input. He also attended the Ventura County Active Transportation Plan Community Advisory Committee meeting, which is a program to implement pedestrian and bicycle facilities. He said they will give feedback on appropriate use of grant money, and he will work for improvements in Oak Park. He said he will bring recommendations to the MAC for input.

Jane Nye, liaison for the Oak Park Unified School District Board reported on their last meeting where they had a recognition for Carol Ly, who was Director of Student Nutrition and will be moving on to work at UC Davis. She said her team provides 400-600 meals a day to students, and during the COVID shut down served over 300,000 meals over two years. She said she met new Board member Soyon Hardy. She also reported that as of February 15th the District had zero COVID cases, which is down from the peak in January. She said using the Public Works online app she put in a request to fix the Kanan Road sign facing the high school and it will soon be replaced. As liaison for Triunfo Water and Sanitation District, she reported they are looking to move their headquarters from Ventura to the Thousand Oaks/Westlake Village area so offices are local. Lastly, she noted that trash has been piling up in bins and reported it to Public Works and Supervisor Parks' office. **Vanise Terry** said that Waste Management responded to their inquiry and that they identified the problem and will fix the issue.

8. Public Comments

Carolyn Cass-Barton commented on her opposition to any housing proposed on Kanan Road through the Agoura Hills Housing Element and said her concern is that it will add traffic and block the much-needed evacuation routes for Oak Park residents. She said it would include an additional 564 possible residential units distributed to three shopping centers on Kanan Road and Thousand Oaks Blvd. She announced she is collecting signatures to fight against any housing developments. She also discussed a recent study by the University of California Institute of Transportation noting that Oak Park is one of thirteen zip codes in southern California with the worst population to evacuation ratio. She said there are other sites where Agoura Hills can fulfill their residential housing requirements. She also said she would like to get Kanan Road designated as an evacuation route.

Harry Medved reported on RSRPD's decision to open space to drone use and that as a member of the RSRPD Oak Park Advisory Committee, he was surprised it was not brought to them for input before a decision. He said it will be discussed at their next committee meeting on March 24th and invited Oak Park residents to attend and voice any concerns. He said it will be via Zoom and access information will be posted on the RSRPD website. He

said he also attended the Ventura County Active Transportation Plan Community Advisory Committee meeting and noted that they are looking for ways to reduce environmental impact of vehicle miles traveled. He said they can communicate that Oak Park already has many trails and walking paths that can be used to take kids to school, as well as the Kanan Shuttle. He said he would like to see more crosswalks on trails to slow traffic. He said if anyone has any suggestions to let him or JL Diaz know. Lastly, regarding the high school track, he said the school said they spent money on a new field, and it would be open to the community. He also mentioned that it was paid for by the community, but it's rented to outside organizations.

Lynn Rollo also commented on her opposition to any potential housing on Kanan Road through the Agoura Hills Housing Element. She stated her concern for safety and necessary evacuation routes for Oak Park if the area is rezoned and a developer comes in to build more housing units. She said there are 17 other sites the City could consider, and she discussed the petition in opposition.

Vanise Terry read a written comment from **Ruth Rose** regarding sidewalk trip hazards at Lindero and Bromely, Kanan and Deerhill, Lindero near China Flats trail entrance, Lindero between Kanan and Sterling Oaks. Ms. Terry said she would forward Ms. Ruth's comments to Mr. Alvarez, Public Works Agency. **Jane Nye** commented that she checked with the Oak Park School District, and they will be reviewing and repairing the lifted sidewalks by Medea Creek and Oak Park Elementary School.

10. Information Items

a. Brush Clearance by Goats on Churchwood Drive Hillside

Cyndi Vorkink discussed an agreement with Ventura Brush Goats for 10-acres of brush on the hillside behind Churchwood, which is where a lot of fire damage occurred. She said approximately 200 goats will be brought at the end of the month to clear the 10-acres of the most dangerous area. The goats get rid of invasive species to allow natural species to grow back. She said she received approval for the goats from RSRPD for the project, and she is paying for the service, which is about \$1,500 an acre plus water for the goats. Regarding fire mitigations, she believes the goats are the most economic choice, but HOAs do not pay for this service so she's looking for other funding options and would like to get involved with the Fire Safe Council. She also wants to spread the word in the community to help get more funding for efforts to keep the community safe.

Michael Leicht, Ventura Brush Goats, thanked the MAC for having him and said he attended the Oak Park Wildfire Town Hall and is excited to see a Fire Safe Council forming in Oak Park because they can receive funding for mitigation efforts. He said he would love to work with them on large scale efforts in the area. He said much of the expense for the goats is due to transportation. He said where he is based in Ojai, they are working with the Fire Department to reduce the cost of wildfire mitigation and discussed the Ojai Valley's efforts in designing a wildfire fuel reduction zone. **JL Diaz** said he would follow up with him on the Fire Safe Council.

b. Oak Park Fire Safe Council Update

JL Diaz introduced **John Faucher**, Vice Chair of the Oak Park Fire Safe Council. Mr. Faucher provided an overview of the Council, including Board members, formation, grants received, and proposals. He discussed the Council's mission and goal to build relationships with local partners including the Fire Department, park district, land agencies, Resource Conservation Districts, other Fire Safe Councils, and the insurance industry. He stated other goals include educating the community, sponsoring local projects, and pursuing more grant funding to make the community safer. He said the immediate goals for 2022 include initiating a community wildfire risk assessment, creating a community wildfire protection plan, and producing communication and education around their plans, ongoing recruitment, and funding.

9. Advisory Matters

a. Update on CSA 4 Landscape Architect for Hawthorne Drive and Portions of Golden Eagle Drive

Charles Alvarez, Public Works Agency, reported that he was told that Public Works would be required to do a full-scale Request for Proposal (RFP) following public contracting law. He proposed rather than contracting with an outside landscape contractor, using Enhanced Landscape, which is already on contract and has a landscape architect that can assist. He said there is money budgeted for landscape replacement, so this would help the process move faster, and with direction from the MAC, Enhanced Landscape could work on sample landscape gardens in bare areas and get community feedback moving forward. He said this would start the process and be relatively lower in cost.

Janice Smets thanked Mr. Alvarez for reviewing the information she provided on possible landscape options and asked if she would be able to work with the resident who assisted with providing that information. **Mr. Alvarez** said the contractor reports to the General Services Agency and Public Works, but he said the Landscape Committee can come to the MAC with recommendations and with the MAC's approval they could implement the suggestions.

Supervisor Parks discussed the cost of the contract and suggested using an expert in drought tolerant landscape design for long-term benefit, particularly as so much of landscaping costs are due to the cost of water. **Mr. Alvarez** said he's starting to work on the CSA 4 budget for the next fiscal year, and that only \$10K was budgeted for professional services this year and it was not earmarked for landscape services. He said for 2023 he will propose \$25K in professional services for more flexibility to do a thorough drought tolerant landscape design, which will be a more costly process. He also announced that Public Works will begin doing a monthly walk through of landscape areas and the MAC is invited to attend. **Jane Nye** commented on her support for using some areas as test landscape locations in the meantime. **Supervisor Parks** said there is no necessity for a landscape committee as long as there is one MAC member willing to be the liaison or the MAC as a whole can provide advice on landscape matters.

b. 2022 Oak Park MAC Assignments

The MAC updated the liaison assignments for 2022 and removed the Public Relations and Social Media Committee (attached).

11. Written Communications

There were no written communications.

12. Future Agenda Items

- a. Sidewalk Standards
- b. Oak Park Fire Safe Council Update
- c. Landscaping for Oak Park

13. Adjournment

Chair Nye adjourned the meeting at 8:57 PM.

Oak Park MAC Assignments, Liaisons for 2022

CHAIR: Jane Nye

VICE CHAIR: JL Diaz

SCHOOL DISTRICT*: Jane Nye

PARKS & RECREATION PLANNING COMMITTEE: JL Diaz

MEETING ROOM: VC Supervisor's Office - Vanise Terry

POSTING MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS: VC Supervisor's Office - Vanise Terry

**LIAISON TO TRIUNFO WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT: Jane Nye, Janice Smets
(Alternate)**

CROSSWALK & TRAFFIC SAFETY; TRANSPORTATION LIAISON: Janice Smets

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION MEETINGS: Alon Glickstein

OVERSIZED VEHICLE ORDINANCE: Alon Glickstein

LIAISON TO LAW ENFORCEMENT: Alon Glickstein

LIAISON TO VC PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY: Seema Chandra

STREET SWEEPING COORDINATOR & LANDSCAPE CSA #4: Open

OAK PARK FIRE SAFE COUNCIL: JL Diaz

***OPUSD GOVERNING BOARD: Drew Hazelton, School Board President, and Denise Helfstein, School Board Member**