

Winchester Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 8, 2011

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Attendees:

Winchester MAC:

Andy Domenigoni, Chairman
Dirk Meredith, Vice-Chairman
James Horecka, Secretary
Jimmy Sheldrake

Absent:

Al Ramirez

Ex Officio:

Opal Hellweg, Legislative Assistant for Supervisor Jeff Stone
Members of the Public (incl. Gale Wesson of the Press Enterprise)

Call to Order: Call to Order by Dirk Meredith at 6:31 PM.

Flag Salute. Introductions.

Approval of Agenda:

Meredith requested amend, by adding "web page" to Old Business.

Motion to approve as amended: Meredith. Second: Horecka. Approved: Unanimously.

Approval of June 9, 2011, Minutes:

Motion to approve: Horecka. Second: Meredith. Approved: Unanimously.

New Business:

Gary Thornhill, Planner for the WMAC.

The County approved Mr. Thornhill's contract. Essence: Help us perform a land use study for our community. Gary noted that the current lull in development activity offers the opportunity to look at the 'big picture.' To study both opportunities and constraints. Study will be general, yet comprehensive. A full study is not in the budget, but it will be a start. A kick-off session is proposed; TBD. Early phases will include Information Gathering. Aims will include protecting various aspects, helping steer development, balancing land use, creating a downtown, zones of various uses, each with proper regulations. Thornhill will listen to community members, and help with strategies. Walt Allen, Architect, will assist with graphics. Patty Anders will also assist Thornhill.

Comments:

Andy Domenigoni thanked G.T.

Jimmy Sheldrake noted that J.S. & A.D. met with G.T. prior to WMAC.

Jim Horecka noted that Walt Allen has family ties to Winchester; no stranger to our community.

Thornhill noted that the process will take at least eight months.

All expressed positive expectations toward this direction and Mr. Thornhill's involvement.

New Business:

None.

Old Business:

A. Opal Hellweg briefed us on several issues, including:

-- AB 26/27. The California Superior Court has placed a "stay" on it; No new contracts allowed, among other things, after Aug. 17th. Thornhill's contract was signed before the 17th, as was the contract for the Winchester Signs. Opal suggested that those who would like more info may see the Board Agenda on-line.

- Juan Perez will be at the Sept. 21st Board Meeting.
- Hwy 79 Widening: First Phase set to start soon; Domenigoni Parkway southward.
- Another Winchester Cleanup Day is set for November 7th.
- Redistricting is now done, and cities adjusted.
- Answered a question re: Hwy 79 realignment: No update on status.
- B. Land Use: The Land Use Committee met with Gary Thornhill.
- C. EMWD Updates: Peter Odencrans is on vacation; no update.
Tom Waller brought the WMAC a large packet of Public Comments regarding the proposed Recycled Water Tank. These are also available on a thumb drive (see Andy Domenigoni).
- D. Winchester Post Office downsizing? No update. Andy Domenigoni had talked with Rep. Isa: There may be a possibility that "naming" the P.O. may help save it? The position of Post Master has been vacant for about two years. Andy noted that Angelo Domenigoni was the first Post Master.
- E. Highway 79 - Update on widening: Contractors' bids are due September 21st. Construction may start in January? Selection will be "lowest responsible bidder."
- F. Proposed MWD Solar Farm: No update. Andy Domenigoni still trying to set up meetings with Randy Record of EMWD and Jeff Kightlinger, General Manager of MWD.
- G. Web Page: Dirk has had some access issues. He may need to change the Service.
- H. Other Old Business: Jimmy Sheldrake noted that Al Ramirez is not present. He may resign. Andy Domenigoni noted that Ramirez has not submitted a letter of resignation as of this date.

Open Forum:

- A. Gregg Cowdery brought flyers for the next E-Waste Event, slated for Feb. 24, 2012; also for Bingo.

Next WMAC Meeting:

The next WMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 13, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.

Adjournment:

WMAC Adjourned 7:07 PM.