

Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 10, 2014

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Attendees:

Winchester MAC:

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

Ex Officio:

Opal Hellweg, Legislative Assistant for Supervisor Jeff Stone
Members of the Public

Call to Order: Call to Order by Andy Domenigoni at 6:30 PM.

Flag Salute. Introductions.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve: Meredith; Second: Horecka. Approved, unanimously.

Approval of March Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Meredith; Second: Sheldrake. Approved by all but Domenigoni (abstained: absent March).

Guest: Dennis Green (Green Com Inc.). Final update of Highway 79, Phase I & II.

1. Dennis Green & Benjie Cho (Resident Engineer) brought us up to date and fielded questions. Project is expected to be completed by the end of June. Various issues discussed, some by Q & A, included:
 - Q: Describe traffic signals, & audible crosswalk features. A: Did so.
 - Q: Detection at signals? A: Loops at all but Garboni; cameras there.
 - Q: If problems with signals later, who to call? A: Cal Trans or Dennis Green.
 - C: Hwy is now wide; a challenge to cross while under construction. R: Understood.
 - Q: Couldn't temporary stop signs be placed? A: No, too dangerous.
 - Q: Could signs be added indicated "cross traffic ahead"? A: Green will look into suggestion.
 - Q: Wasn't there to be more K-rail? A: No; quantity out there is per plan.
 - C: Holland flooded in the storms. R: Drainage improvements yet to be completed.
 - Q: How big is punch list? A: Many items.
 - Q: What are projected dates? A: About a month from now. Energizing Phase I.
 - Q: What is talking pushbutton? A: A crosswalk, a voice tells which street is set to cross.
 - Q: How long is warranty? A: One year. After that, CalTrans takes over, as Maintenance. CalTrans must accept the finished job from the Contractor.
2. Dennis Green thanked our entire community for our patience and support. Complimented all. Brought cake! Noted that Opening pushed back from May, out to June. TBA.

New Business:

1. Opal Hellweg reported: CDBG Fund for road repair in Winchester: Funds are there, approved and ready to go. Opal went out to sites in Homeland with rep Alan, Melba, etc. Will go out again with an expert, to better assess the situations. Appears some roads might not be 'accepted' or 'maintained.' Further inquiry required; by two MAC members, Bill Brown of EDA, CSA Mgr.
 - Q: Where are funds coming from? A: Federal Government.
 - C: Logan reemphasized the dire needs in Homeland.
2. Winchester Downtown: Cowdery presented again. Noted that the downtown is 'far future.' Gregg stated that the WTA hopes to offer funds to engage a consultant to study whether broad-brush schemes for transit-oriented development have merit. Announced that WTA voted to seed \$10k to get a study rolling. WTA would like to ask the WHMAC to request from County some funding as well.

- C: Domenigoni suggested that WTA engage Gary Thornhill again. Some of his tasks would be to bring Homeland into the plan, incorporate the concepts for the downtown core, fold all into an updated plan. Downtown Core itself warrants further study. Aim to create a cohesive scheme.
 - C: Meredith noted that the Planner could help identify possible funding, re transit, etc.
 - C: Citizen concerned about spending money if we might just get gobbled up in an annexations.
 - Q: Is Transit Communities funding available? A: Gregg will look into this.
 - C: Meredith noted that we have WMAC, Homeland, our Plan, and other items in our “portfolio” to support our position of maintaining our autonomy as a community.
 - C: Domenigoni noted that volunteers needed to attend Menifee meetings: If interested, contact him.
3. Other new business:
Evelyn Domenigoni: The Women’s Club celebrated 100 years of service! She described a fine event.

Old Business:

- A. Update –Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant advised us of the following:
- Regional Improvements:
 - The Board approved land buy for Scott Rd.
 - 215/Newport to become a ‘modified cloverleaf’ interchange.
 - She passed around a Construction Alert for all to view. Announced that Shirley Maddox is retiring from the Fair Board (Indio). County needs a new person: Third District Rep; an Advisory Board.
 - Announced that the new Drop Zone water park will open May 24th. Encouraged attendance.
 - Announced World Elder Awareness Day; encouraged participation.
 - Opal said she will not be able to attend WHMAC in May.
 - Opal encouraged all to attend next WHMAC meeting: Library slated to appear: Support Book Mobile.
 - Opal noted that our Auditor/Controller put out a Newsletter.
- B. Sheriff Dept; Lt. Charles Guillen spoke:
- Guillen presented Andy Domenigoni with a plaque, for his support of the National Night Out.
 - Mail Theft is on the rise. Stay alert! Our area is being hit hard.
 - Guillen noted various busts, etc.
 - Reminded citizens to stay watchful, and call to file complaints as warranted.
- C. EMWD Updates, by guest Kevin Pearson:
- Water Conservation Festival April 9-12. Big League Dreams, Curious George, more. EMWD partnering with Home Depot for Water Wise events, presentations, and discounts on drought-tolerant plants.
 - Olive Avenue Sewer Project is moving forward. Construction will likely start in June.
- D. Highway 79 - Update on widening.
- See discussion above.
- E. MWD Proposed Solar Farm: No news.
- F. Land Use:
- See discussion above for overall planning, Downtown Core, etc.
 - Solar Project proposed for Grand Avenue (10 acres). Developer intends to meet local landowners and residents, here, to inform them of his intentions. A 40-ft strip of that property will be dedicated as right-of-way on Grand.
 - Sheldrake stated that SCE can only do 10 acres: PV solar panels. The company has experience.
- G. Gangs in Winchester: No news.
- H. City of Hemet: Jeff Logan visited Hemet. Reported on various items. Ramona Creek Specific Plan: corner of Florida & Warren; 268 acres, 954 residential units, 700kSF in commercial space. Developer trying for an increase in the DUA. Also: General Plan 2030: City Boundaries, Sphere of Influence: SW of California Avenue & S of Hwy 74. Domenigoni intends to meet the City Manager.
- I. Citizens Patrol: Bob Gibbons was not present.
- J. Marijuana Dispensaries in Winchester: The dispensary south of Winchester Store is back in operation, clandestinely.
- K. Other Old Business: None.

Open Forum:

1. Gregg Cowdery, Pres of WTA, spoke: Advocating traffic signals be installed at: Stowe & Hwy 79; Haddock St. & Hwy 79 (at school), and a reduction in speed through town. Noted the fatal traffic collision in town recently.
2. It was stated that the City of Menifee City Services Manager may be intending to have the City of Menifee take over certain Parks from Valley Wide Parks & Rec. Opal noted that this would have to go before LAFCO.

Next WMAC Meeting:

The next WMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 8th, 2014, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.

Adjournment: The WMAC adjourned 8:12 PM.