

Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 10, 2016

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Attendees:

Winchester MAC:

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

Ex Officio:

Opal Hellweg, Legislative Assistant for Third District Supervisor

Members of the Public

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

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Andy to amend by moving sheriff's report up, before Guest presentation. Motion to approve as amended: Motion by Meredith; second by Horecka; approved, unanimous.

Approval of November Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Motion by Meredith; second by Sheldrake; approved, unanimous.

Sheriff Report: Sergeant Lamb introduced us to Deputy Puente. Sgt Lamb discussed the newly-released Unified Crime Report (UCR). The data in that is not good, with crimes up in much of the area. However, he said, our specific local area has been rather quiet. Jan & Feb averaged 140 calls each; 5 arrests each. Lamb briefed us on the different types of crimes. Hemet & San Jacinto are struggling with issues. As always: "See something, say something." Mail theft is on the rise, big time, including community mailboxes. Lieutenant Wilheid was promoted.

Guest Speaker: Dennis Green, off RCTC, discussing the Clinton Keith Road Urban Arterial Extension Project.

Mr. Green brought two fliers. He delivered a presentation outlining the project. Afterward, he fielded questions from citizens. See flyers and website for more information.

New Business.

- A. Grant funding prospects for Land Use Planning in the MAC.
Andy said he has talked with County representatives. He said that perhaps there may be some funding sources available in the new budget. Stay tuned for news after July.
- B. Update on the February 26th Quarterly Meeting with Supervisor Chuck Washington and all three MACs in District 3.
Andy, Jeff, Jimmy & James related the events of the day. The event was held at the 888 acre campus of University, out in the hills above Anza. The site was a former union work training camp; it features a wide array of facilities, which will surely prove useful at the university continues to grow. We were impressed organization, the courteous hospitality of our hosts, professional attitudes and inspiring presentations of current and future plans. We enjoyed meeting and talking with leaders from the other MACs in District 3: Anza and Pinyon. Also present were Verne Lauritzen, Chief of Staff; Olivia Balderrama, Legislative Assistant; Rob Field, Director EDA; George Johnson, Chief Assistant County Executive Officer; and Juan Perez, Director TLMA.
- C. Other: Gregg Cowdery noted that a local citizen wishes to inquire into what laws or rules might apply to hot air balloons landing on private property. Sometimes damages happen. "Report to FAA; # on balloon."

Old Business:

- A. Update – Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant:
 - Opal brought in several important fliers for distribution to those interested:
 - Veteran's Driver License: A special ID that is now available that will help veterans access services.
 - An opening for an undergrad internship with the District Attorney (8 weeks, unpaid).
 - Free Tax Prep is available, via Community Access Partnership.
 - Upcoming Third District Summit, in Wine Country. Theme of unifying the District to help everyone.
 - Hemet Ryan Air Show, coming up on June 4th.
 - Opal brought the 2016 Attachment B, foundations changes
 - Noted that the Auditor did an Overtime Analysis; Sheriff's Office was the highest.
 - The March 29th report by KPMG on the audit noted that we need to do things more efficiently. Opal noted that the Hospital is now doing the best; a real turnaround.
 - Vern Lauritzen was in attendance.

- Opal noted that certain monies have been diverted by the State Rail Project.
- B. Sheriff Dept.:
 - See above.
- C. EMWD Updates:
 - Kevin Pearson & Phil Paule not present.
- D. Highway 79 (realignment) update.
 - No news. Residents noted grading has begun on the corner of SH 79 & 74: Future Jack in the Box.
- E. Land Use:
 - La Ventana project, GPA 1129: There was a community meeting. About 40 people attended, none in support. A citizen noted that the meeting had been scheduled to occur at the same day and time as the Winchester Town Association meeting; by intent?
 - GPA 921, 78 acres, Scott Rd & El Centro. This has now been approved by the Board of Supervisors.
 - GPA 943, 56.8 acres at Winchester Road & Stowe Road. The Winchester Town Association has a letter, to the Riverside County Planning Department; the Land Use Committee recommends that we support the project. The biggest issue that we had was related to communication: County did not give us information until very late in the process of this project. Earlier would have been much better for all. However, we were informed, and that is something. There was a very good turnout at the Land Use Committee meeting; nine members, plus the County Planner and the project proponent. There will be a vote next Tuesday. The W/H MAC agreed to forward the letter of support to Riv. County.
 - Housing Element and Downtown Winchester: Cindy Domenigoni met with the County persons working on the Housing Element of the General Plan, including: Max Mardoni, Jerry Jolliff, Kristi Lovelady and Steve Weiss. She asked for an update on status of the Housing Element. They were evaluating each area separately; the EIR will address specific areas. EIR should be out in about eight weeks.
 - Cindy Domenigoni noted that the next meeting of the Land Use Committee will be next Wednesday. We are pursuing community funded studies for the Downtown Core area.
- F. City of Hemet update:
 - Jeff Logan reported on the proposed Sales Tax Initiative. Visitor Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Raver stood up and briefed us on the scene: Essentially a 1-cent increase in the sales tax in Hemet, aimed to gather extra funding specifically for additional Police & Fire services. It is hoped that these will improve safety in Hemet, which is suffering some rough times these days.
 - Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Raver, here as a guest only (not official), told us of some other happenings, including: Cal Trans will spend millions to upgrade Florida Avenue. He noted that there is pressure from other areas to spend money on improvements in those locales, for example on Interstate 10; however, we have needs in our valley, too: We need to make ourselves heard! He, and others, feel that the Highway 79 Realignment Project should be pulled forward, and that doing so would bring a new era of success to our valley as a whole. He emphasized the importance of working together. Vern Lauritzen complimented Paul's efforts, agreeing that we ought to raise awareness of the importance of the Highway 79 Realignment Project for the future of the valley at large: should be high priority.
- G. City of Menifee
 - Andy stated that he has not yet scheduled a meeting.
- H. Other Old Business:
 - Other: None.

Open Forum:

1. At the meeting with Senator Jeff Stone, Gregg Cowdery inquired into the status of the MWD issues surrounding Diamond Valley Lake. Stone had made a proposal for body contact at the lake. Marianne Edwards, with Jeff Stone's office, reported that there is a Hemet committee, which only Hemet may participate in at this time (studying Hemet interests). They noted that under present treatment, up to 100,000 persons per year could use the lake. Paul Raver is on that ad hoc committee. They invited Valley Wide Parks & Recreation, and others, to focus on the original plans that were put out by MWD way back. Their main focus is the eastern part and the western part; Hemet is most interested in the eastern part. The conclusions will be made public. At present, the position of MWD is that they are "in the water business, not the recreation business." Stay tuned for more info to come.
2. A County staff member has tallied up the total area in the Winchester/Homeland MAC; he reported the total area as being approximately 40 square miles (over 25,000 acres).

Next WMAC Meeting:

The next WMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2016, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.

Adjournment: The WMAC adjourned at 8:25 PM.