

Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 12, 2020

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Attendees:

Winchester-Homeland MAC:

Andy Domenigoni, Chairman; Dirk Meredith, Vice-Chairman; James Horecka, Secretary, and Gary Long. Jimmy Sheldrake absent.

Ex Officio:

Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant.

Members of the Public

Call to Order: Call to Order by Andy Domenigoni at 6:33 PM.

Flag Salute. Introductions.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve by Meredith; second by Long. Approved unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion to defer February Meeting Minutes: Motion by Horecka; 2nd by Meredith. Approved U.

Guest Speaker: Jerry Kong, Partnership Specialist from the US Census Department.

- Mr. Kong reminded us that the Census was set up early in our nation's history: it's in the sixth sentence of the US Constitution.
- He emphasized that participation is an obligation of citizens. Confidentiality is assured and required. Especially in regards to PII: Personally Identifiable Information. They count every resident, whether a citizen or not; it is very important to count all. \$675B is allocated from federal to state each year, and the distribution of funding is tied to the numbers.
- Those in rural communities can be hard to count. Language barriers can be a challenge. Young children, especially under 5 years old, can be hard to count.
- The census also affects the districting of the county supervisors.
- County representative Jason Farin: The County is making a robust effort to get the word out.
- Kelly Robertson: Spoke of Census Jobs. Very important! Apply! Make application on-line. She herself is a hire. It's an 8-week job, paid weekly. Interview is by telephone. Travel expenses paid 58c/mile. Age 18+. Usually, you'll work in your own Zip Code.
- Jerry is our local liaison.

Questions for our guests:

- Q: How are homeless counted? A: A special operations team counts those in group quarters & transients.
- Q: What if I don't get a card? A: Check on line; a process is in place.
- C: The census is the largest peacetime operation in the US! Costs \$15B.
- Q: What about counting 'illegals'? A: All are counted. Information is secure for 72 years.
- C: The previous census (2010) directly affected our MAC: Homeland fell under a different County Supervisor, now in Third District. So their citizens joined the Winchester MAC, making it the Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council.

Old Business:

- A. General County update; Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant:

- The EDA is now three different departments, including Community Services, Library Services; Facilities Management & Project Management; Housing, Homeless and Workforce.
 - Aviation has been broken out; now under TLMA.
 - Approved: Sheriff will be breaking-out Project Management.
 - Approved: Supervisor Jefferies' Citizens' Commission on Election Integrity.
 - They are working on streamlining the process of Planning.
 - Housing Authority: Housing is a priority. Including Section 8, housing choice, vouchers, etc.
 - Riverside County accepted the 100-Day Challenge to house elderly, disabled, & unsheltered veterans.
 - The Cleanup Day was a big success. Per Andrea Mares, Board of Supervisor's Assistant, they collected: 312 tires, 68.4 tons of trash. 226 residents participated!
- B. Sheriff Department update; Deputy Andrew Showalter:
- Crime stats: Jan: 240 calls; 5 arrests; Feb: 210 calls, 1 arrest. (Figures include Homeland.)
 - Captain Matt Sims, new Captain at the Perris Station, since December. He's served in the Department for 21 years, at Perris for 7. He fielded a few questions:
 - Q: Are LA & Orange counties releasing perps in our area? A: No.
 - Q (AD): What about hemp & cannabis; how to discern between them? A: It's hard to tell. Test kits are required to do so, and they don't have those yet. Marijuana plants can cross-pollinate and turn hemp crops into marijuana. AD noted that there are permits for 7,000 acres to grow hemp.
- C. EMWD Updates; Kevin Pearson: Not present.
- D. Code Enforcement; Marr Christian:
- Addressed one of the homeless encampments in the Juniper Flats area, north of SH 74. Involved were DPSS, Social Services, etc. Code Enforcement followed up by removing vehicles, junk, garbage, etc. Fenced area, locked gates. On ~80 acres.
 - MC noted that Code Enforcement is staffing up; added another 2, maybe 3. He hopes that, with the new help, they'll be able to clear the caseload from ~350 down to ~200.
 - CM noted that if citizens have questions about hemp, contact the Ag Commission's offices.
- E. Assemblywoman Melissa Melendez' Office; Amanda Fisher, Field Representative:
- The Town Hall meetings for March 13th and March 26th have been canceled, due to the virus.
 - Fisher brought in fliers that illuminate some of the bills that Melendez is working on.
- F. Senator Stone District Director, Darrell Connerton:
- Not present; no report.
- G. Valley Wide Park & Recreation District; Robert Byers:
- Byers announced that Valley Wide will be closing down buildings and activities, due to the virus.
- H. Highway 79: No news.
- I. Land Use update; Cindy Domenigoni, et al.:
1. Winchester Community Planning update: Hopefully the DEIR will be out in a few months.
 - a. Winchester-Homeland General Plan Amendment #1207 is still in process.
 - b. Environmental Justice Area Planning.
 2. Stone Creek (TR 36365): Pending TPC hearings. Held up due to the Highway 79 Policy Area.
 3. Domenigoni Plaza – They are moving forward with Grading Plans.
 4. Intersection of Scott Road & Leon Road. Letter sent to Supervisor Chuck Washington. Update: They are proceeding with an Interim Intersection.
 5. Menifee North Specific Plan, TTM 37533 and TTM 29322 (Homeland): Awaiting TPC Hearings. The park has been enlarged to 5 acres: Huzzah!
 6. Leon Road Closure: Leon Road is closed at Domenigoni Parkway, for DR Horton project.
- J. City of Hemet update; Lori van Arsdale:
- The Ramona Outdoor play has been canceled.
 - Soboba is doing a basic preliminary study of some of their land, with their Economic Development Committee. Mentioned: Luiseno Village, a small shopping center, various retail, a gas station. Future casino? She noted that Dr. Chaduri owns a large plot of land across the street.

- Q (AD): When can she come to the WHMAC with what they have in mind for their land in Winchester? A: They are not ready at this time; ideas still brewing.

K. City of Menifee update; Cheryl Kitzerow:

- Regarding the Sphere of Influence expansion issue: Kitzerow stated that no formal actions have been taken. She noted that when Menifee incorporated as a city, they did not include a sphere. There is a growing concern that developments outside yet near Menifee could have impacts on their city. There was a Work Shop in December, which was videotaped. The City Council directed that the city begin exploring the sphere of influence. They met with Angela Little, Andy Domenigoni, etc.
- Query: Is there support? Is there no support? Gary Long responded: "Not just no... hell no!"
- Kitzerow stated that they will continue their outreach efforts. The process could take several years. She noted that the City is now over ten years old. Pretty consistent in their planning and growth.
- C (Horecka): Noted, "If there's a disruptive force in this valley, it's Menifee."
- Kitzerow noted that Menifee is the fastest growing city in Riverside County, 7th in the state.
- Those in attendance thanked Kitzerow, and we welcomed her back.

L. Other Old Business:

- None.

Open Forum:

- A representative of our local Winchester Fire Department advised us of the following:
 - Our local station covers HazMat for 7,200 square miles.
 - They helped with our Christmas drive; there were no presents in the boxes that had been left at the school; the Fire Dept stepped up and donated gifts.
 - Statistics for Station (calls): Jan, 50; Feb 55. March, 50, and it's only the 12th!
 - Sister station in Homeland responded to 12 house fires; were 2 house fires in Winchester recently.
 - Virus: Our station could be quarantined; a couple stations already are.
 - Burn Permits: If you need one, you must drive to a Station, fill out application for a permit. The FD will visit the site, inspect conditions, and will grant the permit only if deemed OK. Maximum pile 4'x4'x4', clear, no items bigger than forearm. Must make separate application to SCAQMD!
 - There are two serial arsonists in this area. The Dept went to a fire a day for a month. Law enforcement caught one fellow. Also, several fires at homeless encampments. BHO labs an issue.

Next WHMAC Meeting:

The next WHMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2020 6:30 PM, at the Community Center. **UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE!**

Adjournment:

The WHMAC adjourned at 8:20 PM (DM/GL/Unanimous).