

Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 9, 2017

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 6:32 PM.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve agenda: Motion by Meredith; 2nd by Sheldrake. Approved by (except Horecka, late).

Approval of October Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Motion by Logan; second by Meredith. Approved unanimously.

Guest Speaker: **Riverside County Regional Parks Director, Scott Bangle & Riverside County Transportation Dept. Engineering Project Manager Cathy Wampler.**

Scott Bangle & Cathy Wampler gave brief introductions. Scott stated that there are 70,000 acres of parks. Cathy added there are 170 miles of trails. There is available a \$5 million grant. For various trails. Backbone trails. Class I paved trails and soft trails. There is a grant for the Environmental Study for the Santa Ana Trail.

Cathy stated that there is a 16 mile long Salt Creek Trail proposed. One of two major projects in the Santa Ana River watershed. It would be 14-foot wide paved trail, with 5-ft with soft shoulders. This would start first in the Menifee area. Later, in Hemet. The portion in Winchester would advance when development fees accumulate to support it. There would be a traffic signal at Olive Rd, near the creek.

Various questions are asked and answered:

Q: Would grant money and park funds be used to complete the project? A: Yes.

Q: What would fund maintenance after completion of the trails? A: There is no funding for maintenance.

Typically, it is asked that communities “adopt” and maintain the trails; groups then receiving recognition via a sign, similar to those commonly seen. The methods vary; the county will help set these up.

Q: Will there be equestrian access to the trail? A: There will be soft surfaces that can be used by horses. In the future, perhaps a trail might be improved along the far side of the creek. However, for now, one trail.

C: The trails are about animals – dogs, etc. That includes clean-up of waste. The trails around Diamond Valley Lake to Skinner require equestrians to clean-up after their horses. Sometimes equestrian groups also help.

Q: Other trails? A: The “Pines to Vines” trail may eventually connect to other trails. Canyon Lake, etc.

Q by A.D.: How will users cross the freeway? A: Under it. There are already large openings.

The path along the hill near Antelope Rd. must deal with environmental challenges & property acquisition. The City of Menifee also controls the destiny of some lots along the way.

Q, by A.D.: Sounds like a bunch of short bits at present. Will they ever link? A: There is a master plan, with the intent of eventually linking the trails together.

Req by Gregg Cowdery: Please come back to the MAC someday to discuss Double Butte Park.

C, by D.M.: The environmental costs must be huge (for the trails). Double Butte would be a great asset if developed, and not that difficult. A: They have a large part of D.B. already, and control a large part of D.B.

Opal stated that if a bond issue proposed for the ballot in June were to pass, for parks & water, that may help. Gregg noted that Double Butte has historic significance.

C: G.C. suggested that, for the EIR, they ‘just borrow’ the Flood Control District’s EIR.

It was noted that there will be \$1 million in studies, permitting, replacement land, offsite mitigation, etc.
C, by Logan: There is also a network of trails that run up into the hills towards Lakeview.

Q: What is the projected cost? A: \$1.25 million per mile.

Q: What is the point of the trails? A: Trails are the #1 amenity that the public asks for: They are very popular for many reasons, health reasons among them.

Q: Where does the money go? A: Engineering, architects, land costs, construction costs, etc.

Q: How many traffic signals are proposed? A: Two signals.

It was noted that there will be a Workshop in the future.

Old Business:

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

- Not much going on at present. Riverside Sheriff, labor union issues.
- The Mission Inn Festival of Lights is coming up. Metrolink will offer \$7 roundtrip fares.
- There will be a coordinated effort for counting the homeless on January 23rd.

B. Sheriff Department update: Sheriff not present. However, Code Enforcement was here, & presented:

- Good progress recently relating to Ordinance 925 (marijuana dispensaries). Note: See the Ordinance for specifics; comments here are not the ordinance. 10-day compliance notices are dealt to illegal dispensaries. Code Enforcement follows-up on Day 11. Some 120 sites. Private growers, for their own sue, are limited to 12 plants per card holder, maximum two card holders per property; so a maximum of 24 plants. Exceeding that number is in violation.
- More ardently enforcing rules governing street vendors; taking all their stuff: food, carts, shelters, etc. For those found in violation, the judge may order this property condemned & destroyed.
- Various dispensaries were brought up, and their status. Code Enforcement noted that they are in violation of a permanent injunction. If no action taken, they file a “contempt of court.”
- Discussion regarding very large parties being held on properties. It was noted that the threshold for such affairs is 200 persons, and a planned event.
- Logan noted that many highway accidents are occurring outside the illegal dispensary (“Chronic Pain Relief”) across from the Dollar Store in Homeland. There is an impact on safety here.
- See also: Ordinance 925, re Outdoor Cultivation, and Ordinance 348, Section 343 (Dispensaries).
- Q: What about junk cars? A: Code Enforcement does not have jurisdiction in the right of way. But C.E. has one person handling abandoned vehicles.
- Sarah Rodriguez: Intern, Environmental Health, waste resources: Discussed illegal dumping, picking up junk dumped in town. Andy asked: Will the county pick up junk on private land? Within 20 feet of the right of way. Code Enforcement: Generally won’t pick up on roads that are not County-maintained. However, working together, they may figure a way to get dumped waste picked up.

C. EMWD Updates: Director Phil Paule & Kevin Pearson:

- Jimmy Sheldrake participated in the “Water Leaders’ Academy.” He reported on his experience.
- Coming up Wednesday, 9:00 AM, at EMWD headquarter: A Rate Hearing. Proposed: The Tier 1 commodity rate will go down. Tier 2, a small increase. Tiers 3 & 4: higher rates. Commercial and industrial rates will also be discussed. Recycled water will be discussed.
- The Metropolitan Water District has already raised their wholesale water rates.
- Question regarding water budgets: 55 gal/person/day. How budgets are determined how to get budgets reviewed and changed to reflect conditions, etc. See EMWD for fine details.
- Jimmy Sheldrake reported on his experience at the Water Leaders’ Academy. Highlight include: Sources of water, challenges, forecasts, investments, etc. He was impressed with the sharp people at EMWD, including engineers, etc. Also the tools they employ to do their jobs better. He noted the desalination plant, high use of recycled water, money-saving practices including truck tracking, along with top-notch control and management. Also impressed with water quality testing, etc.

D. Highway 79 Realignment update: No news.

E. Land Use update (by Cindy Domenigoni):

Preface: There was a Land Use Committee meeting last week. The guest presenter was a representative of the Dollar General Store, proposed at the NE corner of Winchester Rd. and Haddock

- St. Local citizens expressed our concerns with this proposed development, including: Grave concern that, reportedly, Finch St. was vacated, consulting us, nor providing a proper cul-de-sac at the dead end. Mike Rowe brought up that local property owners in the immediate area had not been notified of this. Many other questions arose. The Land Use Committee will write a letter.
1. Winchester Homeland Planning: Thursday the 16th, from 12:00-2:00, there will be a County meeting regarding our Community Plan. Also Thursday, November 30th, 1:00-3:00 PM, in preparation of the upcoming Workshop in 2018. The next Workshop will be scheduled at the MAC meeting in January or February.
 2. TTM 37119 (part of Winchester Hills SP 293): No report.
 3. Winchester –Homeland General Plan Amendment #1207: In process still.
 4. Stone Creek (TR 36365): Pending Planning Commission hearings (early 2018).
 5. Villages North (TR 36504): Pending Planning Commission hearings (perhaps December 2017).
 6. K-1 Speed: Planning Commission approved the proposed project. Proponents plan to move ahead.
- F. City of Hemet update: Nothing significant re WHMAC.
- G. Logan noted that our Third District Supervisor, Chuck Washington, recently opened up his new office, at 43950 Acacia, in Hemet.
- H. City of Menifee update: Domenigoni & Logan: No significant news.
- I. Assemblywoman Melissa Melendez' Office:
- Field Representative Samantha Stilwell gave a brief overview. She noted that they are still out of session; no new bills. She noted unhappiness with the new gas tax. Had no info about any repeal efforts that may be going on. She covered various bills that the Assemblywoman is either supporting or not. Upcoming event: Senator Travis Allen Annual Holiday Party; Melendez & Senator Stone. December 14th, at the Murrieta Spectrum. She brought the current newsletter, as well.
- J. Other Old Business:
1. None.

Open Forum:

1. Mary Plum: Joey's Pals, December 9th, at the Marion Ashley Center, 9:00-2:00. She brought flyers. There will also be a low-income food bank event, Monday, 9:00-12:00 (at the church).
2. Attend the Winchester Town Association meeting in December. An opportunity drawing is going on (raffle). Maximum of 500 tickets for sale, \$10 each; big prizes. This fundraising event will benefit the WTA. There will also be an informal holiday dinner served at the December meeting of the WTA.
3. The matter of Valley Wide Parks in Menifee is still up in the air.
4. Donations are being taken for "Heroes" donation packs. Collecting non-perishables through the WTA or Winchester Elementary School.

Next WMAC Meeting:

Next WHMAC meeting is scheduled for Thurs., Jan. 11, 2017, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.
NO MAC meeting in December. Attend the Winchester Town Association meeting, on Dec. 7th!

Adjournment: The WHMAC adjourned at 8:10 PM.